



LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA *NEWSLETTER*

No. 1; April 2007



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings Learn and Serve America Grantees!

We know how important it is to tell the story of what Learn and Serve is doing across the country. We ask you to tell us about what you are doing. Whether you work as an intermediary in a state education agency office, a nonprofit, at a higher education institution, or directly implement service-learning in schools and communities, what you learn, what you do and the impact you have really matters to us and to the field of service-learning. We share what you tell us with our Chief Executive Officer, Congressional members, other Corporation staff and programs.

Upon considerable reflection, and with the great work of Pat Carpenter and the rest of the Learn and Serve staff, we have resolved to share more information with you on a regular basis.

The (*re-introduced*) **Learn and Serve America Newsletter** will be our method of keeping you abreast of what's happening here in headquarters. We will provide updates on our staff, office projects, new initiatives, congressional news and a calendar of events. We also plan to feature other Corporation program offices from time to time. As some of you may remember, we started a newsletter in 2004; however we were not able to maintain a regular publication and distribution schedule. We plan to distribute this new publication on a more regular basis – every 2 months – and we hope to maintain this schedule.

As you can see, this first issue of the **Learn and Serve America Newsletter** is long. We decided to include as much as possible in this first issue to bring you up to speed. In addition, we want to hear from you, as well! In our **NEWS FROM THE FIELD** column, we invite you to send us information about your programs to share with others. Please send submissions to acohen@cns.gov. This is another great opportunity for you to showcase an individual or organization in the service-learning field in your state. Also, you can “get even more bang for your publicity buck” by copying Liberty Smith at Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (libertys@etr.org) for inclusion as Success Stories on the Clearinghouse homepage and sector pages. We selected a state to highlight in this edition to give you examples of formatting and content.

We hope this information is useful to you and ask that you share it with your subgrantees and partners.

Best wishes.

Amy B. Cohen

Director, Learn and Serve America



NATIONAL IDENTITY:

The most important thing that any Learn and Serve America program can do is to tell the story of your program well and clearly and often. Make sure that the young people in your programs know they are part of the national Learn and Serve America network. Let the public and policymakers know about the wonderful programs that you have created, describe the service you provide, and explain the difference that you make in the community. Invite elected officials and their staff to visit your program, send them the press you receive, send them copies of your evaluation reports, visit them in their offices. Identify your program as part of Learn and Serve America.

While we do not have the resources to advertise commercially - you do! The Bringing Learning to Life DVD and PSA are there for you – all you need to do is contact your local TV stations and ask them to air the DVD. The DVD and a toolkit on how to do this is on the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse http://www.servicelearning.org/resources/bring_learning/

It's up to us!

STAFF UPDATE:

Cheryl Blankenship—Cheryl resigned from the Corporation in January 2007 to pursue other goals after 10 years of service. Cheryl began her career here at CNCS in AmeriCorps as a Senior Program Officer. Cheryl later transferred to Learn and Serve America in January 2005 and served as the Senior Advisor to the Director on Higher Education Initiatives. Her mission in our department was to increase awareness at colleges and universities of the Corporation's programs and to encourage partnerships. Through her dedication and hard work, the Corporation has reached 75% of its 2010 goal as set in the Strategic Initiatives.

Kevin Days—Kevin has been reassigned from Program Coordinator for Higher Education to Advisor on Higher Education effective March 2007. Kevin, who formerly managed a grants portfolio in mainly the Southern Cluster, will now take on the task of developing higher education partnerships for all Corporation programs. Kevin has an extensive background in higher education, having served as Director of the New York Campus Compact before joining Learn and Serve America in 2004. As soon as we have a new Program Coordinator, Kevin will begin to work on building partnerships to match the Eli Segal Education Award.

Valerie Wheeler—Val retired from Learn and Serve America, also in January 2007. Val had over 25 combined years at ACTION, our predecessor agency, and the Corporation. Val served as Atlantic Cluster program officer providing guidance, assistance and training/technical assistance to grantees in her cluster. Val also represented Learn and Serve America on several agency committees, including Disability Inclusion, Environmental, and Literacy. Val was the sole Program Manager for the Serve America program at ACTION. This program launched Learn and Serve America into existence and grew from the roots that Val planted. During the first months of her retirement, Val plans to attend gardening classes at a local university. She is excited to begin this next phase of her life and looks forward to keeping in touch with all of us.



Interns:

Monique Caston, MSW Intern, Howard University—Monique began her MSW internship in Learn and Serve America in September 2006. Supervised by Brad Lewis, who is responsible for guiding all our MSW interns, Monique was instrumental in conducting research and analyzing data used to assist in the launch of the new Youth Speakers Bureau among other duties. Monique's internship ended on April 6. She will graduate from Howard University in May 2007.

Amy Dorfman— Amy is a sophomore at The George Washington University and is originally from Woodbury, NY. She is majoring in Human Services, which is a service-learning program that focuses on nonprofit management, and is a Sociology minor. Amy has been interning with Learn and Serve since September 2006 and will be with the Corporation until the beginning of May 2007. Amy has been involved in the process of reviewing and developing the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. She is also part of the team working to expand awareness of the Federal Work Study Community Service program.

Elizabeth Mueller— Liz is a sophomore at the George Washington University, majoring in Human Services with a secondary field of study in Business Administration. Liz began her internship in January 2007. She is working with Bob Davidson on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and Federal Work Study. She will sadly be leaving in just a few weeks—on May 2, 2007. Liz had a great opportunity working with Bob on the Presidential Community Service Honor Roll in several ways. She helped to develop the application and guidance materials for year 2 and also spent many hours sending out the awards and recognitions to year one winners.

Michelle Sinkgraven—Michelle is a Presidential Management Fellow from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. She is on a 4-month rotational assignment with the Corporation. During the past month, Michelle has been given the opportunity to work on an exciting new plan to expand Federal Work-Study Community Service. Michelle and Amy Dorfman have been working together to create draft website documents that can be added to the Higher Ed web portal on CNS.gov. They are looking to highlight specific information about Federal Work Study Community Service as its benefits, suggestions on how to implement a program, model projects from around the country and frequently asked questions that students, colleges, universities and community agencies may have about the program. Michelle is a former AmeriCorps program manager for the Western Michigan Service Corps.

RECRUITMENT:

Learn and Serve America will be recruiting shortly to fill two Program Coordinator vacancies at CNCS headquarters. In addition to managing a grants portfolio, we are seeking experts in Knowledge Management and Higher Education.

Please check the Corporation website for more information and instructions on how to apply for these vacancies at www.cns.gov.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

Cara Patrick, Associate Director for Grants Management

Thanks to everyone for getting your Continuation Requests submitted! We are working through the process here in headquarters and you should be receiving feedback from your Program Officer very soon. We hope to have all 2nd year funding awarded by the end of June.

LASSIE surveys are due June 30 for all program activities carried out between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. This means subgrantees for new grants as well as No-Cost Extensions will need to respond to the survey. If you have any questions about how to use the LASSIE system to monitor survey completion by subgrantees, add or delete subgrants, or any other difficulties, please contact the LASSIE support desk, support@lsareports.org.

Thanks for all the great work you do. Please remember to submit a copy of any resources you develop to your Program Officer and the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. The whole field can benefit from your experience, so share it!

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA INITIATIVES UPDATE:

YOUTH SPEAKERS BUREAU (by Emily Samose)

Coming soon: the Learn and Serve America Youth Speakers Bureau!

Year after year, Learn and Serve America staff members have witnessed the power of youth voice and the amazing leadership skills of service-learning participants. At events such as the National Service-Learning Conference, local MLK Jr. Days of Service, Site Visit presentations, etc., we have heard young people proudly share stories of the positive changes they have made, both in the community and within themselves. We also know that several Learn and Serve America grantees have established their own Youth Advisory Boards, Speakers Bureaus, Ambassador Programs, etc. to help ensure that youth voice is included in project development and to promote service-learning in local communities throughout the country.

In October 2006 at the National Grantee Meeting, an Affinity Group of interested youth and grantee Program Directors was formed to begin sharing ideas about the possible design of a National Learn and Serve America Youth Speakers Bureau (YSB). The group has met monthly via conference calls and has provided important feedback regarding all aspects of the proposed YSB.

The purpose of the national Learn and Serve America Youth Speakers Bureau (YSB) is to promote youth voice within Learn and Serve, to identify youth to speak on behalf of Learn and Serve, and to provide youth with an opportunity to speak publicly about the positive effects service-learning can have on youth, institutions, and communities.

Within the next few weeks, please look for a major announcement about how YOU can help identify youth from across the country to be the inaugural members of the Learn and Serve America Youth



Speakers Bureau! In the meantime, visit Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Youth Speakers Bureau page at <http://servicelearning.org/nslc/ysb/> for tools and information on supporting youth voice in your program and developing your own Youth Speakers Bureau. And if you have a Youth Speakers Bureau but haven't already submitted information on it to Learn and Serve America or the Clearinghouse, please tell us about it at <http://servicelearning.org/nslc/ysb/wufoo.php>.

Complete information will soon be shared about the Bureau's design and structure, the terms, timing and method of member appointment, as well as the proposed role and responsibilities of identified youth members.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY (by Bob Davidson)

FWS Community Service Outreach Partnership with Education Department

Learn and Serve America Director Amy Cohen recently met with James Manning, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Education for Postsecondary Education, and obtained his endorsement of an Education/CNCS partnership project aimed at expanding the size and quality of institutional Federal Work-Study (FWS) Community Service programs, primarily by emphasizing the value of such programs to students, colleges, and communities, by clarifying Federal policies, and by providing examples of successful programs and practices in this area. Expected products include improved Education Department regulations and policy guidance, and web-based fact sheets, Frequently Asked Questions/Answers, and other resource materials.

If you are interested in sharing FWS community service program descriptions and successful practices for potential posting on the new higher education portal of the CNCS website, please contact Bob Davidson, at rdavidson@cns.gov or Kevin Days, at kdays@cns.gov

SUMMER OF SERVICE (by Elson Nash)

Summer of Service is a nationwide initiative to engage youth, particularly those from disadvantaged circumstances, in high-quality, service-related activity during the summer months. It is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, in collaboration with USA Freedom Corps and a number of national youth-serving organizations. The Summer of Service initiative recognizes the potential of all youth to contribute in meaningful ways to the communities in which they live through volunteer service. Please download the Summer of Service Toolkit that is available on the Corporation website at www.cns.gov; it includes links to examples of "high quality service and service-learning projects" developed by participating organizations, as well as tips, best practices, and a variety of other useful materials. The 2007 toolkit is targeted toward summer camp program coordinators and staff and is intended for use with small groups of youth. For more information on the Summer of Service Initiative contact Theresa Clower at tclower@cns.gov.

PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL (by Bob Davidson)

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll—Year 2 to be Launched!



As you may know, the 2006 Honor Roll was a great success, with 492 colleges and universities appearing on the Honor Roll, including six Presidential Award winners and 142 “With Distinction” honorees. See the Honor Roll web page at www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll for the complete list and descriptions of the top honorees’ projects.

The 2007 Honor Roll application and guidance document are currently under review at OMB. If all goes well, the new application will be available -- at the above CNCS website -- by the end of May. The deadline for institutions to submit applications is expected to be July 31.

For the 2007 Honor Roll program, institutions may apply under either or both of two categories: General Community Service and a Special Focus Area—services designed to promote the high school completion and college access of youth in disadvantaged circumstances.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of several factors, including:

- the percentage of students participating in academic service-learning relative to total student enrollment;
- the percentage of students participating in community service activities overall relative to total student enrollment;
- whether the institution has at least one full-time staff member responsible for coordinating student community service or service-learning activities;
- the institution’s Federal Work-Study community service participation rate;
- whether the institution provides scholarships or other financial rewards for community service, such as “matching” the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award;
- whether the institution rewards the use of academic service-learning through faculty promotion and tenure decisions, or other means;
- the ratio of institutional alumni who are current AmeriCorps members relative to current total student enrollment; and
- the Scope, Innovativeness, and Evidence of Effectiveness of the exemplary student service projects described in the application.

STATE EDUCATION AGENCY NETWORK--SEANet (by Scott Richardson)

Effective May 9, 2007, Seung Yu is resigning as Executive Director of the State Education Agency K-12 Service-Learning Network (SEANet) at the Academy for Educational Development. This summer, Seung will begin his Masters program at the Teachers College at Columbia University in preparation to teach high school English in New York this fall. We at Learn and Serve America thank Seung for his outstanding work at SEANet, wish him the best, and have no doubt that he will avail his New York students of many service-learning opportunities.

ELI SEGAL EDUCATION AWARD MATCHING (by Kevin Days)

The Corporation for National and Community Service expands its relationships with America’s institutions of higher education by encouraging colleges and universities to match the Eli Segal Education Award. In her two years guiding this initiative, Cheryl Blankenship, who left Learn and Serve America in



January, built a solid foundation, with over 70 colleges and universities across the nation offering a match to AmeriCorps Alumni who attend their institutions. (To see a cool Google map showing the institutions that match, visit our College and University web portal at http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/highered/index.asp.) These institutions offer match in a variety of ways – including matching dollar-for-dollar, waiving of fees, granting academic credit for the service experience, or offering housing scholarships/discounts. With over 4,000 institutions of higher education in the nation, there is still a great deal to be done. Kevin Days has assumed responsibility for managing this exciting initiative. If you would like additional information on how you can help expand the number of colleges and universities that match the Eli Segal Education Award, please contact Kevin at kdays@cns.gov.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

Please click on the link below for information about the new Summer of Service Bill:

[DODD, COCHRAN, DELAURO INTRODUCE SUMMER OF SERVICE BILL](#)
[Legislation provides grants to encourage nation's youth to participate in community service programs](#)

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE:

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Featured Resource

K-12 Service-Learning Project Planning Toolkit

The materials in this toolkit http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/K-12_Service-Learning_Project_Planning_Toolkit.pdf (4870K pdf) contain information about the three core components of a service-learning project: planning and preparation, the service activity, and the culminating event. Also included is information about two ongoing activities common to high quality service-learning projects: reflection and assessment. Download electronically fillable Word Documents of the worksheets in this toolkit at http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/Four_Worksheets-fillable.doc (275K Doc).

Contribute Your Materials to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Library

Learn and Serve America grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to submit resource materials they have developed to Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse library. Here, your materials will become part of the nation's largest service-learning resource collection. They will be listed in NSLC's online library catalog, and available for Learn and Serve America grantees and subgrantees to borrow, and the general public to browse via the online catalog listing. You or the copyright holder will retain copyright to the materials and materials will not be duplicated in whole without permission. For more information and to submit your materials, visit http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/mat_contrib/index.php.



CNCS PUBLICATIONS:

Did you know that you can order publications to distribute at your meetings and conferences? The CNCS Online Ordering System is your source for National and Community Service Publications!

This system is intended to help you identify and order materials from the Corporation for National and Community Service—AT NO COST! The Online Ordering System will even allow you to have your documents shipped directly to your event. Please visit the website below for more information:

www.NationalServicePubs.org.

NEWS FROM OTHER CORPORATION PROGRAMS:

KNOWHOW2GO (by Amiko Matsumoto, Special Assistant to the CEO)

In January, Lumina Foundation for Education, the American Council on Education (ACE) and The Advertising Council launched **KnowHow2GO**, a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign designed to encourage underrepresented students to take the steps necessary to prepare for college. The **KnowHow2GO** campaign primarily targets students in grades 8 through 10 who are low-income or the first in their family to go to college. Secondly, the campaign targets students' parents and adult influencers to encourage them to start the college preparation process early. **KnowHow2GO** has two central campaign goals: to raise awareness about the steps needed to prepare for college and to motivate underrepresented students to turn their dreams of going to college into a reality.

KnowHow2GO is a multi-media, bilingual campaign that features television and radio PSAs, outdoor and print advertising, and an interactive website (www.KnowHow2GO.org) that delivers information to students, guiding adults, and community-based organizations. In addition to the media components of the campaign, **KnowHow2GO** utilizes a network of grassroots partners, including mentoring and youth-serving organizations, to disseminate information and reinforce the campaign in local communities. Several states, including California, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Ohio, have already joined the effort and are localizing the campaign in their regions. Similar partnerships are underway in nearly 15 other states.

For more information on how to become involved in the **KnowHow2GO** campaign, please call (888) 716-6382 or email PartnerHelp@KnowHow2GO.org.



May 13-20, 2007 is AmeriCorps Week!

AmeriCorps Week is a weeklong, nationwide event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible.

Please visit the websites below for more information:

Aaron Fanwick
Program Administrator

Governor's Commission on
Service and Volunteerism
Governor Janet Napolitano
(602) 542-3495
afanwick@az.gov
www.volunteerarizona.org

Kimberly Will Broadie
State Program Specialist

Arizona State Office
602-514-7171
kbroadie@cns.gov



STAFF MEETING/CONFERENCE SUMMARIES:

18TH Annual National Service-Learning Conference, Albuquerque, NM—by Tracey Seabolt

Approximately 2500 people attended the 18th Annual National Service-Learning Conference, March 28-31, 2007, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Participants attended plenary sessions, featured forums, workshops, and service projects, to gain an understanding of and increase their ability to enhance learning through high quality service-learning. Past and present Learn and Serve America grantees, subgrantees, and participants were encouraged to wear a green Learn and Serve America ribbon to visually represent the impact of Learn and Serve America in the service-learning world.

More than 150 current and former grantees and subgrantees attended a Learn and Serve reception on Wednesday evening and celebrated some of this past year's service-learning successes. After a rousing greeting from Corporation for National and Community Service CEO, David Eisner, attendees received information about Corporation resources, including the new SaYES: Seniors and Youth Engaged in Service materials, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, Learn and Serve America performance report, and the "Bringing Learning to Life" video. Mr. Eisner then presented Presidential Volunteer Service Awards to Harry D. Jacobs High School (Algonquin, IL) students and Dr. Rudy M. Garcia, Dean of Students at Central New Mexico Community College (Albuquerque, NM).

Those who didn't attend the Learn and Serve reception had many other opportunities to hear from and visit with Corporation staff, including presentations by David Eisner at Wednesday's Grand Opening, two Featured Forums on Friday, as well as Friday's Plenary Session in which he presented Presidential Volunteer Service Awards to five Central New Mexico Community College students and announced September 17-23, 2007 as a week set aside to celebrate Learn and Serve America and its programs. You can expect more information to come your way soon regarding how you can participate in activities to highlight the work you do under the Learn and Serve America umbrella.

CNCS staff also engaged participants in the following workshops:

- ~ Service-Learning and Indigenous Communities – **Calvin Dawson**
- ~ Making Your Case for Service-Learning Using Learn and Serve Program Data – **Kimberly Spring**
- ~ Growth and Quality – **Scott Richardson** and **Tracey Seabolt**
- ~ Youth Speakers' Bureau – Emily Samose
- ~ Marketing as Part of Program Design – **Sandy Scott** and **Rhonda Taylor**
- ~ Youth Work in a Digital Age – **Brad Lewis**

On Friday afternoon, a group of students and adults met to discuss the formation of the Learn and Serve America Youth Speakers' Bureau. This excited group brainstormed ideas for the design of this group, as well as activities in which its members may participate. Look for more information to come your way about this exciting new way to engage our youth.



Sixth National Conference on Service in Indian Communities, Sparks, NV—by Calvin Dawson

Learn and Serve America Tribal Grantees and Sub-Grantees participated in the Sixth National Conference on Service in Indian Communities that was held December 5-8, 2006 in Sparks, Nevada. The Conference, whose theme was “Preserving the Past...Creating our Future: Resources for Strengthening our Communities,” was designed to unite and reinforce tribes, service programs, and partners in their work to strengthen communities. It was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and attended by over 300 participants. Keynote speakers included Jerry Bridges, Chief Financial Officer for CNCS; Quanah Crossland Stamps, Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans, and Joshua Weston, Tribal President, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

The Conference featured a Learn and Serve America track that included workshops focusing on evaluation; performance measurements; how to make effective five minute presentations; civic engagement; youth voice; tribal history and culture; and service-learning resources. Learn and Serve America tribal grantees at the Conference included: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (AK); Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium (AK); California Rural Indian Health Board (CA); Hannahville Indian Community (MI); Bug O Nay Ge Shig School (MN); National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NM); Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe (NV); Cherokee Nation (OK); Oglala Lakota College (SD); Northwest Indian College (WA); Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing (WY); and St. Stephens Indian School Educational Association, Inc. (WY). Three Learn and Serve America tribal sub-grantees – Tohono O’Odham Community College (AZ); Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (NM) and Turtle Mountain Community College (ND) – also participated. Also in attendance were the project directors for the Learn and Serve America grants to the Nevada Department of Education and Central New Mexico Community College, along with the Director of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse.

According to Rod Lovell, Project Director for the Learn and Serve America grant to the Hannahville Indian Community in Michigan, “The Conference was a huge success. Participants learned a lot and will take back to their communities a wealth of information and contacts.”

Service-Learning and Indigenous Communities Forum, San Jose, CA—by Calvin Dawson

The Second Annual Service-Learning and Indigenous Communities Forum was held April 12, 2007 in San Jose, California. The Forum, sponsored by Learn and Serve America and the Hawaii and Pacific Islands Campus Compact, focused on student voice and assessment. Forum participants discussed the impact of student voice on students, the community, and the educational institution. They also shared strategies for building or enhancing student voice as part of their service-learning programs. A student voice panel, moderated by Leona White Hat (Corporation for National and Community Service’s Board of Directors), featured two student presenters – Renee LaRocque from Turtle Mountain Community College (a tribal college) and Ku’ulani Miyashiro from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. They talked about their service-learning experiences and the impact of that experience on them (personally, culturally, choice of career, etc.).

Assessment presentations focused on what is assessment, issues in assessment of learning outcomes, and information on an assessment being planned by a Learn and Serve America grantee. Linda Frizzell from



ACKCO, Inc. (a Native American owned company that serves as the Corporation for National and Community Service's training and technical assistance provider for Indian Tribes) spoke about conducting culturally sensitive assessments. Donna Gourd from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and Sue Ellen Read, Director of the Oklahoma Institute for Learning Styles at Northeastern State University shared information on the assessment planned for the Cherokee Nation Learn and Serve America program, which will look at service-learning and learning styles. Tanya Renner from Kapi'olani Community College in Hawaii conducted a series of interactive activities that helped participants understand how to approach the daunting task of assessing nontraditional learning outcomes.

Other Forum presenters included: McClellan Hall (National Indian Youth Leadership Project); Irene Helshem (American Samoa Community College); Rebecca Jim (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma); Brian LaRocque (Turtle Mountain Community College); Atina Pascua (University of Hawaii/Hawaii and Pacific Island Campus Compact); Barbara Holland (Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse); and Calvin T. Dawson (Learn and Serve America). Over 35 service-learning practitioners from across the United States and American Samoa participated in the event. The Forum was part of the Continuums of Service Conference hosted by Washington Campus Compact in collaboration with the Campus Compacts of California, Hawaii, and Oregon.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

2007 Learn and Serve America Grantees' Training

September 26-28, 2007

Washington, DC

Mark your calendars!

We are holding the 2007 Learn and Serve America Grantees' Training on September 26-28, 2007, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, in Arlington, VA--just 1 mile from Ronald Reagan National Airport – and 1 block from the Metro.

Although the agenda is still under development, we plan to offer pre-conference sessions throughout the day on September 26 and convene the full group at 6:00 pm for the opening dinner. We will continue through 3:00 pm on Friday, September 28 when the meeting adjourns. In response to your requests, we have shortened the agenda for this year's training; however, we expect all attendees to be present for the entire conference.

All Learn and Serve America grantees are required to attend this meeting. If you cannot participate, please designate someone from your organization to attend in your absence. Every organization receiving Learn and Serve America grant funding **must** be represented.

Look for additional information about this important event coming your way soon!



NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

Programs from all over – this month’s feature: Learn and Serve Michigan School-Based

Creating a Healthy Environment

Armed with rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, and cordless drills, more than 150 freshman students from the Lowell Area Schools helped prepare the Mel Trotter Ministries Camp & Retreat Center for summer campers. The Center, located near Hopkins, Michigan, serves at-risk youth from the Grand Rapids area. It offers a safe and healthy outdoor environment for campers to learn about themselves, faith, teamwork, and the avoidance of risky behavior. The students built picnic tables and benches, replaced flooring in the cabins, spread mulch, and addressed other camp needs.

On the same day, in a totally different neck of the woods, 150 of their fellow classmates formed their own shovel brigade in Southeast Grand Rapids. They teamed up with students from Ottawa Hills High School and worked for two days to beautify parks and Southeast neighborhoods.

And, for both Lowell groups, at the end of the day their work was not done. After the hands-on service, their teachers guided them in applying their experiences and learning to their academic classes and everyday lives.

English teachers used the projects to give a better understanding of self, peer, and community awareness. Social studies instructors asked students to consider the impact of being responsible citizens. Science teachers had students appreciating the environment and the benefits of restoration and preservation efforts. And math teachers had them understanding the mathematical applications at their job sites, such as measurement, calculating, charting, and graphing.



These are but two examples of the 24,828 hours of service-learning Lowell students participated in last year. This commitment to community involvement and development engaged 2,346 students, 77 teachers, and 131 volunteers. Lowell’s service-learning programs were funded by the Michigan Community Service Commission’s Learn and Serve – Michigan program. The school was recently awarded a \$24,500 Learn and Serve – Michigan school-based grant for the 2006-07 school year. *For more information about service-learning in Lowell Area Schools contact Carla Stone, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, Michigan 49331 at (616) 987-2900, or at cstone@lowellschools.com.*

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Learning Takes Root in Michigan

Hands - on learning gained new meaning when students at Lincoln Elementary in Wayne Westland planted six trees as part of a service-learning project called Rooting for the Rouge. The trees will help



keep excessive storm water runoff and pollutants out of the Rouge River. Lincoln was the first of nine district schools to host events benefiting the rouge.

“We voted on which trees to plant. We all took turns putting things on the trees like dirt, mulch, and the woodchips. Best of all, the planting helped make the Rouge River cleaner,” said fourth grader Samantha.

This water quality project is a partnership between the cities of Wayne, Westland, Inkster, Canton, and the Wayne Westland Community Schools district fourth grade classes and building and grounds department. Students study local water quality, plant trees, label storm drains, and educate the community covering benchmarks and standards in language arts, science, social studies and life skills.



During the 2005-2006 school year, Wayne Westland Schools engaged more than 1700 students in more than 21,800 hours of service-learning. Wayne Westland service-learning programs were funded by the Michigan Community Service Commission’s Learn and Serve – Michigan program. The school was recently awarded a \$24,500 Learn and Serve – Michigan school-based grant for the 2006-07 school year.

For more information about service-learning in Wayne Westland Schools, contact Lynn Malinoff, 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 481085, (734) 419-2082 or at lmalinof@umich.edu.

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Serving Our Community Kids Style (SOCKS)

700 students, the entire student body of Independence Elementary in Clarkston, participated in service-learning during February.

- Kindergarteners made gift bags for Haven, a shelter for abused women and children;
- First graders made dog bones for the Humane Society and gathered materials for bird nests;
- Second graders made care packages for service men and women including letters from the students;
- Third graders made muffins for Meals on Wheels with letters and refrigerator magnets;
- Fourth graders made blankets for the Linus Project; and the





- Fifth graders performed for Clarkston senior citizens, then shared brunch and memories.

This program, which is in its second year, was initiated by a parent and planned with teachers. Seventy-five parents volunteered to make the day a success. The entire school population made donations, and funds from Learn and Serve – Michigan covered the program costs.

“We are very proud of the strong curriculum connection with our projects and the quality of our projects,” said Clarkston Service-Learning Coordinator, Sue Wilson. “The rewards of this program are hard to quantify. It has changed the lives of many people, both the participants and the recipients.”

In 2005-2006, Clarkston Community Schools engaged more than 2040 students in more than 88,230 hours of service-learning. Clarkston’s service-learning programs were funded by the Michigan Community Service Commission’s Learn and Serve – Michigan program. The school was recently awarded a \$24,500 Learn and Serve – Michigan school-based grant for the 2006-07 school year.

For more information about service-learning at Clarkston Community Schools contact Sue Wilson, 6389 Clarkston, Clarkston, Michigan 48346, (248) 623-5413 or at wilsons2@clarkston.k12.mi.us.

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Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



CELEBRATE!

LEARN AND SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2007

