



LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA *NEWSLETTER*

No. 2
June 2007



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings Learn and Serve America Grantees:

What a month this has been! There have been several positive and interesting developments for Learn and Serve America from the Congress and the White House.

First, the House and Senate reported their intentions for the Learn and Serve America **budget** for FY 2008. As you may have seen in the note sent by Corporation CEO David Eisner, the full Senate Appropriations Committee reported out the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY 2008 funding bill by a 27-2 vote. The Committee recommended a total of \$880.909 million for the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs. This equals the level approved by the Subcommittee on Tuesday, June 19. The Committee recommended \$39.125 million for Learn and Serve America. While these appropriations levels are not yet final, they indicate an upward trend for Learn and Serve America.

Also on the Congressional side, the House subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities (a subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor) released a bill that, if passed, would **reauthorize** the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs. The bill, H.R. 2857 can be viewed in its entirety: <http://edlabor.house.gov/>
The bill proposes some significant changes to all of the Corporation's programs. The following are some of the key changes proposed for Learn and Serve America – as of this writing (all subject to change):

- The majority of Learn and Serve America funding would go by formula to State Education Agencies
 - Between 2 and 3% of School-Based funds would be allotted to Indian Tribes and the US Territories
 - Under the School-Based funding, new allowable activities include summer service programs for rising 6th through 12th graders for which students who serve 100 hours or more are eligible to receive an education award of \$500 (\$1000 possible for economically disadvantaged youth)
 - Match changes – all match is at 50% of total program cost and must be NON-Federal match



- Higher Education remains 25% of Learn and Serve America appropriations
 - Intensifies the focus on professional schools programs: health, criminal justice, public policy and public administration
 - Codifies priority for predominantly Black HBCUs, HSIs, and Tribally-controlled colleges
- Adds a new innovation and demonstration part with eligible entities to include: SEAs, Territories, tribes, higher education institutions, public and private nonprofits, and consortia
 - Focuses on integrating service-learning with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); energy conservation; emergency and disaster preparation; technology development; high school students mentoring middle school students; and research and evaluation.
 - Promotes youth voice and intergenerational service

Even as I write this, some of this information may be out of date. Please check our website, www.cns.gov, for the latest updates. This process is moving fast!

Learn and Serve America recently underwent the **Performance Assessment and Rating Tool (PART)** process, conducted by the White House Office of Management and Budget. The PART was developed to assess and improve program performance so that the Federal government can achieve better results. A PART review helps identify a program's strengths and weaknesses to inform funding and management decisions aimed at making the program more effective. Because the PART includes a consistent series of analytical questions, it allows programs to show improvements over time, and allows comparisons between similar programs.

I am very happy to announce that – after the Learn and Serve America review – OMB determined that our program is **ADEQUATE**. This means we are performing and is a significant accomplishment for our program. The LASSIE data was essential to our positive performance on the PART. Thank you and please keep it up! Also, thank you to Cara Patrick, Associate Director for Grants Management, who served as Team Leader for this process. She did an outstanding job!

The PART write-up is conducted primarily by OMB and we expect our PART to be published in August. You can view it and get more information about PART on the web: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/>

I am also happy to announce **The National Learn & Serve Challenge** in which you and all of your program participants and partners can BE A SOLUTION to pressing problems in your community. Working with the National Service-Learning Partnership, SEANet and Youth Service America, we will kick off The National Learn & Serve Challenge **September 17 to 23**. This is a time for telling your story – making your community and the nation aware of the power of Learn and Serve America programs to make a difference in the community, in the school and for the students. Visit www.service-learningpartnership.org/lchallenge for more information.

And, last but certainly not least, Learn and Serve America has been nominated for the **2007 Carl Bertelsmann Prize**. This prize, awarded by the Bertelsmann Stiftung of Germany, “traditionally honors innovative ideas and exemplary solutions to pressing social issues.” The focus for 2007 is “Civic Engagement as an Educational Goal.” The organization wanted to highlight young people as key agents



for social change and feel that civic engagement of youth is at the heart of a humanitarian democratic society.

Although Learn and Serve America did not win, we were among the 15 finalists and have been asked to submit information and material for a publication being prepared for distribution throughout Germany which will be announced at the laureate in September 2007. To read more about this organization and the 2007 prize, please go to: www.carl-bertelsmann-prize.org.

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!



GRANTS MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

(Submitted by Cara Patrick, Associate Director for Grants Management)

LASSIE–

*The deadline for submitting 2007 LASSIE surveys has been extended to **Monday, July 2, 2007**. Please ensure that you and all of your subgrantees and sub-subgrantees complete this required survey.*



We need this information to highlight the essential and important work you and your subgrantees do and to ensure that every Learn and Serve America program and participant counts!

Accountability for federal funds and the activities they support is all of our responsibility. It is a grant requirement included in your Grant Provisions. If subgrantees are not completing the surveys, and are therefore non-compliant, I strongly encourage you to decline requests for additional funds.

Progress Reports–

As a reminder participant numbers are no longer required in Progress Reports because they are now collected in LASSIE. Unfortunately, the tab could not be removed from eGrants because it is used by other CNCS programs, but it is not required for Learn and Serve. **Narrative** sections cover the stated performance period, but the **Performance Measures** are cumulative in nature as they reflect your progress toward your 3-year targets.

Progress reports for 2006 grants are due July 31, 2007 via eGrants. These reports will cover activities from the beginning of the grant through June 30, 2007. We recognize this may be a start-up period for some of you, so it is acceptable to primarily describe planning activities.

Progress reports for grants with No-Cost Extensions are also due July 31, 2007, but they will cover the reporting period of January 1 through June 30, 2007. (These grants are under the old Grant Provisions that required bi-annual reporting.) For most of you, this will be your last report for this grant, so you may wish to summarize overall grant accomplishments and lessons learned through the narrative section. Alternatively, we prefer that you describe reporting period activities as usual in this report, and, at the conclusion of your grant, submit a 2-page summary of grant objectives, key accomplishments and lessons learned (reflection!). This format will better enable staff to access previous grants and use them for the purposes of information sharing and training and technical assistance.



Progress Report Guidance is posted on the Grantee page of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse:

http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/Progress_Report_Instr_2007.pdf

Please remember to submit a copy of any evaluation reports and other resources developed using grant funds to your Program Officer – electronic submission is preferred when possible.

Financial Status Reports–

All active grants must submit a semi-annual Financial Status Report via eGrants by July 31, 2007 that covers the 6 months ending June 30, 2007. A Final Financial Status Report is due within 90 of the scheduled end date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

(Submitted by Tracey Seabolt)

2007 Learn and Serve America Grantee Training
September 26-28, 2007
Washington, DC

We are currently constructing the registration site (www.regonline.com/138689) for the 2007 Learn and Serve America Grantee Training. The Regonline site will include a link to the Sheraton Crystal City hotel, so that you can directly reserve your sleeping room. We expect Regonline to be open from mid-July through August 29th. We will send an e-mail as soon as registration is open.

As a reminder, 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. A special New Project Director Orientation will be held prior to the start of the conference.

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

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA INITIATIVES UPDATE:

YOUTH SPEAKERS BUREAU, by Emily Samose

Thanks to the Affinity Group!

In October 2006 at the National Grantee Meeting, an Affinity Group of interested Learn and Serve staff, Grantee Program Directors and youth was formed to begin sharing ideas about the possible design of a Learn and Serve America Youth Speakers Bureau (YSB). The group has an established email list monitored by the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse and has monthly conference calls to develop all aspects of the YSB.

The Affinity Group is working hard to establish the design and identify the inaugural members of the 2007-2008 Youth Speakers Bureau throughout the summer. The first “pilot” group of youth and grantees will help to develop and expand the potential roles and participation of youth in future years.



The Clearinghouse will announce more details very soon!

FEDERAL WORK STUDY, by Bob Davidson

Work-Study Community Service Outreach:

As reported in the last issue, CNCS is reviving an historic outreach partnership with the U.S. Department of Education aimed at expanding community service under the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program. The FWS program operates on over 3,300 college campuses and employs some 129,000 students annually in community service positions—far more colleges and students than are engaged in service via any CNCS program. This FWS outreach partnership with Education is designed to more fully utilize the expertise of CNCS and that of the LSA community in improving and expanding FWS community service nation-wide, and increasing the national FWS community service participation rate—now 14.82 percent.

LSA staff recently provided input to the Education Department to help clarify the definition of community service and improve the examples of community service projects set forth in the forthcoming 2007 Student Aid Handbook, the Department's major Federal student aid policy guidance publication. An improved FWS community service related Frequently Asked Questions section is also planned. Meanwhile, Campus Compact is about to publish a new, LSA-funded, book entitled "Getting the Most from Community Service Federal Work-Study." It will include reports about FWS community service challenges and successes around the nation, along with an overview commentary by Bob Davidson of the LSA staff.

And during July, Bob will give presentations and lead work-shops on FWS community service at several national and regional higher education conferences: at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference in Washington, DC, on July 10, at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Philadelphia on July 16, at a New Mexico conference on state-wide higher education community service planning on July 22, and at the Northeast Association of Student Employment Administrators conference in Rochester, New York, on July 31.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor for colleges seeking to improve their FWS community service programs, or in sharing FWS community service program descriptions or successful practices, please contact Bob Davidson, at rdavidson@cns.gov or Kevin Days, at kdays@cns.gov. Also, please let us know if you have suggestions for inclusion in the new FWS community service policy FAQs, or if you have any suggestions for additional elements for our Work-Study community service outreach project.

SUMMER OF SERVICE, by Elson Nash

Summer of Service 2007:

The Corporation for National and Community Service through the Engaging Youth Initiative launched the Summer of Service Initiative. This project is being initiated to bring attention to the value of youth-led service, especially during the summer months. It is led by Theresa Clower and includes a Network of National Affiliates and Independent Youth-Serving Programs like Learn and Serve America grantees: Search Institute, Camp Fire USA, and YMCA of the USA. More information can be downloaded at www.nationalservice.gov/summerofservice.

In collaboration with USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation for National and Community Service is sponsoring the first *High Five Service Project Kudos* award program to recognize five outstanding youth-



led summertime service projects. Winning entrants will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC in fall 2007 to attend the Summer of Service *High Five Service Project Kudos* ceremony. To view the selection criteria for nominating a project please go to:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0614_summer_kudos.pdf.

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

2007 Honor Roll to be launched in mid-July:

Breaking news.... OMB has approved our 2007 application package for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; and, after a longer-than-anticipated procurement process, the Corporation has contracted with an exceptionally experienced IT firm to develop and install a new, web-based Honor Roll application system and database. The new, more user-friendly on-line application system is expected to be ready for use by July 16, and will be reached via the Honor Roll website at www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll. The new application system and database will support a more efficient and less burdensome applications review and record-keeping process, allowing the Corporation to handle what we expect will be a significant increase in application volume -- over the 511 Honor Roll applications submitted last year.

Given these two very positive developments, we expect to be able to open the 2007 Honor Roll application period on July 16. The 2007 Honor Roll applications due date is October 5, 2007. The official 2007 Honor Roll publicity campaign will also be launched in mid-July, via a Press Release, a letter to all college presidents (similar to last year's), advertisements in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and other means. Stay tuned for further information on the 2007 Honor Roll program.

ELI SEGAL EDUCATION AWARD MATCHING, by Kevin Days

Five campuses have joined the CNCS roster of higher education institutions that match the Eli Segal Education award, bringing the total number of institutions that match to 75. A short description of each program is below. A complete list of universities and colleges that match the Eli Segal Education Award can be found at the Learn and Serve America Higher Education Web Portal (click on the link below).

http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/highered/ed_award_match.asp

Prescott College, Prescott, AZ

Created to support Prescott College's legacy of community service and volunteerism by encouraging students active in National Service Programs and eligible for National Service Education Awards to enroll at Prescott College this scholarship matches awards such as AmeriCorps Education Awards, National Civilian Community Education Awards, and Presidential Freedom Scholarships dollar for dollar. To qualify students possessing National Service Education Awards must be accepted to Prescott College and submit proof of their award eligibility prior to enrolling.

Prescott College also offers a \$2,000 per year renewable scholarship, the Prescott College Environmental and Social Justice Scholarship, to students who have a documented history of participating in environmental and social justice oriented activities including community service and volunteer programs. This scholarship may be received in addition to our National Service Education Award matching grant.



Simpson College, Indianola, IA

Simpson College will offer a matching award to match 25% of the education award offered each year by AmeriCorps and VISTA over a four year period (25% of the award value per year). The match will apply only to full-time degree-seeking students who are receiving the AmeriCorps and VISTA award.

Wartburg College, Waverly, IA

Wartburg College is a nationally recognized selective four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Wartburg College will offer the AmeriCorps Matching Grant of 50% of the AmeriCorps Education award for students who meet the criteria below.

Candidates much have applied and been accepted for admission to Wartburg.

Student must be seeking full time enrollment for the upcoming year.

Students must be full time AmeriCorps members at the time of application and must have successfully completed their term of service.

Illinois State University, Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, Normal, IL

Illinois State University's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development welcomes former AmeriCorps members as Applied Community and Economic Development Fellows. Fellows complete one calendar year of on-campus study, including the core courses for a master's degree in Applied Economics, Political Science, or Sociology, each with an interdisciplinary sequence in Applied Community/Economic Development. Fellows then complete an 11-month paid professional internship. Fellows have a graduate assistantship and stipend during the fall and spring semester on campus, and they receive a full tuition waiver over the 2-year program. Fellows not only assist communities in need but also enhance their skills and gain credentials as development professionals.

College of Eastern Utah, Price, UT

College of Eastern Utah is a two-year state community college located in the city of Price, two hours south of Salt Lake City. Eastern Utah is offering an AmeriCorps Recognition Resident Tuition Waiver Scholarship to qualified AmeriCorps students in recognition of academic potential, involvement in community activities, service and leadership. This award will be in the amount resident tuition for the year the student attends and utilizes their AmeriCorps funds at Eastern Utah. College of Eastern Utah is an open admissions institution. Students must be admitted, pay the admission fee, and submit a regular scholarship application in order to be awarded. To maintain the tuition waiver, students must attempt and complete 15 credit hours per semester and maintain a 2.500 semester GPA. Tuition waivers can only be used during fall and spring semesters.



NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE:

(Submitted by Barbara Holland and Liberty Smith)

Update from NSLC Director Barbara Holland:

Good day from Australia. I've arrived to start my sabbatical at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) at an ideal time, as I was able to immediately participate in the review of proposals for the distribution of internal grants for new service-learning and engagement projects. UWS has a classic metropolitan university mission, serving the very large "Greater Western Sydney" region on 5 campuses with a total of 35,000 commuting and working students. The region is rich with opportunities for community-based learning related to immigrant communities, poverty, health, literacy, water, small business development, and many others. The internal grant process made \$60,000 available to each of the university's colleges to fund new service-learning and engagement projects. Reading all the proposals and hearing the review panel discussions was a great introduction for me in that it offered a sampling of what faculty know (or don't know) about the principles and practices of top quality service-learning and community partnerships. This will inform my early work to develop faculty development programs and key performance indicators for engagement and service-learning! Stay tuned for the next thrilling installment!

Who to Contact for Help

To...	Contact...	@
Order Publications	Amber Isidro, Administrative Assistant	866-245-7378 ext 130 orders@servicelearning.org
Check Out Library Materials or Share New Resources	Janine Bird, Resource Specialist	866-245-7378 ext 272 circulation@servicelearning.org
Ask Reference Questions	Heather Martin, Librarian	866-245-7378 ext 240 info@servicelearning.org
Get Help with Email Discussion Lists or with Using the Website	Larry Hardison, Webmaster	866-245-7378 ext 195 webmaster@servicelearning.org
To Explore Collaboration or For Any Other Question	Liberty Smith, Program Manager	866-245-7378 ext 139 libertys@etr.org

Welcome to...

Search Institute, Program Advisor for Community-Based Organizations

Search Institute is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. To accomplish this mission, the institute generates and communicates new knowledge, and brings together community, state, and national leaders.

Contact: Gene Roehlkepartain, Senior Advisor, Office of the President

<http://www.search-institute.org/>



Heather Martin, MIST, NSLC Librarian

Heather provides reference and referral services and literature searches; identifies, abstracts, and catalogs materials; develops and maintains record-keeping systems and reports; and ensures an up-to-date and comprehensive resource collection. Prior to joining the staff, Heather worked in





several special library settings, including Princess Margaret Hospital's Patient Education Library in Toronto, the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange, and the Broadcast Library at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C.

Amber Isidro, NSLC Administrative Assistant

Amber performs a variety of duties in support of our training and technical assistance mission including helping with conference logistics and travel planning; responding to marketing requests and publication orders; and processing serials subscriptions, order shipments, expense reports, and other financial documents. Prior to joining NSLC Amber was a Peer Counselor/Legal Advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and a provider of local youth programming to creating a gang- and drug-free environment.



Spotlight on Grantee Produced Material

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse is looking for your materials! In the course of running your project, have you developed training materials, surveys, or a program description? Do you think other programs could benefit from what you've produced? We do! Send us your materials and they 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. For more information and to submit your materials, visit http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/mat_contrib/index.php.

One of our latest grantee additions is "Picturing the Possibilities: Learning to Serve, Serving to Learn / What Powerful Teaching and Learning Can Look Like," contributed by the Small Schools Project, a Learn and Serve America Grantee in Seattle, Washington. This mixed-media resource contains both VHS and DVD formats with 82-page support materials. You can read the full description at http://www.servicelearning.org/lib_svcs/lib_cat/index.php?library_id=6894.

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Featured Resources

Faculty Toolkit for Service-Learning in Higher Education Edited by Sarena D. Seifer and Kara Connors, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health for NSLC

The materials in the tool kit are divided into 10 units designed to aid faculty in every step of planning, designing, and implementing service-learning programs into their curriculum and institutions as well as program evaluation and assessment. Each unit includes tips and in-depth content information about the topic presented and most units include case studies providing 'real life' experiences for readers to learn from.

http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/HE_toolkit_with_worksheets.pdf

Now Online! Building Citizens: a Critical Reflection and Discussion Guide for Community Service Participants by Margo Shea and Kevin Mattson.

This excellent out-of-print resource is now available in .pdf form to download on our website. This guide is designed to help community service programs incorporate a deliberative, civic dimension into their programs by guiding participants in reflection that makes explicit connections between service and critical, enlivened citizenship.

http://servicelearning.org/resources/online_documents/building_citizens/



And two new Fact Sheets:

Improving Outcomes for K-12 Service-Learning Participants

http://www.servicelearning.org/resources/fact_sheets/k-12_facts/improving_outcomes/

Research in Support of Youth Voice and Service-Learning

http://www.servicelearning.org/resources/fact_sheets/k-12_facts/support_youth-voice/

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING PARTNERSHIP:

(Submitted by Nelda Brown)

Mark Your Calendar. Start Planning Now!

**The National Learn & Serve Challenge: Be a Solution
September 17-23, 2007**

Last year, the Corporation for National and Community Service challenged our field to engage 5 million college students serving and to ensure 50 percent of America's K-12 schools incorporate service-learning into their curricula by the year 2010.

Take the Challenge! Join others from around the country in this week-long series of publicity events and community outreach activities designed to raise awareness and public support for service-learning. This is also an opportunity to spotlight Learn and Serve America, the only federal program dedicated to supporting service-learning in local schools, college/universities, and communities.

Start planning now! No idea is too big or too small. There are several ways you can get involved and make a difference right in your own backyard.

To learn more and to stay connected over the summer, email nslp@aed.org. Type "I Am a Solution" in the subject line.

Visit the Learn & Serve Challenge online (www.service-learningpartnership.org/lchallenge) for suggested ways to get involved or to design your own. Check out the website the week of July 16 to download free tools and resource materials to help you plan your own activity or event.

For more information, call (202) 884-8098 or email nslp@aed.org.

Spread the word!

STAFF MEETING/CONFERENCE SUMMARIES:

CNCS Southern Cluster Multi-State Conference June 6-8, 2007, by Elson Nash

CNCS held the Southern Cluster Conference June 6-8 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Learn and Serve America was well represented with workshops presented by staff and grantees. Elson Nash, Associate



Director for Project Management for Learn and Serve America presented on the Engaging Students Initiative. His workshop was well received. The audience was especially interested in the use of community service federal work-study and VISTA coordinators for service-learning.

Karen Horne of the South Carolina Department of Education and Carrie Houser James of South Carolina State University's Office of Service-Learning presented models of collaboration between Institutions of higher education and K-12 schools. This workshop was also well received and engaging.

Carolyn Fox of North Carolina's State Education Agency and Gayle Hilleke of the Kentucky Campus Compact explained ways in which local CNCS programs and their community partners could collaborate for innovative service-learning projects. This session was particularly engaging for those programs that were new to service-learning.

Learn and Serve America Peer Clinic, by Calvin Dawson

Having the opportunity to visit another Learn and Serve America grantee to see their program in action is a valuable experience. The Hannahville Indian Community in Wilson, Michigan provided that opportunity to two other Learn and Serve America tribal grantees – St. Stephens Indian School (WY) and Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe (NV). On April 25 and 26, 2007, the Hannahville Indian Community hosted a Peer Clinic that featured visiting its various service-learning projects. The focus of these projects included maintaining, constructing, and upgrading woodland trail systems; mentoring by peers and by corporate officials; preserving tribal history and culture; and conducting after-school programming at Hannahville's 21st Century Learning Center. Clinic participants were able to talk with students (including the Hannahville Youth Advisory Council), teachers, administrators, and community members. They also attended Hannahville's Health Fair. Through its Learn and Serve America grant, Hannahville involves 150 students at the Nah Ta Wahsh Public School Academy in service-learning. The Peer Clinic was jointly planned by Learn and Serve America, Hannahville Indian Community, and ACKCO, Inc.

Service-Learning Leader Honored at the White House, by Calvin Dawson

On May 10, 2007, President George W. Bush presented Linda Uehara from Mililani, Hawaii with the President's Volunteer Service Award. The award was made at a ceremony held in the East Room of the White House in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Linda was nominated for the award by Colleen Murakami, Service-Learning Director for the Hawaii Department of Education, where she helps provide training and technical assistance to project schools and monitors their performances. She also volunteers with the Hawaii Girls Court by co-facilitating Girl Street Smart, a life skills program for Asian and Pacific Island girls, ages 12 to 18 years, and Girls Circle, a strength-based approach to honor gifts and talents, build healthy relationships, and address girls' needs. According to Linda, "what I have learned through Service Learning has expanded to my community activities. I see how our youth in the justice system find purpose and meaning in their lives as they learn and do for others."

STAFF UPDATE:

INTERNS:

Steven Cheng-- Steven Cheng joined our team on June 18, 2007. He is from Austin, Texas and will be a sophomore at Dartmouth College this coming year. Steven is interested in studying economics, psychology, and public policy. On campus, he is on staff at the daily school newspaper and works as a



student building manager at the student activities center. He loves to spend time following current events, attending political rallies, and volunteering through Big Brother/Big Sister and other organizations in the surrounding community. Steven will intern in Learn and Serve America through August 3rd.

Hadrien Haber-Sage—Hadrien was a high school student and interned in our office from May 28 through June 1. He was with us a very short time; however, he provided assistance on updating Learn and Serve America's informational power point presentations.

Robyn Snelling--_Robyn joined Learn and Serve America on May 14 and continued through June 1. She attends Allegheny College and helped us with a variety of projects including creating documents for The Eli Segal Education Award matching initiative and for the New Intern Orientation file. She also helped add case studies to the newly released faculty tool-kit.

Hannah Weiss—Hannah's internship ran from May 28 through June 15, 2007. She split her time with Learn and Serve America and the CEO's Special Assistant. Hannah provided assistance on organizing contact lists for various special projects and initiatives

Jason Horowitz—Jason joins our team on July 2. He will work through the end of August 2007. Jason currently attends The University of Pittsburg where he is majoring in Political Science.

RECRUITMENT:

The application period for the two Program Coordinator vacancies in our office has closed. We received a total of 74 applications. A Selection Panel is currently reviewing and ranking applicants, and will forward the top candidates to the Director for selection. We hope to announce our two new staff members in the next edition (August 2007) of this newsletter.

The **Program Coordinator for Knowledge Management** will, in addition to managing a grants portfolio, be the department's "point person" for developing, collecting, verifying, analyzing and summarizing program data, including LASSIE information. This individual will also prepare summary reports, as requested, for distribution to congressional staff members, agency officials and the service-learning field.

The **Program Coordinator for Higher Education** will manage a grants portfolio consisting primarily of higher education grantees. This individual will also serve as liaison to higher education institutions and campus compacts, and will establish and/or maintain partnerships with them.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA IN ILLINOIS {1/31/07}, by Brad Lewis

Making good on a bet over the outcome of the NFC championship game, Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu donned a Chicago Bears jersey and joined Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn and dozens of public-spirited Chicago high school students in packing emergency food kits at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

"As a Bears fan, I am delighted that Lieutenant Governor Landrieu lost the bet," Quinn said. "But even more important, I am proud to join him in this opportunity to help hungry families in the



Chicago area and bring public attention to the importance of service-learning and volunteerism, at home and all around our country."

Food Depository staff and volunteers and students from Gage Park High School and Hubbard High School in Chicago, subgrantees of the Illinois Learn and Serve America program, joined the lieutenant governors in the service project. Chicago-area media covered this event and the service project was highlighted on the Chicago evening news.





“THE BUG SCHOOL,” by Brad Lewis

This is a billboard that publicizes the work of one of our Tribal grantees, the "Bug School," in Minnesota. They are finishing a no-cost extension currently and have really done a fine job with their program.



GRAMBLING STUDENTS, FACULTY HELP WITH STORM MUSIC RECOVERY, by Kevin Days)

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070402/NEWS01/704020325>

Grambling State University's music department and Honors College spent several days in late March helping two New Orleans schools' music departments recover from the horrors of Hurricane Katrina.

"Through a grant and donations, the university sponsored 200 students and faculty to help rebuild the music departments of O. Perry Walker and St. Augustine high schools," said Dr. Ellen Smiley, assistant dean of Grambling's Honors College. "We gave the students who were members of the bands of the two high schools embroidered polo shirts that were donated by Russell Athletic, since they lost their uniforms during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. We also donated over \$8,000 worth of music supplies to the schools."



On March 21, the Grambling entourage held workshops for the high schoolers on such topics as careers, disaster relief and Louisiana composers and musicians. The next day, Grambling's wind ensemble, choir, symphony orchestra, jazz ensemble and show band performed concerts at each school.

The project, part of a series that will be continued through other departments at the Lincoln Parish University, was administered through the school's Service-Learning office, directed by Dr. Rory L. Bedford.

Smiley said the New Orleans visit was possible through a \$15,000 grant that grew through matching-funds and in-kind donations.

"The Martha Adams Chapter of the Grambling University National Alumni Association donated funds to support travel and food for the students and Grambling State University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Dixon, supported the project with the remainder of funds needed," she said. "Over \$8,000 worth of music supplies were donated to the two schools by Grambling and their supporters."

Grambling, she said, received \$60,000 in grants in all as part of a grant received by the University of Louisiana System, under which Grambling operates.

The University of Louisiana System last year was awarded a grant worth \$1.2 million to be used over three years to develop service-learning on eight campuses as part of classroom work, according to a release from the UL System.

"Service-learning is lifelong learning," UL System President Sally Clausen said when the grant was announced.

"Studies show that when service is a component of classroom learning, students are more likely to stay in school, graduate and become engaged in their communities throughout their lives."

Clausen said the ULS grant is part of the system's initiative to put more emphasis on service across its eight campuses. "Our universities are already incorporating service into some of their curricula, but we want to help them do even more. We envision that in the next few years, all ULS students will have a meaningful service experience before they graduate. These grant funds will help our universities develop even more service programs."

The ULS grant was part of \$37 million awarded nationally by the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, D.C. ULS requested the grant to assist state hurricane recovery work through its campuses.

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acohen@cns.gov or pcarpent@cns.gov

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