

September E-News from Florida Learn & Serve

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1. NEWS

Cesar Chavez-Inspired Service-Learning Institute

Cesar E. Chavez was a civil rights leader, farm worker, labor leader, religious and spiritual figure, community servant, social entrepreneur, crusader for nonviolent social change, environmentalist and consumer advocate.

The Cesar Chavez-Inspired Service-Learning Institute, hosted by the Florida Alliance for Student Service and Miami-Dade Public Schools, is a three-day event that will engage youth and adults in discussion about civics, history, and methods to incorporate Chavez-inspired service learning into schools and communities.

The Institute will be held September 27 - 29, 2004 in Miami. The first day is for youth, the second for educators and school and community leaders; the final day is a train-the-trainer workshop for youth and adults interested in facilitating similar workshops.

The Cesar Chavez-Inspired Service-Learning Institute is free, but space is limited, so register early. For more information, please contact Becky (rkarnas@admin.fsu.edu; 888-396-6756). **The registration deadline is September 17.**

National Service-Learning Conference 2005: Calling All Presenters

The call for presenters is out for the March 2005 National Service-Learning Conference in California. Proposals are due September 30, 2004. Take a look at the application with this link: <http://www.nylc.org/objects/conference/2005CallForPresenters.pdf>

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

The 10th Annual Florida Service-Learning Institute will be held November 17th-19th at the Rosen Plaza on I-Drive 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 workshops for and by students, as well as 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.

Australian Principals Want to Visit Miami-Area S-L Projects

Abbotsleigh is an independent school for girls in Sydney, Australia and the Principal and Deputy Principal will be presenting a paper at the Service-Learning research conference in Greenville, South Carolina in October. They would like to arrange some school visits during their time in the US and will be in Miami and the surrounding area on October 5th and 6th.

If you are located in one of these areas and have an exciting S-L program you are interested in hosting the Principal and Deputy Principal for a few hours to facilitate an international exchange of ideas, please email: "Terrie Jones at: jonest@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

2. AWARDS

Project Ignition Names Three Winners from Florida

Lost Lake Elementary School & East Ridge High School in Clermont, the Hippodrome Improvisational Teen Theatre in Gainesville, and Northeast High School in Oakland Park were named winners of Project Ignition.

Sponsored by State Farm® and the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), Project Ignition is a chance for students and teachers in various classes, grades 9-12, to work together to address the issue of teen driver safety - how it affects you, your community and the world around you.

Twenty-five applicants were selected to move into phase two of the project. Each team will be awarded a grant check for \$2,000 from State Farm at the beginning of the fall 2004 semester to help put their plan into action. Final submissions must be complete and ready for final judging in December 2004.

In January 2005, ten finalists will be notified and will receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 from State Farm for travel to the National Service-Learning Conference in Long Beach, California to be held March 2005. There, the projects will be presented in front of an audience, and a renowned panel of judges will select the Best of Festival award, with the winning school or organization receiving a grant of \$10,000.

Clermont's project, "Teen Angels" is a readers theatre and music put on by high school students, accompanied by grade-school children. The presentation, to be written by teacher Dana Duke, and senior, Drew Elswick will address all the dangers of teen drivers and will warn upcoming drivers of the pitfalls. The presentation will be made throughout the community.

The Hippodrome Improvisational Teen Theatre's Project, "Brake the Cycle," focuses on the unsafe driving behaviors displayed by many teen drivers and on lowering the number of teen accidents and deaths due to avoidable risks. Risky attitudes and behaviors will be creatively explored through an interactive forum where teens can voice their ideas and collaborate with the audience.

Northeast High School students were devastated after the death of a classmate as a result of an automobile accident after the homecoming dance. He was not wearing a seatbelt. NETV will produce a series of PSA's on seatbelt safety to show to students before homecoming and prom.

For more information, go to: <http://www.sfprojectignition.com/>

3. RESOURCES

Seniors & Service Learning

Florida is one of five states piloting 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.

If you are already working with a senior citizen, or would like to create an opportunity for Florida seniors to assist youth with their service projects, please contact [Becky Karnas](#) with Florida Learn & Serve at (888) 396-6756. You can also download fact sheets and application forms at [SEANet](#). Please fax completed application forms to Becky at (850) 922-2928.

Youth Leadership & Mentoring Materials Available

The Good Knight Child Empowerment Network Inc offers youth mentoring/leadership materials to groups for the upcoming national volunteer days and activities throughout the year. A complete description of all *bi-lingual* (English/Spanish) materials can be found at the charity's website - www.goodknight.org.

4. GRANTS & FUNDING SOURCES

YouthActionNet

Deadline: October 1, 2004

YouthActionNet is offering awards to youth leaders and their emerging projects that promote social change and connect youth with local communities. The grant program is open to all young people aged 18 to 29. Award recipients will receive \$500 and are eligible to participate in an international capacity-building workshop:
www.youthactionnet.org/

Best Buy Te@ch Program

Deadline: October 1, 2004, though applications are reviewed on a rolling basis
Best Buy and the Best Buy Children's Foundation are proud to support schools using technology to make learning fun. The te@ch program will provide a \$2,500 Best Buy Gift Card to schools in recognition of programs or projects that creatively integrate interactive technology into the curriculum. This year \$3,000,000 will be awarded nationwide to 1,200 schools located within 25 miles of a Best Buy store. Awards will be announced on January 15, 2005 on www.BestBuy.com (under the Community Relations link).

Robinson Mini-Grants

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2004

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.

DisneyHand Teacher Awards

Deadline for nominations: October 15, 2004

DisneyHand, the worldwide philanthropic initiative of the Walt Disney Company, seeks to honor some of the most creative, inspiring teachers across the United States with the annual DisneyHand teacher awards. Only full-time teachers are eligible for the awards program. Teachers can be nominated by students, former students, students' parents, principals, or members of the community. Nominees who then complete the awards application are eligible for selection as a DisneyHand teacher awards honoree. The national selection committee chooses three applicants in each of ten categories to be DisneyHand teacher awards honorees. Honorees and their respective schools will receive grants from the Walt Disney Company. Honorees will also participate in professional development and recognition events. See the DisneyHand website for complete program details, nomination guidelines, and online nomination form:

<http://disney.go.com/disneyhand/learning/teacherawards/nominate.html>

Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant

Deadline: October 18, 2004

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant is now available to teachers/professors, youth (ages 5-25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service-learning projects for National Youth Service Day 2005, April 15-17. One hundred grants of \$1,000 are available: www.ysa.org/nysd/

Do Something BRICK Awards

Deadline: November 1, 2004

Do Something BRICK Awards have added a category for 19-25 year-old leaders who have devised and implemented innovative solutions to needs in their local communities in the areas of community building, health, and the environment. In addition to the six winners in the "18 and under" category, there will now be three winners between the ages of 19 and 25 who will each receive a \$10,000 grant. www.dosomething.org/brick-awards.htm