



"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love" - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Florida Learn & Serve

Florida Learn & Serve Recognizes Service-Learning Teachers

Since 1996, Florida Learn & Serve has presented awards to teachers and administrators who have had a significant impact on the growth of service learning in Florida. The award is named for Steven Tunick, a national leader in the development of intergenerational service learning.



The 2007 recipient of the Steven Tunick Award is Ms. Wendy Doromal, Service-Learning District Coordinator for Orange County Schools and at the Timber Creek High School Service-Learning Academy, in Orlando. Wendy is making a remarkable difference in the lives of the people she serves and encourages to serve. For the last four years, Wendy has coordinated the Timber Creek Service-Learning Academy. She is also the Southern Peer Mentor for National Service-Learning Exchange, an AmeriCorps VISTA site coordinator, and a NBCT Mentor/Assessor. In her "spare" time, Wendy paints and writes on service-learning, contributing to *4 Practical Resources*, which links service-learning and the Florida Sunshine Standards. Wendy has hosted an annual district service-learning conference the last four years.

In addition, since 1992 Wendy has been the President of the Foundation for Social Justice, a non-profit organization responsible for instituting labor and human rights reform in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The efforts of the Foundation for Social Justice paid off with the December 11, 2007 passage of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security and Labor Act (H.R. 3079). This act extends U.S. immigration laws which extend to the CNMI and establishes a federally administered guest worker program on the island. We are honored to recognize this amazing educator. You may contact Wendy at wendy.doromal@ocps.net.

Victoria Mudry Receives the Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award is a new annual award given to a service-learning teacher or administrator who has had significant accomplishments in the field in a short period of time. Each year, the Rising Star Award will be given to someone who engages a large number of students, has a wide impact in her/his school or community, and who has great potential for further growth or achievement. The winner receives \$500 to use toward advancing knowledge and skills in service learning.



The 2007 Rising Star Award recipient is Ms. Victoria Mudry, from Gulf High School in New Port Richey. Ms. Mudry's service-learning involvement began in 2005. The current service-learning program at Gulf High School is "The Power is On II" which has three foci: disaster relief that involves more than 500 students who conduct research and receive training in disaster preparation; "Crazy Quilters" who make quilts (see photo) and books for evacuation shelters; and the



"Busy Bees," a program where students help beekeepers and learn about the effects of the disappearing bee population.

If you have questions for Vicki, you may reach her at vmudry@pasco.k12.fl.us.

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From the Field

Spotlight on Service Learning at Seven Springs Middle School, Pasco County



In 1996, a middle school guidance counselor at Seven Springs Middle School expressed the need for some type of character education program, and a new drama class was created. Cindy Tehan became the teacher of that class and developed a character education program as part of it. In the initial phase of this program (1998-2005), 6th—8th grade students participated in S-L projects and activities as part of Ms. Tehan's drama/chorus classes. In 2005, realizing the need for greater student choice and voice in S-L activities, the principal agreed to expand the program school-wide and create a service-learning Leadership class. In 2006, 7th and 8th graders in the elective class awarded mini-grants to other teachers for service-learning. In 2006-07, Cindy was selected as Teacher of the Year in her school.

This school year, students awarded mini-grants supporting eight service-learning programs in classes across the school:

- * Character Education through Drama: Students perform plays for elementary students that teach tolerance, respect, and non-violence.
- * Good Habits—Good Health: Students teach nutrition and exercise to elementary students.
- * Re-Read: 6th grade students teach reading to younger students at Seven Springs Elementary and Longleaf Elementary.
- * Arts for Multiple Sclerosis: Middle school students make crafts to sell to help defray daily living costs for Multiple Sclerosis patients.
- * Social Inclusion Project: 8th grade students pair up with physically and mentally handicapped students for social events such as bowling, movies, etc.
- * Recycling Batteries and Paper: Students recycle batteries, pick up dead battery buckets from classrooms, and create iMovies on recycling.
- * Graphics Supporting School Functions: 7th grade students make posters to advertize school events.
- * National Junior Honor Society: 7th grade students collect toys for Toys for Tots and tutor other students.

For more information, contact Cindy Tehan at ctehan@pasco.k12.fl.us, or visit their web site at ssms.pasco.k12.fl.us/SSMS/leadthepack/leadthepack.

The 14th Annual Florida Service-Learning Institute was held November 12-14, 2007 at the Marriott Orlando/Lake Mary Hotel and was attended by nearly 400 educators and students. Some highlights of the Institute include:

The Keynote Speaker was Representative Rick Krisman from Pinellas County, who is sponsoring a bill to support service learning in the public school system. To find out more, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/sponsoredbills.aspx?MemberId=4393&SessionId=57.

President's Volunteer Service Awards were awarded to 79 students during the opening plenary session at the Institute. 30 of the students came from the Chautauqua Learn & Serve Charter School in Panama City, the nation's only service-learning charter school for ESE students.

For more information on the President's Volunteer Service Award, see page 4 of this newsletter.



Advocacy Meeting for Service-Learning - The inaugural meeting of the Florida Alliance for Service-Learning (FASL) was held, and several committees were formed to focus and address the work of FASL. The purpose of FASL is to—individually, collectively, and including the voices of students—garner the contacts, connections, and support necessary to sustain, improve, and expand service learning. A series of conference calls are being scheduled to define, articulate, plan, and carry out the work of the FASL.

Penny Harvest - The Florida Alliance for Student Service launched the first year of the Florida Penny Harvest program in cooperation with Common Cents, a non-profit organization based in New York City. Penny Harvest is a service-learning program in which students harvest (i.e., collect) pennies from their communities, assess community needs, and then decide how to use the grant funds to meet the community needs. Participating Penny Harvest students learn leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

For more information, contact Laryn Flikkema, FASS AmeriCorps/VISTA Initiative Director at lflikkema@admin.fsu.edu.

PeaceJam, K-12 programs use service-learning to create a new generation of engaged, active, and thoughtful citizens through study of and interaction with 12 of the world's greatest service-learners: Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. PeaceJam aligns with Florida's K-12 curricula, content standards, and after-school programs.

PeaceJam will soon be coming to Florida.

For more information, contact Rody Thompson at

(901) 230-0473, e-mail her at rthompson@bridgesusa.org, or visit www.peacejam.org.



News from the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal 2008. This "omnibus" measure provides \$856,331,000 for CNCS and its programs for Fiscal Year 2008, including a 1.747% across-the-board rescission.

The following analysis is provided by Ross Wilson, Director of **Youth Service America**.

"Overall, the appropriations are disappointing, however, **Learn & Serve** was the only program not to receive a cut. The Omnibus Appropriations Bill made significant cuts to the national service budget as a whole, deepened slightly by the across-the-board rescission applied to all programs. AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA, NCCC, and each of the three components of the Senior Corps were all reduced. The partnership grants to America's Promise and POLF were eliminated altogether.

Even after the rescission, Learn and Serve actually received a small (1%) increase over the previous fiscal year - to \$37.459 million. So, in one sense, we can be encouraged that we're holding fast to a baseline of funding for Learn and Serve, but we're still far below the traditional level of \$43 million, last appropriated in 2004."

visit <http://www.nationalservice.org/>

What are Presidential Candidates Saying About Service-Learning?

Only a few candidates have issued official policy proposals regarding national service. Of these plans, however, a few propose specific plans to engage young people in service-learning and school/campus-based service opportunities, including a comprehensive proposal to expand service-learning by now-former presidential candidate Senator Christopher Dodd.

Check out "What the Presidential Candidates Are Saying," a non-partisan brief overview of these plans and proposals.

<http://01f2005.netsolhost.com/images/WhatCandidatesAreSaying.doc>

ServiceVote, a program of Youth Service America, is proud to announce the launch of a new, interactive website that will serve as a hub for young people to engage in every aspect of the 2008 election. The ServiceVote website provides young people with up-to-date news and information on the various races, the presidential candidates, and defining issues; opportunities for peer interaction and dialogue through a discussion forum where youth can post videos, images, and audio files; and resources to take action through service, in the election, and in the policy process.

At **ServiceVote**, look for The Nine Ways for the Next President to Strengthen Youth Service When Taking Office in 2009.

www.servicevote.org/images/nine%20for%20%2709%20memo.pdf

The site will be updated throughout 2008 with new information, tools, and resources, so visit www.servicevote.org.

Trainings Around the State

Volunteer Manatee and the **ManaTEENs** will host trainings to develop and/or expand Youth Service-Learning Councils (YSLC) in several Florida communities in February. Thanks to sponsorship from the Crowe Chizek Foundation and partnership with Volunteer Florida and the High School High Tech programs, each YSLC will have the opportunity to award and administer up to \$5,000 in mini-grants to youth/adult volunteer teams who design projects for Global Youth Service Day in April 2008.

The first training is scheduled for February 2nd, at **Lauderdale Lakes** in Broward County.

Additional trainings will be provided in **Lakeland**, **Tampa**, and **West Palm Beach**.

To register for this free youth leadership training, please contact **Adrian LaRoza** at ManaTEENs@aol.com, or call 941-761-3207.

Cathryn Berger Kaye will conduct two workshops in Florida entitled **Service Learning: The Literature Connection**. As space permits, you can participate in these offerings at no cost:

- * **March 26** in **Bunnell** (Flagler County) - Contact **Frances Royals** for more information: royalsf@flagler.k12.fl.us.
- * **March 28th** at the **Best Western Gateway Grand** in **Gainesville**. To register for the workshop, visit www.nefec.org.

Season of Service Events—Youth Service Day

Youth around the world will join together in April to perform community service projects for the **20th Annual Global Youth Service Day**. From April 25-27, 2008, millions of young people across the world, with the help of mentors, parents, teachers, and volunteers, will address community needs through service.

For more information about Global Youth Service Day and how to get involved, please go to www.YSA.org.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Grants.gov is your source to **FIND** and **APPLY** for federal government grants: <http://www.grants.gov>

Mark your calendar for

The 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference

Youth for a Change

April 9–12, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota

For more information, visit www.nylc.org

Who's New at Florida Learn & Serve?

Florida Learn & Serve welcomes two new staff members. **Mike Murphy** replaces **Pat Golay** as Grants Coordinator, and **Tracey Jordan** replaces **William Clemens** as Research Assistant.

You may contact **Mike** at memurphy@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 414-7775, or **Tracey** at tjordan@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 487-0262.

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), is a Presidential program to recognize Americans of all ages who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service. The program recognizes individuals, families, and groups who have achieved a certain standard, and measured by the number of hours served in a 12-month period.



Award recipients receive:

- * An Official President's Volunteer Service Award Pin
- * A Personalized Certificate of Achievement
- * A note of congratulations from the President of the United States
- * A letter from the President's Council of Service and Civic Participation



Recipients are eligible to receive the award every 12 months.

Visit: www.presidentialserviceawards.com or contact Mary Matthews at Florida Learn & Serve (850) 488-2687, mmatthews@admin.fsu.edu.

Florida Learn & Serve Dates to Remember

2008-09 Request for Proposals will be released in March.

Due Date: May 16

Application workshops will be held across the state in April during the application period. The schedule of workshops will be posted on the website in March and included in the RFP.

June 30th - On-line LASSIE Report due to the Corporation for National & Community Service. Our office will send LASSIE instructions to sub-grantees.

July 11th - End of Year Match update including supporting documentation is due.

Attention, Learn & Serve Sub-grantees

Florida Learn & Serve will host **Service-Learning Days at the Florida Capitol** on April 21-22, 2008. On Monday April 21, Florida Learn & Serve will host a Youth Leadership Training in Tallahassee. This training will coincide with activities to follow on Tuesday at the Capitol including student presentations, a press conference, and meetings with legislators. More information will soon be provided on funds available for programs to bring students to Tallahassee.

Raise Your Voice for Service-Learning

Although we do a wonderful job engaging youth in service learning, decision- and policymakers in cities, counties, the state, and Washington D.C. are not aware (and therefore not supportive of) the Learn & Serve America program.

To help address this need, here are some things you can do:

- * Plan and participate in service-learning activities tied to **Seasons of Service** (see calendar).
- * Get media coverage for your service-learning activities.
- * Have students give public presentations about the needs they are addressing.
- * Have students invite elected officials to participate with them at service sites.
- * Learn more about Representative Rick Kriseman's Service Learning bill. Visit www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/sponsoredbills.aspx?MemberId=4393&SessionId=57.



Seasons of Service – though April 2008

January 28 – February 3, Super Bowl of Caring
www.superbowl.org

February 12-18, 2008, Random Acts of Kindness Week - www.actsofkindness.org

March 2, 2008, Read Across America – Dr. Seuss Day - www.seussville.com & www.nea.org/readacross

March 6, 2008, World Book Day – www.worldbookday.com

March 31, 2008, Cesar Chavez Day of Service-Learning
www.chavezfoundation.org/cesarchavez-day.html

March 31– April 6, 2008, Act! Speak! Build! Week
www.habitat.org/youthprograms/actspeakbuild

April 25-27, 2008, 20th Annual National Youth Service Day - www.ysa.org/nysd, www.gysd.org

April 25-27, 2008, Global Youth Service Day - [http:// www.gysd.net/home/index.html](http://www.gysd.net/home/index.html)

April 22, 2008, Earth Day - www.earthday.org

April 27–May 3, 2008, National Volunteer Week - www.pointsoflight.org



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www.fsu.edu/~flserve

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Vision Statement: Florida K-12 students will be educated, caring, and contributing citizens.

Florida Learn & Serve is a program of the Florida Department of Education and Florida State University's [Center for Leadership and Civic Education](#).