



LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA *NEWSLETTER*

No. 3
August 2007



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings Learn and Serve America Grantees:

GRANTEE TRAINING DEADLINE IS HERE!

Registration for the 2007 Learn and Serve America Grantee Training closes **TODAY -- Wednesday, August 29th at 11:59 pm EST**. Please make sure you register before the site closes. Our most recent records indicate that there are still a couple of grantees who have not yet registered a representative to attend. **All organizations receiving direct funding from Learn and Serve America must send a representative to this training!** If you cannot attend, please designate someone to attend in your absence and send him/her the following registration link - www.regonline.com/2007LearnandServe.

We are very excited about the content of this year's training and hope you will be too! We have included a complete track of pre-conference and concurrent workshops on the Civic Mission of Schools, courtesy of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, along with morning plenary sessions featuring Peter Levine, Jim Youniss, Shelley Billig, Cathy Burack, and Joe Kahne. Our afternoon plenary sessions feature John Bridgeland on Thursday and Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, First Lady of Pennsylvania, on Friday. In addition to these features, we are providing an outstanding selection of pre-conference and concurrent workshop offerings.

When you complete your registration, please be sure to pre-register for your workshops. Many registrants are not doing this and it reflects in lower numbers of anticipated attendees. This incomplete assessment of your interest may lead us to cancel one or more sessions—as was done with the "*No Child Left Behind and Proposed Changes to the Law*," workshop offered during **Concurrent Session 2**. If you already registered, please edit your registration today and include your workshop selections. Make sure you select **two** workshops on both Thursday and Friday. **NOTE: It was brought to our attention that a glitch with the RegOnline program caused some of the workshop headings to drop. As a result, many of you only saw a list of workshops under one heading. Please check your registration record to be sure you have signed up for two Thursday workshops and two Friday workshops.**

One final reminder: Please remember that you must make your hotel reservations independent of your conference registration. We are thrilled that so many of you are bringing a team to the conference but, because of this unexpected turnout, we have completely sold the room block at the Sheraton Crystal City



Hotel. If you still need to make your lodging reservations, you can view a list of neighboring properties at <http://www.hotels-rates.com/hotels/locations/Arlington/VA/usa/4252/>. The Marriott Crystal Gateway (703-920-3230), Marriott Crystal City (703-413-5500), and Radisson (703-920-8600) are within walking distance of the Sheraton.

If you have any problems with registration or have logistical questions, please contact Robbyn Harris at AFYA (rharris@afyainc.com or 301-957-3042). Please direct program content and other inquiries to Tracey Seabolt at (tseabolt@cns.gov) or 202-606-6672.

I look forward to seeing all of you in September!

Best wishes.

Amy B. Cohen
Director, Learn and Serve America

Are you telling your story? Let the public and policymakers know about your programs. Send your elected officials and other partners copies of your program's fact sheets, evaluations, press write-ups, etc. Invite elected officials or their staff to visit your program and attend your events. Alert your local media about planned events and activities. These are proven ways to inform folks about the difference you are making in your community. And, lastly . . .

Always remember to identify your program as part of Learn and Serve America and the Corporation for National and Community Service!



GRANTEE TRAINING INFORMATION:

(by Tracey Seabolt)

One-to-One Technical Assistance

Are you new to eGrants, LASSIE, or Performance Measurement? Even if you're experienced with these Learn and Serve America tools, you may occasionally struggle as you try to find the perfect relationship between your program features and the grants management requirements.

If you fit in to either of these categories, please consider signing up for one-to-one technical assistance during this year's Grantee Training. You may request a TA session (or sessions) when you register for the training. A Learn and Serve America staff member will contact you prior to the training to confirm the time of your TA session.

Affinity Group Meetings

Even though affinity group meetings are not part of the formal Grantee Training schedule, one has been scheduled *outside* of the agenda. If you're interested, please plan to attend:

Affinity Group Name: Youth Speakers' Bureau

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, Sept 27, 5:00-6:00 pm

Location: To be announced

Face Time with your Program Officer

Due to geographical restrictions and limited travel budgets, most grantees and program officers have incredible phone and email relationships but rarely have face-to-face meetings, if they ever met at all. The opportunity to change that awaits you at this year's Grantee Training!

If you would like some one-on-one time with your program officer, don't tempt fate by thinking that you'll "find time." Schedule it now.

Call or email your Program Coordinator today and schedule time to meet over breakfast, lunch or dessert during the grantee training.

Local Directions to the Sheraton Crystal City - 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA

From Downtown Washington: Take Interstate 395 South across the 14th Street Bridge. Exit US Route 1 South. Turn right on 20th Street, and then turn right on Eads Street. The hotel is 1 block on the right.

From the North: Take Interstate 95 South to Interstate 495 to Virginia. Exit 395 North and take Exit 8C (Crystal City) through 6 lights to Eads Street.



From the West: Take Interstate 66 East to Route 110 (National Airport). Proceed to Route 1 South (Crystal City). Turn right on 20th Street, and then turn right on Eads Street.

From the South: Take Interstate 95 North to Interstate 395 North. Take Exit 8C (Crystal City) through 6 lights to Eads Street.

From Reagan National Airport: The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from Reagan National Airport. The shuttle runs daily from 6:00 am - 11:00 pm and departs the hotel on the hour and the half hour. Courtesy phones are located in the baggage claim area if a guest needs to call the hotel. The shuttle stops at doors 5 and 9 at the airport.

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA INITIATIVES UPDATE:

PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL--(by Kevin Days)



SAVE THESE DATES

Corporation for National and Community Service FY2007 Peer Review

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll 2007 Peer Review Opportunity

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is currently seeking qualified Peer Reviewers to read and evaluate proposals for its FY 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll program competition. This institutional recognition program raises public awareness of college students' community service, recognizes higher education institutions for their commitment to student service and service-learning, and identifies and disseminates exemplary practices. This year's President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll review will be a field review conducted via telephone conference calls and email, allowing reviewers to read and score applications from home. Specifically, reviewers receive applications, conduct the review, and submit their scores online. More information and additional details will follow.

If you believe you have the qualifications and would like to serve as a peer reviewer or a facilitator for this review and have not already completed a Peer Reviewer application in eGrants, complete the Reviewer Application at https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/pr_main/newaccount.jsp. If you know someone who might have the appropriate qualifications, please forward this information to them. CNCS will select reviewers based on qualifications and number of applications received. Please keep in mind that reviewers cannot be employees of an institution that is submitting an application in this competition.



Once you complete the reviewer application, please e-mail us at PeerReviewers@cns.gov so we may review your application immediately.

If you already have an eGrants account and cannot remember your user information or for other *technical* eGrants questions, please contact the eGrants Help Desk at egrantshelp@cns.gov or 888-677-7849. If you are having a problem accessing your account, please work with the Help Desk, but **please do not open a new account.**

For now, we'd like you to **SAVE THESE DATES!**

- Reviewers Receive Applications: Wed, October 17, 2007
- Offsite Peer Review (Stage 1): Wed, October 17 – Mon. October 29, 2007
- Offsite Peer Review (Stage 2): Fri, November 2 – Fri, Nov 9, 2007
- Orientation calls will be held for review participants between September 13 and October 4, 2007.

As we get closer to the review dates, ESI, our peer review contractor, will contact you by email and phone regarding your official availability and provide you with more specific details.

Thank you for considering service as a Peer Reviewer for the Corporation.

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

The new web-based President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll application went live earlier this month, and a significant publicity campaign has been launched in an effort to obtain even greater higher education community attention to this potent new higher education recognition program than was achieved last year. But perhaps the biggest Honor Roll news is that the American Council on Education (ACE) will host the awards ceremony for the 2007 Honor Roll program at its annual national meeting on February 11, 2008, in San Diego, California. More information will be distributed at a later date.

A letter to college presidents urging Honor Roll applications arrived on 4,453 campuses earlier this month. (It was signed by national dignitaries including the Secretaries of Education and Housing and Urban Development, the CNCS Board Chair, the Chair of the President's Council on Volunteering and Service, the Chair of Campus Compact, and the President of the ACE.) Weekly Honor Roll ads will appear in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* through the applications due date of October 5, 2007. Notices about the 2007 Honor Roll have appeared on higher education list serves, and several national higher education associations have agreed to publicize the program again this year. Of course, everyone in the service-learning community is sincerely invited to join the outreach effort. Full details of the 2007 Honor Roll program and application are available on the Honor Roll website at www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll. Copies of the 2007 Honor Roll Fact Sheet and a new Honor Roll brochure may be obtained by calling Bob Davidson, (202) 606-6906, or Kevin Days, (202) 606- 6899.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY COMMUNITY SERVICE--(by Bob Davidson)

Melissa Gilbert, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Otterbein College, will join Bob Davidson and Kevin Days of the LSA staff in leading a workshop on Federal Work-Study (FWS) community service at the Learn and Serve grantees conference on Thursday, September 27. Melissa is leading a successful college student service program that makes effective use of Federal Work-Study.



FWS Community Service is arguably already the largest national community service program for college students, yet it has huge additional potential -- for growth, for enhanced collaboration with community agencies and for support of collegiate civic and educational missions. However, for many, it remains "the best kept secret in higher education." Come learn about FWS Community Service's policy foundations, its benefits and challenges to colleges and community agencies, and ways in which Learn and Serve and other CNCS-supported programs can partner with Federal Work-Study programs to increase and enrich college student service.

Titled "Student Aid and Student Service, a Win-Win Opportunity for Students, Colleges, and Communities," this session will also include discussion of the Segal Education Award/ Institutional Matching program and the 2007 Honor Roll program--which includes new emphasis on FWS community service.

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE:

(Submitted by Liberty Smith)

Coming Soon

Keep your eyes peeled for big changes on the NSLC website! Based on your feedback, we're completing a brand new design we hope will help make the site easier and more fun to navigate. And, we'll use lots of the gorgeous photos and Success Stories you've been submitting to brighten up the site and call attention to your programs.

Don't miss the boat! Submit your photos

http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/mat_contrib/share_photo_form.php and your Success Stories

http://www.servicelearning.org/nslc/success_story_form/index.php today!

Also being released in the fall is Volume IV of Recent Dissertations on Service and Service-Learning Topics. This new volume, covering 2004-2006 Masters Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation abstracts is especially exciting because it includes an overview of trends in graduate research in service-learning.

NSLC at the Grantee Meeting

Be sure to spend some quality time at NSLC's exhibit at the grantee meeting. We'll be showing off the website redesign and our library corner, providing copies of new resources (including new fact sheets, bibliographies, and toolkits), and answering your reference questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Spotlight on Grantee Produced Material

Did you start from scratch when your program began? Did you ever wish that you could benefit from what others had learned in their own beginnings? The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse is here to help make that connection between programs that are getting started, and those that have valuable lessons to share. By contributing the program materials you have created, you give new programs a head start. If you have produced surveys, forms, curricula, project plans, or any type of materials that could be shared with others involved in service-learning, send them our way! For more details, and to view the contribution form, visit:

http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/mat_contrib/index.php.

Two of our latest grantee additions are:

"Y.O.D.A. Best Practices 2006"

This DVD contributed by the Institute for Global Education and Service Learning, a Learn and Serve Grantee in Leavittown, PA, details best practices from the Y.O.D.A: Youth Organized for Disaster Action project. It provides resources and activities for helping youth prepare for and respond to emergencies in their communities through service-learning. You can read the full description at:

http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=7165



“Civic Engagement in Higher Education: Reflection, Power, Evaluation, Risk Management”

This book is a compilation of comments, materials and resources, and highlights from a series of online learning opportunities hosted by the Upper Midwest Campus Compact Consortium between August of 2005 and March of 2006. Various topics include: reflection; power dynamics in campus-community collaboration; assessment and evaluation of civic engagement initiatives; and risk management.

http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=7178

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Featured Resources:

Models of Service-Learning Partnerships Bibliography

This bibliography highlights Learn and Serve America Programs focusing on community partnerships and provides resources for organization, school, and university practitioners who are interested in fostering service-learning partnerships.

http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/bibs/cb_bibs/models_sl_partnerships/index.php

Hot Topic: Youth Speakers Bureaus and Youth Advisory Councils

This Hot Topic highlights recommended resource items, both online and in the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse library, on Youth Speakers Bureaus (YSBs) and Youth Advisory Councils (YACs). YSBs promote youth voice and provide youth with an opportunity to speak publicly about the positive effects service-learning can have on youth, institutions, and communities. YACs are a group of young people, most often ranging in age from 12-25, working in conjunction with an existing organization to assure that youth are involved in achieving the overall mission of the organization.

http://www.servicelearning.org/resources/hot_topics/ysb/index.php

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING PARTNERSHIP:

NATIONAL LEARN & SERVE CHALLENGE



**The National Learn & Serve Challenge
September 17-23, 2007**

Be a solution...

The National Learn & Serve Challenge is a weeklong series of local, state, and national events designed to raise awareness and public support for service-learning.

Please visit www.learnandservechallenge.org for more information. Please let us know what you are planning by registering your event on the site.



STAFF UPDATE:

STAFF:

Vickielyn Perry, the Program/Grant Analyst in Learn and Serve America and former assistant to Cara Patrick, accepted a new position as the Scheduler for the CEO. Vickie transferred to that office effective Monday, July 23rd. She now maintains David Eisner's schedule and coordinates the Corporation Master Calendar. We will miss Vickie tremendously; however, we are very happy to have a "direct link" to the big boss! ☺

We are pleased to announce that **Kirsten M. Breckenridge** joins the Learn and Serve America team effective September 17, 2007, as the new **Program Coordinator for Higher Education**. Kirsten comes to the Corporation from Tulane University in New Orleans, where she was Assistant Director of Faculty Training and Support at the Center for Public Service. Kirsten helped create and lead implementation of the Center for Public Service and its programs post-Katrina. She also implemented Semester in NOLA, the debut program and first summer-residential offering for the Center. Prior to the Center for Public Service, Kirsten worked at the University of Texas at Austin, Student Programs, as a Career Advisor; the Wilkerson Partners in New York as an Analyst; and the Hockaday School in Dallas, TX, as a Health Instructor. Kirsten received her MA from the University of Texas at Austin (2004) and a BA from Duke University (1998).

INTERNS:

Steven Cheng-- Steven Cheng interned in Learn and Serve America from June 18, 2007 through August 24. He returned to Dartmouth College as a sophomore. Steven significantly contributed to the office initiatives, particularly the organization of the Resource Library. He performed a computer matching of LSA grants/subgrants against those of other CNCS programs, analyzed institutional data on Federal Work-Study community service, and provided invaluable support for the launch on the 2007 Honor Roll application. Steven has been a tireless and ever cheerful colleague. We wish him well as he returns to his studies-- economics, psychology, and public policy.

Here are Steven's reflections on his internship: ". . . *Having an "inside" perspective made me realize just how much of a collaborative effort volunteer work actually is. . . Having the opportunity to work extensively on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll proved to be an extremely interesting learning experience. The project challenged me to think critically, putting myself in the position of higher education institutional employees in order to determine questions and concerns that would likely come up. With guidance and direction from my mentor, I learned about many of the challenges facing institutions as they struggle to meet federal standards and implement effective programs in the area of service. Overall, I was inspired by the level of knowledge and competency displayed by the staff of Learn and Serve America. It was certainly an unforgettable experience and one that I hope to extend as I return to campus!*"

Dominique R. York—Dominique (Nikki), an intern from Indiana University's Washington Leadership Internship program, joins our team on Tuesday, September 4 and will be with us for 3 months through December 6, 2007. Nikki will work under the supervision and mentoring of Emily Samose and Kevin Days, our two Learn and Serve Intern Coordinators. Some of Nikki's assignments will include helping to launch and facilitate the Youth Speakers Bureau and conducting research, outreach, and technical assistance in support of the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Olubukola Abimbola Akinkoye—Olubukola (Bhookey pronounced book-key) joins the team on September 4 as a second year MSW (Masters in Social Work) intern working with Brad Lewis. She currently attends Howard University's School of Social Work and will most likely be working on the Grantee Meeting, The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and Youth Speakers Bureau. She attended the University of



Texas, Arlington where she received her B.A. in Political Science. She hopes to work in the international social welfare field after graduation.

RECRUITMENT:

Program Coordinator for Knowledge Management: A selection has not yet been made for this position. Applications are currently being reviewed and ranked.

Program Analyst (Grants): To fill the vacancy created by Vickie's departure, Learn and Serve America is currently advertising for a ***Program Analyst (Grants)*** who will work directly with the Associate Director for Grants. If you are interested, please click on the link below to learn more about this position:
http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=61482510&AVSDM=2007%2D08%2D22+00%3A00%3A14&Logo=0&jbf574=KS00&FedEmp=Y&sort=rv&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=/agency_search.asp&SUBMIT1.x=57&SUBMIT1.y=6

NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

EARN AN ONLINE CERTIFICATE IN SERVICE-LEARNING

Portland State University is proud to announce an online Certificate in Service-Learning. This Fall PSU launches the certificate with a course "Service-Learning Design and Practice" taught by Kate McPherson, a former Learn and Serve grantee and national expert on service-learning. This course offers teachers, administrators, and nonprofit staff a strong theoretical and practical foundation for implementing service-learning in the classroom or community. To learn more, visit http://sesweb.ses.pdx.edu/ceed_cat/detail_large.cfm?id=45V6 Kate, currently a consultant with the Coalition for Essential Schools Northwest, will be attending the 2007 Learn and Serve America Grantee Training as their representative.

THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

Do you know of young people who have distinguished themselves through volunteer activities in their communities? If you do, please help give them the recognition they deserve! Apply today for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards at www.prudential.com/spirit or www.principals.org/prudential. Applications for the 13th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards will be accepted from September 4 through October 31, 2007.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Don't miss your chance to be part of a unique event that reaches thousands of people! **The 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference is scheduled for April 9-12, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.** It is the largest gathering of its kind. This event brings together an estimated 3,000 educators, state and federal officials, youth leaders, program coordinators, policy-makers, and community-based organizations from around the world.

For more information visit the conference website at www.nylc.org/conference.

We welcome your feedback on this publication. Please send comments to:
acohen@cns.gov or pcarpent@cns.gov

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



CELEBRATE!

**LEARN AND SERVE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

The National Learn & Serve Challenge

SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2007

