



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

Communicator

Summer 2008

Building the Engaged Campus

On May 28th Service-Learning Coordinators and Community Service Directors gathered for the Oklahoma Campus Compact Annual Workshop and heard a presentation on Building the Engaged Campus from Dr. Rosalyn Jacobs Jones, an Engaged Scholar for Campus Compact. An Associate Professor at Georgia Perimeter College, a multi-campus two-year institution in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Jones will be an instructor at the Campus Compact Professional Development Institute this summer.

Her talk centered on the five Indicators of Engagement:

I. Institutional Culture

- Mission and Purpose
- Administrative and Academic Leadership

II. Curriculum & Pedagogy

- Teaching and Learning
- Disciplines, Departments, and Interdisciplinary Work

III. Faculty Culture

- Faculty Roles and Rewards
- Faculty Development

IV. Mechanisms & Resources

- Internal Budget and Resource Allocation
- Support Structures and Resources
- Coordination of Community-Based Activities

V. Community-Campus Exchange

- External Resources Allocations
- Community Voice
- Forums for Fostering Public Dialogue
- Student Voice

Dr. Jones emphasized the point that the key to successful development lay in faculty development, and noted the importance of money and a centralized structure that helps faculty incorporate service-learning into their courses. She stressed findings that successful colleges and universities recognized 2-3 strong assets, stimulated intellectual capital and individual passion around those assets, connected strategically with key campus leaders, community partners, and funders, and moved intentionally from innovation to institutionalization. Many resources on this topic are available on the Campus Compact website in publications, and other online sources at www.compact.org.

Special points of

Interest:

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- > Ada Student Group Earns Top Service Award, page 6

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Millee Jorge, Dean of the School of Physical Therapy at Langston University, for heading up a successful effort to win selection for participation in the Community-Engaged Scholarship Faculty Development Charrette at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Jorge's team was selected out of more than one hundred applicants, as one of twenty teams to participate. Faculty for the Engaged Campus is a national initiative of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, that aims to strengthen community-engaged career paths in the academy by developing innovative competency-based models of faculty development, facilitating peer review and dissemination of products of community-engaged scholarship, and supporting community-engaged faculty through the promotion and tenure process. The initiative is supported by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in the U.S. Department of Education. Upon completion of the Charrette, the team from Langston University will compete for one of four grants of up to \$15,000 over a two-year period to support the implementation and evaluation of innovative Community-Engaged Scholarship Faculty Development Models that were developed through their team's participation in the Charrette.

State Project Update

The Oklahoma Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA program continues to grow, with twelve of the fifteen allotted VISTA members in place at project sites, and the remaining three slots allotted and undergoing recruitment. Campus Compact VISTA programs join the mission of Campus Compact and AmeriCorps*VISTA through projects that build campus-community partnerships to fight poverty. These state programs bring community voice to campus, improve service-learning courses that address local, national, and global community issues, and build the capacity of higher education institutions to strengthen communities.

Both the project site supervisors and the VISTA members have undergone a one-day state project orientation session at Oklahoma Campus Compact. The orientation included an overview of the program *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Dr. Ruby Payne, with educational materials. Dr. Payne’s work stems from the approach that although poverty is traditionally thought of in terms of the lack of financial resources, the ability to leave poverty is actually just as dependent upon other resources. Her work is used extensively in the Oklahoma State Regents GEAR UP Program in professional development for intervention strategies in preparing all students for college.

VISTA Members and Projects Sites to Date

Institution

Cameron University (new)
 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
 Northeastern State University
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University
 Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (new)
 Oklahoma State University
 Rose State College
 Seminole State College (new)
 Tulsa Community College
 University of Central Oklahoma
 University of Oklahoma
 University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

Status

Recruiting
 Jennifer Tippin
 Rick Spriggs
 Denise Bay
 Recruiting
 Justin Sady
 NeKiesha Flowers, TaKiesha Harris
 Recruiting
 Courtney Austin, Rita Duncan
 Kimberly Pleasants
 Khalid Ali, John Liaz
 Jessica Anthony



VISTA Site Spotlight—Takiesha Harris, VISTA Member, Rose State College

Takiesha started as a VISTA Member at Rose State College (RSC) at the end of February. Her supervisor, Dr. Joanne Stafford, is the Director of Special Services and Student Outreach at RSC. While Takiesha has been in the VISTA member position, she has set up volunteer teams of students from Oklahoma City Douglass High School to mentor students at Telstar and Willow Brook Elementary, two schools adopted by RSC. Takiesha visits each school regularly to ensure the programs are running smoothly.

Willow Brook and Telstar competed in their 1st Annual Spelling Bee at Rose State College. The entire competition was coordinated by Takiesha and Dr. Stafford. Each school started with 10 students who were so good that they ran out of words from the first list! Not to worry, another list was printed and the contest continued.

Did you Know...

Did you know that in a recently released study, AmeriCorps Alumni outpaced a controlled comparison group in:

- Public Service Careers,
- Civic Engagement and Community Activism, and
- Life Fulfillment?

The study released by the Corporation for National and Community Service is the most rigorous evaluation ever conducted on AmeriCorps' long-term impacts on its members. Tracking more than 2,000 AmeriCorps members who served between 1999 and 2000, the study compared these AmeriCorps members eight years later with a group of like individuals who were interested in serving in AmeriCorps, but did not. The full contents of the report are available at: www.NationalService.gov/research

Professional Development

Faculty Awarded Service-Learning Incentive Grants

The third award round of state Service-Learning Incentive Grants resulted in eight grant awards from a competitive field of applicants. Eight faculty members were awarded up to \$500 each in 2008-2009 to support first-time service-learning components for existing courses in the fields listed.

Ms. Towry Barnard, RSC—Student Leadership

Dr. Jamie Burns, ECU—Criminal Justice

Dr. Amanda W. Harrist, OSU—Human Development and Family Science

Dr. Tawni Holmes, UCO—Nutrition

Dr. F. Bradley Jessop, ECU—Art

Mr. Ken Kelsey, NWOSU—History

Ms. Kathleen O'Halleran, NWOSU—Political Science

Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, SWOSU—Music Therapy

Five Oklahoma Community Service Directors and Service Learning Coordinators Receive Scholarships for Development

Five Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) member institution community service professionals have been awarded registration scholarships and are preparing to attend the 2008 Campus Compact Professional Development Institute, Monday, July 28 – Friday, August 1, 2008, at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia. Designed specifically for professionals in their first five years in the field, this institute offers four and a half days of must-have knowledge from some of the most respected practitioners in the field. The scholarship offers participants the chance to learn and understand key information and principles in service, service-learning, and higher education; and allows them to discuss the critical questions and skills needed to be successful with experienced practitioners. In addition to the intensive sessions, this opportunity will provide access to valuable networking, a comprehensive workbook, and over \$80 in Campus Compact publications. Campus Compact has announced that registration is full. Upon their return the five Oklahomans listed below will share their newly gained insight with service-learning faculty through OkCC-sponsored events.

Jym Brittain, Northeastern State University

Jean Cate, University of Oklahoma

Viki Craig, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Nikki Givens, Tulsa Community College

John Phelan, Western Oklahoma State College

The current and past years' agendas are available online at: http://www.compact.org/initiatives/csd_institute/

Professional Development, continued

Oklahoma Campus Compact Provides Resources

Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) member campuses received the following resources for use in civic engagement and community service and learning:

- A complete set of the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning (14 volumes).
The Michigan Journal is regarded as the premier source of peer-reviewed articles on the many aspects of campus engagement.
- *Sarge* – a biography of The Life and Times of Sargent Shriver.
A member of the Kennedy family and one of the architects of the 1960's War on Poverty, Sargent Shriver was instrumental in the creation of the Peace Corps, Head Start, Job Corps, VISTA, Legal Services for the Poor, and (with his wife) the Special Olympics.
- Service-Learning Course Design for Community Colleges.
Community college campuses received this course design manual that addresses the strengths and challenges of two-year institutions in engaging students through service-learning across all disciplines with insight, models, and step-by-step instruction.

The community service directors (CSD) and service-learning coordinators (SLC) picked up these materials at the May 28, 2008 Oklahoma Campus Compact Workshop. Those who were not present received their set of resources through the mail near the end of June. Please contact Miranda Outon at mouton@osrhe.edu if you have not received your set. Contact Debbie Terlip at dterlip@osrhe.edu if you do not know your institution's designated CSD/SLC.

Eighth International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Community Engagement

Tulane University's Center for Public Service and the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement is sponsoring this conference October 25-28, 2008 in New Orleans at the Marriott Hotel at the Convention Center. The conference brings together scholars and practitioners to discuss research topics in the study of service-learning and community engagement.

The theme of this year's conference is **The Scholarship of Engagement: Dimensions of Reciprocal Partnerships**. Campus-community collaborations can take many forms and provide academic, social, civic, and economic benefits to a broad range of individuals and organizations. Reciprocity creates and sustains equitable partnerships that foster the mission, goals, and objectives of each constituent. This conference will explore the variety of partnerships that flourish in educational institutions and their communities through service-learning courses, community-based research projects, and student-led multi-curricular activities. The contributions of a variety of research approaches in building and sustaining such partnerships will be emphasized.

For more information:

Tulane University's Center for Public Service
6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118
slce2008@tulane.edu

Leadership Training Opportunity

The Oklahoma Community Institute (OCI) is now accepting applications for participation in Class VI of its Oklahoma Citizens Academy Leadership Program. This program focuses on community and economic development, and is designed to equip citizens to take positive action in their communities. Participation includes attendance at six sessions around the state (usually includes an overnight stay) between November 5, 2008 and April 23, 2009. The cost is \$300, including additional travel and lodging costs. Debbie Terlip, Asst. Dir. of Oklahoma Campus Compact, is a graduate of Class V, and will be glad to discuss the program with anyone who may have questions (contact: dterlip@osrhe.edu or 405-225-9128).

For complete information on the program and applications visit:

<http://www.ocionline.org>, Programs and Services, Citizens Academy.

Applications are due by September 5, 2008.

Civic Engagement

Voters with Vision

The Voters with Vision initiative was conceived by Political Science senior Kian Ball, at the University of Oklahoma, who worked with Dr. Margaret Ellis, Assistant Professor of Political Science. Aimed at engaging more young adults in the civic and political discourse through peer-to-peer advocacy, the pilot project enlisted OU students in the 2008 spring semester to visit their old high schools and give presentations to students, primarily in American Government classes, on the importance of voting and civic participation, and visibly place voter registration forms in wall-mounted brackets in the classrooms.

Kian and Dr. Ellis enlisted 25 OU students who were enrolled in an American Federal Government course to participate in the project for extra credit. By asking students to work in their own schools, students were able to personally contact a faculty member or administrator. The students were required to attend three meetings at which they were supplied with project materials and a set of objectives.

Completed over a 12-week period, the pilot program was a success. Nearly 100 percent of the participating students indicated that the experience had changed their views about civic or political involvement in a positive manner. Students noted that they had become more aware of low youth turnout and the importance of the youth vote. The project led several students to realize how much of an impact and influence they can have on others their age, with the end goal of increasing youth participation by fostering civic awareness from an early age.

Kian is going to Scotland this fall to begin a Masters of Science in Comparative Public Policy at the University of Edinburgh as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from OU, and carries our best wishes for success.

Oklahoma Campus Compact Voter Campaign

Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) is making plans to expand its annual Voter Registration Contest to encourage the participation of all campuses, and to focus on voter education and participation in the fall elections. The campaign will work in conjunction with the national Campus Compact Campus Vote Initiative 2008 to encourage higher education institutions to help educate and empower students, and to make the process of staying engaged easier throughout the sometimes confusing election season.

Working with a small group of student affairs administrators and social science faculty, OkCC is designing a campaign that will extend beyond its traditional voter registration push to add a focus on voter mobilization. The technology that has enabled greater access also necessarily complicates the process, such as the need for notarization of absentee ballots. Campuses will be given guides and materials with information to facilitate student voting through:

- Methods and approaches to help with use of absentee and provisional ballots and early voting, all procedures initiated or broadened under the federal Motor Voter laws and Help America Vote Act, to accommodate greater voter participation, and
- Ideas for election day turnout, including the provision of information on polling sites and hours, and the use of voluntary carpools.

Watch for information packets from OkCC in the late summer and early fall to put this campaign into swing on your campus.

Research shows that:

- **Efforts that make voting more convenient are very effective**
- **Initial mobilization makes for repeat voters**



Student Leadership

Ada Student Group Earns Top Service Award

A student group at Ada High School took top honors at the recent National-Service Learning Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Oklahoma Student Alliance for Smart Driving won the "Best of the Best" award for its "Project Ignition" program that's funded by a grant from State Farm Insurance. Ada High School was chosen from among 25 school programs nationwide. In the past few years, the Ada program has worked to increase its statewide reach. Safe driving videos provided by Ada's program are shown at schools and several district judges in the state have also adopted the program as part of drunken driving education.

Billboards, commercials and public service announcements help the group communicate the importance of safe driving to more than 100 schools.

The group was formed at the Ada High School after two students were killed in automobile crashes. "We're a small school, everybody knows everybody," Jenni Bolen said. "It impacted us all." Ada High School's program stood out for the judges because it had so much statewide impact, said Marci

McDonald, public affairs specialist for State Farm Insurance.

Ada's program is the only Project Ignition, program in the state. However, the organization has sent education materials to schools across Oklahoma. In addition to winning top honors, the group also received a \$10,000 grant to continue its program.

"We just want people to know that this touches everyone," said Bolen, a senior at Ada High School. "The program is not about adults talking to kids, it's about kids talking to kids and showing them that just because you're a teenager doesn't mean that you can't make a difference."

"It's not always easy to talk about," Bolen said. "But if somebody can take something away from it and think about how their choices could impact their family, then it's worth it."

Students Team up to Fight Hunger

Students Team Up to Fight Hunger (STUFH) is a 501(C)(3) organization that works to link colleges and universities with local food banks in their area to:

- Raise food for the needy in the local community, and
- Raise awareness in the local student population of these needs.

Since the program began in 1999 at Cornell University, over one million pounds of foodstuffs have been raised for local food banks to feed the hungry. Several Oklahoma colleges and universities have participated in the past.

The focal point of the STUFH program is the end of each semester, when students are preparing to go home and often discard unopened non-perishable containers of food into trash bins as they leave their apartments and dorms. STUFH puts the college in touch with the food bank near the end of the school year or semester, so the food bank can drop off empty food bins to be placed in the dorms. After the students have left, the food bank picks up the filled bins and uses the food.

A second program STUFH promotes is the Food Fight. Using traditional college rivalries during the football season, schools are encouraged to add another component in the weeks leading up to the big game by competing to raise the most food donations for their local food banks. The University of Alabama and Auburn students raised over 320,000 pounds of food prior to their big game in 2006. Local grocery stores, elementary and secondary schools and other student groups such as sororities and fraternities, key clubs, etc. are invited to participate. Football celebrities make donations and weekly totals are published to stimulate continued competition. The STUFH website shows a trophy with a can of Campbell soup at the top, noting that some colleges use the slogan "ONE CAN Make a Difference." Food bins with the slogan "ONE CAN" can also be used around campus during the basketball season.

For more information on the STUFH program please contact:

Mr. Daniel Kahn, STUFH President— (518) 506-5491—dkahn@stuffh.org—<http://www.stuffh.org>

Useful Tips: Documenting Engagement

See the Campus Compact collection of resources on assessment at <http://www.compact.org/resource/documenting.html>

This source includes information on: notating service on the transcript, common criteria for designating a course as a service-learning course, colleges and universities that note service on formal transcripts, web resources on service-learning in faculty review, tenure and promotion, and print resources on service-learning in faculty review, tenure and promotion.

<http://www.okhighered.org/campus-com/>



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

Interested in Building the Capacity and Sustainability of your Campus Community Engagement Programs?

Contact either Debbie Terlip, Oklahoma Campus Compact VISTA State Project Supervisor at (405) 225-9128 or dterlip@osrhe.edu, or Risa Johnson, Oklahoma Campus Compact VISTA State Project Coordinator at (405) 225-9228 or rjohnson@osrhe.edu for information on obtaining a VISTA volunteer on your campus.

If you have any questions about items in this newsletter or need assistance, please contact:
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Tell us your stories...

Do you have a service-learning or student service project success story? Has a particular civic engagement methodology worked well on your campus? Send your stories to gwekke@osrhe.edu and we will highlight them in upcoming newsletters!

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