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Florida Learn & Serve

CONTACT: Mary Matthews, Training / Technical Assistance Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: Florida Learn & Serve, Florida State University

PHONE: 850-488-2687

FAX: 850-922-2928

EMAIL: mmatthews@admin.fsu.edu

WEB SITE: www.fsu.edu/~flserve

MEDIA ADVISORY

- WHO:** Students and Teachers involved in service-learning activities from all over Florida, Community Partners, Affiliate Agencies and Sponsors
- WHAT:** Press Conference, Raising Your Voices for Service Learning Conference
- WHEN:** **Exhibits:** April 22nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **Press Conference:** 11:15 am on April 22nd
- WHERE:** Florida Capitol; Press Conference on the steps of the Old Capitol (facing Apalachee Pkwy); Student Exhibits displayed in the Capitol courtyard on April 22nd.
- WHY:** **PRESS CONFERENCE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNOR CRIST'S PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH WITH TALK ABOUT THE VALUE OF SERVICE-LEARNING STATEWIDE. REPRESENTATIVE RICK KRISEMAN WILL SPEAK AT THIS EVENT, STUDENTS WILL PERFORM, AND THE COURTYARD WILL HAVE STUDENT DISPLAYS: FLORIDA STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SHARE RESULTS AND SUCCESS STORIES FROM SCHOOL-BASED SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR AT THE CAPITOL AS PART OF THE "RAISING YOUR VOICE FOR SERVICE-LEARNING" CONFERENCE EVENTS.**

On April 21-22 in celebration of the designation by Gov. Crist of April as Florida Service-Learning Month, over 150 Florida students and teachers, from Panama City to the Keys, will share results and success stories from service-learning projects from this school year as part of the "Raising Your Voices for Service-Learning" Conference coordinated by Florida Learn & Serve. In service-learning projects, students conduct service activities in their communities as an application of their coursework. We hope you can attend a press conference on the steps of the Old Capitol at 11:15 am on April 22nd to announce Governor Crist's Proclamation of April as Florida Service-Learning Month and talk about the value of service-learning. Representative Rick Kriseman will speak at this event and students will perform.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy in which students apply what they have learned in class by helping others. Through service-learning, they meet real community needs, address Sunshine State Standards, do better in school, get career exposure, work with community members, and practice engaged citizenship. Students will also have displays about their projects all morning on April 22nd in the Capitol Courtyard.

Please contact us if you would like additional information regarding this event or to RSVP. We will follow up with a call to your office to ensure you have received this information. We will also follow up with your office with opportunities to visit our projects in person and see student teams in action in communities throughout Florida. Thank you for your consideration and hope to see you on April 22nd!

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Florida Learn & Serve, a program of the Department of Education and Florida State University's Center for Leadership and Civic Education, provides support to create opportunities to engage Florida K-12 students in quality curricula based service learning. Florida Learn & Serve is a federally funded grant program, supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, that awards grants to schools and school districts to engage youth in service learning. Approximately 3,000 awards have been made since 1991. Each year, approximately \$1 million is awarded for approximately 85 projects and 150 mini-grants. Research from past projects indicate that students who participated in service-learning—especially those at risk—improve their grades, attend school more often, and have fewer discipline referrals.

Florida Learn & Serve • 325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 210 • Tallahassee, FL 32303 • (850) 487-0262, (888) 396-6756 Toll-free, FAX: (850) 922-2928 • Website: www.fsu.edu/~flserve

VISION: Through service-learning participation, Florida's K-12 students will meet real needs, have improved academic outcomes, be more prepared for careers, have greater social skills, and be more civically engaged.