

August E-News from Florida Learn & Serve

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1. News

Cesar E. Chavez Service-Learning Initiative in Miami, Sept. 27-29

Florida Learn & Serve/FASS is very excited to announce a joint venture with the Cesar Chavez Foundation (<http://chavezfoundation.org/>): **The Cesar E. Chavez Service-Learning Initiative in Miami, September 27-29, 2004.** The Cesar E. Chavez Service-Learning Initiative is a comprehensive service and educational program that utilizes the unique teaching and learning approach of service learning, integrated with the core values of Cesar Chavez. You do not have to be working with migrant students to be involved. This is a cross-curriculum initiative. Our goal is to start some pilot projects in Florida. Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Cesar's granddaughter will be co-presenting with Shaun Hirschl, Program Director of the Foundation.

September 27, 8:30 - 1:30

Florida International University, Miami

Youth training: available for middle school, high school, and higher education students.

September 28, 8:30 - 3:00

Temple Israel, Miami

Teacher training: available for new and experienced teachers and students studying elementary and secondary education.

September 29, 8:30 - 3:00

Temple Israel, Miami

Train the Trainer: available for youth professionals, community organizers, teachers, and service-learning practitioners.

***Interested individuals also must attend one of the other two days.*

If you are interested in attending the Teacher Training (Sept. 28) and/or the Train the Trainer (Sept. 29th), please contact Becky at rkarnas@admin.fsu.edu to be placed on a list to receive additional information as it is developed.

Using Seniors as Resources for Service-Learning Projects

Florida has been chosen as one of five states to pilot an initiative called: Seniors Assisting Youth Engaged in Service (SaYES). SaYES can help place senior volunteers

into local service-learning and youth service programs. Senior volunteers can help facilitate student reflection, coordinate the logistics of service projects, assist with program administrative duties, establish and maintain community/school relations, and assist teachers with integration of service-learning into the curriculum and other school programs.

We need your help in creating opportunities for Florida seniors to assist our youth with their service projects. Also, we need to know if you are already using seniors as resources for your projects. Please contact Becky Karnas for more information at rkarnas@admin.fsu.edu or 888-396-6756.

For more information or to download the SaYES Volunteer Opportunity Form, visit: <http://www.seanetonline.org/pages/1/index.htm>

Send Us Your Project Websites and Products

Would you like your service-learning project to reach a larger audience? If your class has designed a website, brochure, power point presentation, or any other materials that we can share with others, please send them to us so we can post them on our homepage and show them to others in trainings and workshops! So far, we have received 2 website links. Check out Wilkinson Jr. High School's Building a Living Legacy (led by Karen Smith) project site: <http://wilkinson-legacy-project.net> and Coral Shores High School's Marine Science Service Learning Project (led by Dave Makepeace):

<http://www.monroe.k12.fl.us/csh/faculty/MakepeaceD/ServiceLearning/index.html>

Send links or products to Becky at rkarnas@admin.fsu.edu or to request our mailing address. THANKS!

10TH Annual Service-Learning Institute in Orlando, November 17-19th

The 10th Annual Florida Service-Learning Institute will be held November 17th-19th in Orlando. Florida Learn & Serve and Title IV Community Service Program grantees (for the 2004-05 school year) are required to attend and the institute is open to anyone interested in learning more about service learning. There is no registration fee and we encourage you to invite administrators, community partners, and teachers to attend. Pre-conference trainings and dozens of informative workshops will be offered for beginners to advanced practitioners. There will be a strand of workshops for students and on- and off-site service-learning projects. More information will be available on our website www.fsu.edu/~flserve in the next months. If you have an innovation presentation idea, contact Becky at rkarnas@admin.fsu.edu or 888-396-6756.

2. Service-Learning Resources and Tools

Free One-on-One Service-Learning Assistance

The National Service-Learning Exchange offers free one-on-one assistance to anyone interested in service-learning. Call or email the Exchange, and you will be matched with a staff person or peer mentor with the right skills to meet your needs. Through five regional centers and nearly 500 volunteer peer mentors, the Exchange can answer questions, mentor you over a semester or academic year, provide feedback on curricula, syllabi, and proposals, share recommended techniques and best practices, and address other service-learning questions and challenges.

National Database of Effective Service-Learning Practices

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (NSLC) is collaborating with the National Service Resource Center Effective Practices Collection to share best practices for service-learning projects. They are particularly looking for practices regarding key service-learning topics such as student orientation, community partnerships, funding, assessment, reflection, civic education, and program strategies.

Every person who submits a service-learning effective practice between June 30 and July 31 will receive an NSLC apple or NSLC clip dispenser (your choice will be honored, given availability).

For ideas, see all 88 service-learning effective practices at

http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/epicenter/PracSearch_nslc.php.

To submit a practice, go to <http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/epicenter/submit/>.

If you need help, please call Magdalena Montagne at 831-438-4060 ext. 100.

Here are a few of the best service-learning effective practices now in the Effective Practices Collection:

- "Designing a service-learning program in ten steps"
http://snipurl.com/NSRC_33376
- "Creating partnerships to bring the arts to school and community projects through service-learning"
http://snipurl.com/NSRC_33481_comm_arts
- "Finding higher education curricular leadership programs"
http://snipurl.com/NSRC_33548
- "Implementing a service-learning project by satisfying state standards"
http://snipurl.com/NSRC_33396

YMCA Releases Second Edition Guide to Service-Learning

The YMCA Guide to Service-Learning: A Tool for Enriching the Member, the Participant, the YMCA and the Community, is now available in a second edition, expanded with more information, new training design and new tools and worksheets. This guide outlines three main components of the service-learning process: establishing learning objectives that are both broad and specific, performing meaningful service, and reflecting upon the experience so participants have a "snapshot" of what they have done. It provides real life examples and ideas that make the concepts of the three components easy to understand. Additionally, the guide includes assessment tools to explore project quality and sustainability, and other tips and resources related to service-learning. Call 800-747-0089 to order a copy.

Service-Learning and HIV/AIDS Prevention

Many young people still lack the reliable information and social support necessary to avoid HIV infection. Reaching these people through service-learning is the goal of Y-RISE, an initiative of the National Youth Leadership Council.

Launched in April 2003, the program combines research, tool development, training, and program implementation to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and direct service. Part of the initiative will involve convening global experts to compile data and identify best practices for fighting the pandemic, developing and field-testing innovative service-learning tools and curricula, building a network of service-learning professionals to train educators in the use of service-learning and Y-RISE curricula, and training a network of youth peer educators. In addition, Y-RISE is seeking information or leads on projects related to service-learning and HIV-prevention.

http://www.nylc.org/inaction_init.cfm?oid=3696

Inspirational Article: 10 Strategies for Staff Empowerment

A principal empowers staff members by allowing them to create and implement programs without seeking his consent. This article features service-learning.

http://www.principals.org/publications/pl/pl_10_strategies_0204.cfm

Report Cites Value of Service-Learning

The importance of service-learning programs is cited in *Policy Matters: Setting and Measuring Benchmarks for State Policies, Raising Educational Achievement*, a report available from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, DC. The report states:

One of the principle conclusions of a 2002 synthesis report on youth development by the National Academy of Sciences was that community programs, including ones sponsored by businesses, service organizations, and government, provide important opportunities for youth to develop personal and social assets. Other research indicates that participants in service-learning programs are more competent socially, are personally and socially more responsible, and performed better in the classroom and on state basic skills tests. Though some research on service-learning programs indicates only short term gains for students as a whole, the gains experienced by non-white and educationally disadvantaged young people were significant and the program costs were inexpensive relative to the benefits yielded. In view of this evidence, states should seek to improve school-community connections by making voluntary service-learning programs available statewide. http://www.cssp.org/uploadFiles/2568_Education_final.pdf

3. Grants and Awards

Essay Contest: August is the Month of Peace at youthactionnet.org

In celebration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010), for the entire month of August, YouthActionNet will highlight issues

related to peace affecting young people around the globe. As part of their commemoration they have launched the YouthActionNet Essay Contest. The essay contest offers aspiring and accomplished youth leaders the chance to put forth their ideas for a better world - and have them heard. This year's theme is peace. Daily, newspapers report about deadly conflicts around the world. Violence, hatred, and intolerance of differences are an unfortunate part of life in too many communities. Yet, at the same time, there are those who are working to nurture greater peace and understanding. YouthActionNet invites you to participate in the YouthActionNet essay contest and share your ideas and experiences in promoting peace with others. For more information about the contest, visit: www.youthactionnet.org/essaycontest

Robinson Mini-Grants

Constitutional Rights Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 Robinson Mini-Grant Program. CRF's Robinson Mini-Grant Program honors the late Maurice R. ("Robbie") Robinson, founder of Scholastic, Inc. Each year, thanks to a generous grant from The Maurice R. Robinson Fund of New York City, CRF awards mini-grants of up to \$600 for K-12 service-learning projects designed to address serious community issues. For more information and the application go to: http://www.crf-usa.org/network/crf_robin.html. Deadline Oct. 15, 2004.

Entries Invited for Christopher Columbus Awards Program

Deadline: February 14, 2005

Now in its ninth year, the Christopher Columbus Awards program challenges middle school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities.

To participate in the program, teams of up to four students and a coach must identify a community issue and use the scientific process to solve it. Finalist teams win an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World, where they will compete for U.S. Savings Bonds and the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant to help bring their idea to life in their community.

Past winners of the award have included a group of Native American girls who built a study hall out of straw on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana and a group of students from Pennsylvania who developed a handheld grocery scanner that quickly deciphers food labels to detect whether the item contains allergens such as dyes or nuts. Coaches may be teachers, parents, community leaders, or mentors. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to enter.

For more information, complete program guidelines, and a list of past winners, see the program's Web site. RFP Link: <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>