

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA *NEWSLETTER*



No. 5
January 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Dear Friends:

This is our first newsletter for 2008. I am delighted that Pat Carpenter and the rest of the Learn and Serve America staff are able to bring this newsletter to you on a regular basis.

We hope through our “*HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE*” index we will help you find the information you need more easily.

It has been fantastic to see press coverage for Learn and Serve programs continue to grow. Congratulations! I hope we will be able to continue to grow this trend over the coming year.

I hope you will take the opportunity to reflect on the work done and generated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as you serve with your partners in the schools, colleges, and communities. When we are challenged about the power that youth have to change things and improve the lives of their communities and classmates, I think about the work done by children, by college students, and by the very young Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Civil Rights Movement. They showed us that youth do have or can get the vision, knowledge, and skills to change their community and, ultimately, the society. And, that adults can be effective partners in this work.

Thank you.

Amy

Are you telling your story? Let the public and policymakers know about your programs. Send out your program's fact sheets, evaluations, press write-ups, etc. Invite 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 educate others about the difference you are making in your community. And . . .

Always remember to identify your program as part of Learn and Serve America!



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http://www.servicelearning.org/lsa/lsa_page/index.php.

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President Bush's [proclamation](#)

www.mlkday.gov

For resources to help organize or participate in King Day service activities, please visit:

http://www.mlkday.gov/about/beloved_community/index.asp

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2008 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARDS

NOMINATE YOUR LEARN AND SERVE SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARDEES NOW!

The Spirit of Service Awards pay tribute to the outstanding participants in each of the Corporation's programs. This year, for the first time, the Learn and Serve America Spirit of Service Award winners will be **recognized at the 2008 National Conference on Service-Learning**, April 9-12, in Minneapolis. Winners will receive their awards during the April 10th State Farm Awards celebration.

Nominees must exemplify the spirit of national service, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and serve as role models for others in their community. As always, we will recognize one grantee, one teacher/faculty member, and one youth. For more information about the Spirit of Service Award, please visit:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/spiritofservice/index.asp>. **The deadline for submissions is February 10, 2008.**

Recap: GRANTEE GUIDANCE

All **2008 Continuation Requests are due in eGrants by February 20**. Grant specific guidance was sent directly to Project Directors, but a general version is posted to the grantee page:

http://www.servicelearning.org/lssa/lssa_page/index.php. Please contact your Program Officer if you have any questions about completing the application.

Please note that additional funds will not be awarded unless grantees are in compliance with reporting requirements, including the July 31, 2007 Progress Report and the Financial Status Report that is due on January 31, 2008 for the period ending December 31, 2007.

LASSIE 2008 is in progress! We are working on a few enhancements and clarifications, but, as requested, the survey remains virtually the same as last year. You can visit www.lsareports.org to download a pdf version of the 2008 survey at any time without logging in. All grantees will receive a username and password in late January. We ask that you log in to update your own profile and add

additional contacts you want to grant access to your LASSIE account.

Subgrants included in the 2007 LASSIE (those under 2006 grants only, not those under the 2003 grants that were on No-Cost Extensions) will be copied into your 2008 record. The survey itself will open for subgrantee entry in early March, so you **must** update or add new subgrants prior to February 28. Notices will be sent to all subgrantees with their own usernames and passwords telling them the survey is available with a deadline of June 30, 2008. Detailed instructions will be available in the Help section of the website.

http://www.servicelearning.org/lssa/lssa_page/index.php.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

There is still time to **REGISTER** your Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service project! Better before, but even after is ok. For more:

www.mlkday.gov [tools and resources](#)

http://www.mlkday.gov/about/beloved_community/index.asp

Recap: LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING AND PARTISAN POLITICS

In the context of educational institutions, we believe that participation by service-learning participants in non-partisan voter registration may be appropriately characterized as an educational rather than political activity, particularly if it is part of an educational project focused on civics or government in a democracy. For this reason, we have advised our Learn & Serve America grantees that such participation is a permissible service-learning activity. In this area we permit greater flexibility for service-learning programs sponsored by schools than for other types of national and community service programs. If you need additional guidance, please contact your program officer at the Corporation.

Guidance from the CNCS Office of the General Counsel is posted to the website noted below. A Spanish language version is also available.



http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding/gc_guidance.asp

THE PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

In its second year of operation the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll has been a major success. The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and is sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development. Many higher education associations, including the American Council on Education, Campus Compact, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators have endorsed the Honor Roll.

In February 2008, the Corporation will reveal the new Honor Roll, showcasing the six Presidential Award winners at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education in San Diego. Please join us in San Diego if you are in the area. The winners will be recognized at a round table discussion and an evening meeting. On February 11, 2008, the Presidential Awards will be presented to representatives of the winning institutions. For a complete listing of the 2007 Honor Roll, http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/programs/higher_ed_honorroll.asp

after February 10, 2008.

And, apply in 2008!

19TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE- LEARNING CONFERENCE (NYLC), MINNEAPOLIS, MN, APRIL 9-12, 2008

Are you attending this year's National Service-Learning Conference? Online registration is open at <https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/registration/index.cfm?page=registration>.

Learn and Serve America and its grantees and subgrantees will, again, have a large presence at this gathering of service-learning leaders from across the country and beyond. Join us so that you don't miss:

- ♦ David Eisner speaking at the Opening Plenary session,

- ♦ The Learn and Serve reception for all past and present Learn and Serve America grantees, subgrantees, sub-subgrantees, and participants,
- ♦ A Featured Forum discussion about the evolving roles of civic engagement and community service, with Peace Corps, CNCS and USA Freedom Corps,
- ♦ Workshops presented by Learn and Serve America and other CNCS staff, as well as more than 50 Learn and Serve America grantees and subgrantees.
- ♦ Presentation of the Learn and Serve America Spirit of Service Awards, during the State Farm® Awards Celebration,
- ♦ Opportunities for LASSIE and/or financial management technical assistance from experts and much more!

Register today and join your colleagues at this important community-building event.

<https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/registration/index.cfm?page=registration>

2008 LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA GRANTEE TRAINING, WASHINGTON, DC, OCTOBER 21-24, 2008

Mark your calendar now for the 2008 Learn and Serve America Grantee Training. This year's training will be held October 21-24 at the Sheraton Crystal City hotel, located in Arlington, Virginia.

We have a block of sleeping rooms at both the Sheraton Crystal City and the Crystal City Marriott. Both properties have provided an online reservation system that is open now. If you want to book your sleeping rooms in advance, please visit:

- ♦ Sheraton Crystal City - <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0711263459&key=A57A1>
- ♦ Crystal City Marriott - <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wascc-crystal-city-marriott-at-reagan-national-airport/?groupCode=lsalsaa&app=resvlink>

Training content and registration details are forthcoming.



LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA UPDATE

Higher Education

As we head into the full swing of Primary season, discussions of civic engagement among college students and higher eds is also heating up. Two reports have been released in the past few weeks focused on this issue:

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) released its “Millennials Talk Politics: A Study of College Student Political Engagement.” For more information: www.civicyouth.org.

Campus Compact released a follow up to the 2005 “New Times Demand New Scholarship” report on research universities and civic engagement. The publication is a summary of the 2nd National Conference on Civic Engagement and Research Universities, hosted by UCLA and sponsored in part by California Campus Compact as part of their Learn and Serve America grant. For more information: www.compact.org/initiatives/research_universities/.

Other successful Learn and Serve higher education program events include: Princeton’s National Community-Based Research Networking Initiative grantee conference (October 2007), hosted by Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill’s Learning to Teach, Learning to Serve annual grantee meeting (December 2007)

POST YOUR EVENT TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE TODAY!

Learn and Serve America National Youth Speakers Bureau – The YSB

YSB participants were very busy throughout the fall and winter of 2007!

After an initial orientation and training by Siobhan Dugan from CNCS Public Affairs, participants have spoken to community groups, at school assemblies, at national conferences, to the media, etc. Below are just a few examples of how the YSB is spreading the word:

Hanna Poffenbarger, a first year student at the University of Maryland, College Park has spoken about Learn and Serve and the environment at events such as a local forum on the public school system and an environmental leadership training for high school and college students. Hanna was also interviewed by the local news.

Doris Rodriguez, a junior at McDermitt Combined School in McDermitt, NV spoke about the importance of reflection as part of the Learn and Serve experience during a workshop at the National Conference on Service in Indian Communities in Sparks, NV.

Mason Waldvogel, a junior at Inola High School in Inola, OK was interviewed by the local news about his leadership role for his high school’s “Outdoor Classroom” Learn and Serve project. Mason was invited by the National Youth Leadership Council to be a Youth MC during the 2008 National Service Learning Conference.

Chelsea Merriman, a senior at Otterbein College in Westerville, OH spoke to students, faculty and staff about her college’s commitment to community engagement service-learning during the “Fall Community Service Plunge” event.

Kadi Walusay, an eighth grader at Raymond Elementary School in Racine, WI presented the how’s and why’s of K-8 Learn and Serve to a class of elementary education students at a local college.

In addition to their local speaking engagements, YSB participants have been communicating and sharing ideas via their own private on-line social networking system and via monthly conference calls.

What’s in store for 2008?

The YSB participants will continue to present locally and to meet via monthly conference calls. Throughout the winter and spring, they will work together to further define and establish the YSB for years to come.

YSB participants who are traveling to Minnesota for the National Service-Learning Conference will present a workshop titled “Youth Speak: How Service-Learning Sparks a Lifetime of Service.” During the next few months, all YSB participants will contribute to the development of the workshop’s content and in planning the agenda.



YSB participants may also have an opportunity to present at the National Conference on Service and Volunteering in Atlanta, June 1-3!

Tribes and U.S. Territories

Learn and Serve America (LSA) Tribal Grantees and Sub-Grantees participated in the Seventh National Conference on Service in Indian Communities held October 30 to November 2, 2007 in Sparks, Nevada. The Conference, “National Service Embracing Culture and Traditions: Preserving the Past...Creating our Future,” united and reinforced tribes, service programs, and partners in their work to strengthen communities. The 350 attendees participated in four days of training, networking, and celebration.

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE

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 already have a few lessons learned 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!

And remember Learn and Serve America grantees and subgrantees are **required** to submit to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse all materials developed with support from Learn and Serve America. Learn and Serve America receives a report from us every six months listing the grantee produced material we’ve received, so submitting your materials doesn’t just benefit NSLC and the service-learning community as a whole. It helps you get official credit for the great work you do!

For more information and to submit your materials, visit http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/mat_contrib/index.php .

Some of our latest grantee additions are:

Higher Education:

Crossroads and Common Ground: An Indiana Campus Compact Compilation Report
Indiana Campus Compact

This compilation research report examines the impact of service on several Indiana institutions of higher education and the communities where the schools are located. These three studies represent three different focuses: student retention, public perceptions of higher education, and the impact of service on local communities.

http://www.servicelearning.org/library/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=7320

K-12:

Montana Citizen Preparedness Through Youth Leadership
Montana Office of Public Instruction

This guide highlights students' service projects for school and community safety and disaster preparedness from Montana. Many of the projects use technology for their projects, including various computer and internet technologies, global positioning systems (GPS), and geographic information systems (GIS).

http://www.servicelearning.org/library/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=7421

Community-Based:

Prepare Today - Lead Tomorrow Teen Toolkit
Campfire USA

This toolkit was created to support teen community preparedness service-learning experiences. It provides background information on community preparedness and service-learning and takes teens through the entire process of designing a service-learning project, assessment, and reflection. It also includes over a dozen worksheets and several project ideas.

http://www.servicelearning.org/library/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=7309

If you are sponsoring an event send it to the Clearinghouse!

We have the scoop on Learn and Serve and related events! www.servicelearning.org



NSLC Welcomes Resource Specialist Jason Burrage



Jason is responsible for library circulation, buying and processing new library materials, compiling data, and assisting users with NSLC services.

Clearinghouse Program Advisor News

Program Advisors to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse provide sector-specific guidance and expertise to insure a responsive, contemporary, and vibrant NSLC. Each agency listed below was selected to serve as an NSLC Program Advisor because of the high quality research, practice, and advocacy it brings to the service-learning community.

CBO – Search Institute (Gene Roehlkepartain, Contact)



Come talk with Gene Roehlkepartain, Senior Advisor for Search Institute and NSLC CBO Program Advisor, to share your hopes and questions about the CBO sector and to discuss Gene’s work in his NSLC Program Advisor capacity. Please fill out the form at http://www.servicelearning.org/nslc/teleconference_registration_form/index.php to be included in the Program Advisor Teleconference, **Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 12:00 pm PST / 3:00 pm EST**. The teleconference will be one hour long.

Higher Education

Since 2001, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) has served as the Learn and Serve America National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (NSLC) Program Advisor for higher education. CCPH and NSLC will continue to collaborate and support each other's efforts in other ways and look forward to doing so in the years ahead.

NSLC will name a new Program Advisor for higher education early this year.

K-12 – RMC Research (Shelley Billig, Contact)

NSLC is delighted to announce that longtime NSLC Program Advisor, RMC Research, continues in its role. Please stay tuned for information on webinars and conferences at which Shelley will be providing TTA.



Tribes and Territories - Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center (John Guffey, Contact)



NSLC welcomes Tribes and Territories Program Advisor, Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center. Eagle Rock is a school for high school age students and a professional development center for adults, particularly educators. The Professional Development Center hosts educators from around the world who wish to study how to re-engage students in learning, help them go on to make a difference in the world. John Guffey, Service-Learning Instructional Specialist, will be the primary contact for Eagle Rock School in its Program Advisor role. For more information, visit: www.eaglerockschool.org.

New Resources from NSLC

Developing Partnerships for Service-Learning: Starting Points for Community-Based Organizations (Created for NSLC by Search Institute)

This fact sheet examines several key questions that emerge when community-based organizations (CBOs) seek to form partnerships, including: who to partner with; what makes a partnership work; and what kinds of challenges might you face.

http://www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/factsheets/cb_facts/developing_partnerships/index.php

Service-Learning with Disadvantaged Youth (Created for NSLC by Search Institute)

Young people from disadvantaged circumstances benefit from participation in quality service-learning in a number of different ways. This fact sheet discusses the positive outcomes for these youth and recommendations on how to engage this demographic in service-learning.

http://www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/factsheets/cb_facts/disadvantaged_youth/index.php



From Emerging Answers 2007 Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases--Douglas Kirby, PhD Nov 2007

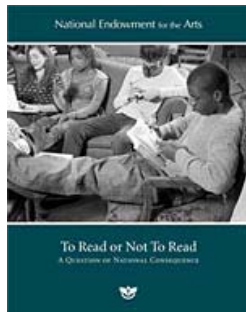
Scientific evidence of service-learning's positive impact on reducing teen pregnancy
http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/EA2007/EA2007_full.pdf

National Endowment for the Arts Report Links Declines in Reading with Poorer Academic and Social Outcomes

To Read or Not to Read: a Question of National Consequence is a new and comprehensive analysis of reading patterns of children, teenagers, and adults in the United States.

The report's major conclusions:

- Americans are spending less time reading.
- These declines have serious civic, social, cultural, and economic implications.



The report links reading to engaged citizenship and notes literary readers are “more than twice as likely as non-readers to volunteer or do charity work.”

Learn and Serve staff heard a presentation on the report, given by the agency's Director for Research and Analysis, Sunil Iyengar. Mr. Iyengar expressed particular interest in **sharing his organization's research with the service-learning world.**

To Read or Not To Read (Research Report #47):
<http://www.nea.gov/news/news07/TRNR.html> .

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (by Nelda Brown)

VOTE TODAY: Select the Date for the 2008 Learn & Serve Challenge

More than 18,000 people participated in events and activities designed to kick-off and promote service-learning in schools and communities last fall. Join us in making the next Learn & Serve Challenge even

bigger and better than before. Help us select the date for the 2008 Learn & Serve Challenge!

Your opinion matters. Click here to vote today for your top choice.
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Jepw4vGcsOcO0_2buDqmfNUg_3d_3d

Bring Learning to Life: Reaching, Teaching, and Engaging Adolescents through Service-Learning Free Online Seminar, January 22, 3:00 PM EST and January 2, 6:00 PM EST with Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A.

The seminar will take place on NSLP Connections, an online learning community sponsored by the National Service-Learning Partnership (www.service-learningpartnership.org). You must be a member of NSLP Connections in order to participate in the seminar. Membership is free and enrollment is easy. By joining NSLP Connections, you can make the connections and build the relationships you need to advance service-learning your own school and community. Visit www.nslpconnections.org to join today. Easy to do!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

This column contains selected stories, highlights and articles about Learn and Serve programs and partners. Please send us your information to share.

NEA Newsletter Profiles Learn and Serve Program!!

The November edition of NEA today, published by the National Education Association, featured a story on the Ft. McDermitt Paiute/Shoshone Tribe (NV) Learn and Serve America program.
<http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0711/feature4.html>.

Glenvar Area Learn and Serve VA Grantees Win International Award (by Marilyn B. Weyer-Elder, VA Learn and Serve program director)

Awards were presented for outstanding posters delivered at the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) 36th annual conference
<http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/news/current/naaee.shtml>



Mani Hull, Director of TACEP and Tennessee Campus Compact: Changing education outcomes with service learning: Professor Carolyn Hughes, Professor Sharon Shields, and doctoral candidate Mani Hull won a grant to expand Hughes' mentoring project to increase service-learning opportunities at Tennessee's community colleges.
<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/x7906.xml>



Camp Fire USA Southwest Louisiana Council
COOL IDEA! The Camp Fire USA Southwest Louisiana Council (Wayne Bebee, CEO) shared this billboard design. They have a deal with the billboard company to do them for several events throughout the year.

Teens' computers help injured heroes
 By DIANE D'AMICO Education Writer, 609-272-7241
 (Published: January 14, 2008)

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MAYS LANDING - Donnelle Nesmith does not know what it is like to serve in the military, be sent to war and be injured. But he knows he would not like it if he came home, and no one seemed to care about what he had given for his country. "I just thought, what if I got hurt and no one cared or appreciated it," Nesmith said, explaining why he and classmates at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology Alternative High School volunteered for a project to build and donate computers to wounded and disabled veterans.

The Big Chick CAN
 The Big Chick-CAN: Drafting students' service helps feed community and draws support

Interesting reinforcement from the American Medical Association that service and service-learning are important to this generation:
[Med schools adjusting to millennial students](#)
 American Medical News (subscription) - USA
 Outside of the classroom, millennials' passion for helping others is spurring more **service learning**. Dr. Kavan said Creighton's students developed a program
 ...

In Marietta, Georgia six drafting students from Learn and Serve subgrantee of American Association of Community Colleges Chattahoochee Technical College used more than 4,000 cans to build what they're calling the Big Chick-CAN, complete with moving beak and turning eyes. The canned goods went to the Center for Family Resources, an organization providing Thanksgiving baskets to at least 1,200 needy families in the area.

[Martinsville schools receive service learning grant](#)
 Reporter-Times - Martinsville, IN, USA
 By Ross Flint | rflint@reportert.com

See the article by Elizabeth Farnsworth in the Marietta Daily Journal,
<http://www.mdjonline.com/content/index/showcontent/item/area/1/section/21/item/98724.html>

[Empty Bowls Soup Dinner hoping to fill seats](#)
 Sentinel-Standard - Ionia, MI, USA
 "I like [service learning] because it makes us realize it's important to help the community," said seventh grade student Tim Wohlfert. ...



[Augsburg students put theory to practice in Cedar-Riverside](#)

Twin Cities Planet - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

[Uniforms issue drives civics lesson](#)

Chambersburg Public Opinion - Chambersburg, PA, USA

The students conducted this activity as a result of a federal Civics **Learn and Serve** grant obtained by the GA Social Studies Department from the ...

New Research on local service-learning program

Data Supports Need In Deed's Approach
Teachers and students learn through service

To learn more about this recently released study and other NID info, click here:

<http://www.needindeed.org/article.php?ID=57>

WHERE WILL LEARN AND SERVE STAFF BE?

The American Council on Education's (ACE) 90th Annual Meeting
San Diego, CA
February 9-12, 2008

Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) 20th Anniversary Conference
Philadelphia, PA
February 28-29, 2008

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Annual Conference
Boston, MA
March 8-12, 2008

Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in Higher Education
Nashville, TN
March 13-15, 2008

Campus Community Partnerships for Youth
Worcester, MA
April 4, 2008

19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference
Minneapolis, MN
April 9-12, 2008

Coalition for Community Schools National Forum
April 30 – May 2, 2008
Portland, OR

National Conference on Service and Volunteerism,
Atlanta, Georgia
June 1-3, 2008

2008 Learn and Serve Grantee Training
Washington, DC
October 21-14, 2008

PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLICATION IN OUR NEXT EDITION!

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter. Please send comments to:
acohen@cns.gov (Director), or
pcarpent@cns.gov (Editor)