



# Communicator

## OKLAHOMA STUDENT WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

### Oklahoma Student Wins the Prestigious Frank Newman Leadership Award

Please join Oklahoma Campus Compact in offering congratulations to Ms. Leticia Burkhalter, a working mother of five and nontraditional full-time student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, who is one of two national award winners for the Campus Compact Frank Newman Leadership Award. The award is designed to support and recognize students with financial need who have demonstrated civic leadership potential in sustained commitment to public engagement and community. Ms. Burkhalter is the first Oklahoma student to win this prestigious recognition. Majoring in special education, Ms. Burkhalter says that her calling is to provide educational opportunities and to be an advocate for low-income families. Ms. Burkhalter founded three highly successful and sustainable community-based programs:

- Families Feeding Families, which is a community kitchen that serves hot meals five days a week. Since opening it has provided more than 275,000 meals. Funded by the United Way and community donations, the organization has one full-time employee and more than 200 volunteers;
- Back Pack, which provides elementary school children with nutritional, kid-friendly food that does not require refrigeration or preparation. Over the past year children have received approximately 14,000 snack packs; and
- Mommy and Me, which provides guidance and parenting education to new mothers and refers families to any necessary community services. Through community donations, the program also provides diapers and baby formula.

Ms. Burkhalter's long-term objective is to establish programs on campus to assist low-income parents and their children, tentatively titled the Hope Chest program, to provide job-oriented clothing for interviews, and the Child-Parent program.

In demonstrating her capacity to identify and address the root causes of community issues through efforts to create positive change, Ms. Burkhalter earned the award amount of \$5,000, which will be applied to her educational expenses and to the programs. Ms. Burkhalter will be mentored in her work by President Michael Turner of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and has secured the support of Oklahoma State Regent John Massey, a Durant native, for her programs.

## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

### CASE Student Awards

We don't want to pass up the chance to share pictures with everyone! Winners of the Carter Academic Service Entrepreneur Award were presented with their awards at the February 12th meeting of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. As announced earlier, the three recipients and their community partners each received a certificate signed by both President Jimmy and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and a \$1,000 check for their project. Their projects are listed online at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation (JRCPF) website [www.jrcpf.org](http://www.jrcpf.org), and at ServiceBook [www.servicebook.org](http://www.servicebook.org), an Internet community for academic service learning sponsored by the JRCPF.

The winners are pictured with their community partner, faculty sponsor, Dr. Ronald White, Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

### Special points of Interest:

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CASE Winner: Ms. Sarah Smith, Nursing Student, NEO A&M  
Community Partner: Ottawa County Community Clinic, Dr. Paul Fuhrmeister  
Faculty Sponsor: Ms. Alicia Weatherby, NEO A&M



CASE Winner: Mr. Cory Steward, Marketing and Leadership Student, OSU  
Community Partner: Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency, Ms. Clara Lewis  
Faculty Sponsor: Ms. Joyce Montgomery, OSU (not pictured)



CASE Winners: Mr. Collins Uzuegbu and Ms. Meagan Decher, Nursing Students, SWOSU  
Community Partner: Weatherford Regional Hospital, Ms. LeaAnne Hume  
Faculty Sponsor: Ms. Tamra Weimer, SWOSU

## VOTER REGISTRATION CONTEST AWARDS

Winners of the 2008 Oklahoma Campus Compact Voter Registration Contest received their award from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at the meeting February 12th. The winners in each category are pictured below with Dr. Ronald White, Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.



Red Group: Langston University  
Dr. Angelia Young Jones, Mr. Marc Flemon, and Mr. Javon Brame, Student



White Group: Rose State College  
Dr. Jeanie Webb, Ms. Towry Barnard, and Ms. Haley Oliver and Ms. Christina McDade, Students, Dr. John Wood, and Mr. Rendon Chambers, Student (Mr. Brian Fowler, Student, not pictured)



Blue Group: University of Oklahoma  
Dr. Glen Krutz, and Mr. Matt Gress and Mr. Kurt Davidson, Students

## FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

### President's Volunteer Service Award

#### Nominations for the President's Volunteer Service Award are Open

The program recognizes volunteers for a sustained commitment to service. Recognition may be for individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard as measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. Since its inception in 2003, more than 28,000 organizations have distributed more than 1,477,000 awards to individuals, families, and groups. Schools and institutions are eligible to serve as a certifying organization.

See [www.presidentialserviceawards.gov](http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov) for details about becoming a certifying organization and honoring your volunteers. Awardees receive a pin, a letter from President Obama, and a letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

### Carter-Kellogg Scholarship

#### Applications for the Carter-Kellogg Scholarship are Open

The Carter-Kellogg Scholarship, presented by Stetson University, offers recognition to students who have completed or implemented noteworthy service-learning projects. The goal in offering this award is to complete the learning process started through the CASE grants, which encourage students to propose and carry out service-learning projects. The Carter-Kellogg Scholarship encourages students to reflect critically upon that project or any other completed service-learning project, asking applicants about their experiences in the community and the impact it had on the population that was served. Available through the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation, all submitted projects are published online at ServiceBook to serve as a resource for other students, faculty, and community partners. From among eligible projects submitted to <http://www.servicebook.org>, a panel of faculty and staff at Stetson University select a project each month to receive a \$500 scholarship to acknowledge the student's successful contribution to the community. If not successful initially, a project may be held over for subsequent competitions.

#### Eligibility:

1. Full-time college graduate or undergraduate students who have completed or implemented service-learning projects during their college attendance are eligible to apply.
2. A partnership must exist between the student, his or her academic institution, and a community organization partner.
3. A connection must be established between the student's academic program and the service component of the project with oversight of the project by a faculty member or other person who indirectly oversaw the project.

## 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](mailto:gwekke@osrhe.edu) and we will highlight them in upcoming newsletters!

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### UCO one of 15 Selected Institutions for National Polling Project

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) is one of 15 higher education institutions chosen by the American Democracy Project (ADP) through a national application process to participate in the ADP's Deliberative Polling initiative. Deliberative Polling employs social science to see what people would think about an issue if they became more engaged and informed. A random, representative sample is first polled on some specific public interest topic. After this baseline poll, members of the sample are invited to gather at a single place for one or more days in order to discuss the issue. Carefully balanced briefing materials, developed by an advisory group, are sent to the participants and are also made publicly available. The participants engage in dialogue with competing experts and decision makers based on questions they develop in small group discussions with trained moderators. Parts of the event are often broadcast, either live or in taped and edited form. After the deliberations, the sample of citizens is again asked the original questions. The resulting changes in opinion represent the conclusions the public would reach if people had an opportunity to really discuss an issue, engage with alternative points of view, and become more informed. UCO's experience, related below, demonstrates how the Deliberative Polling process might be used on college campuses to engage students, faculty, staff, and/or members of the broader community in discussions of public issues to contribute to a more informed community, to better democratic processes, and to the strengthening of the work of preparing undergraduates to be informed, engaged citizens.

On March 26, 2009, the research team at UCO solicited opinions and thoughts from 200 randomly selected, first-year students about their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to the services UCO offers. The process is intended to give administrators valuable insight that can enhance students' first-year experience, possibly increasing retention. "The Deliberative Polling Initiative is a great opportunity for students who are not normally involved with student leadership or campus politics to be heard," said Dr. Janelle Grellner, UCO's Deliberative Polling principal investigator and associate professor of psychology. Through the polling process, UCO student participants had a meaningful dialogue with administrators about their first-year experience on campus. "This poll encourages UCO to take a proactive stance, and it is one of the first times the student

body will be able to give direct, face-to-face feedback to administrators and professors," said Kalen Erickson, UCO graduate student and deliberative polling research assistant. After the poll is complete and student opinions are gathered, multiple campus agencies will receive essential information including the academic and personal needs of their students, how campus resources are utilized and by whom and what process would increase students' knowledge and utilization of resources. "Direct feedback from our students regarding UCO's student services will provide us with vital information to enhance their success. We make every effort to provide solutions for our students needs and wants, helping them overcome any obstacles they might be facing," said Dr. William J. Radke, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at UCO. The results from the Deliberative Poll will be presented by Grellner and the ADP campus coordinator, Dr. Patti Loughlin, at the ADP national meeting in June.

For more details on Deliberative Polling see the American Democracy Project website at <http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp/>, and the Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University.

## Important Dates

**National Day of Service  
September 11**

## 2008 OKLAHOMA CAMPUS COMPACT SERVICE SURVEY RESULTS

Once again, Oklahoma Campus Compact member campuses have topped their counterparts in other states with a completion rate in the annual Campus Compact service survey of 91%, compared to the national average rate of 53%. The entire 2008 survey results are available on the Oklahoma Campus Compact website at <http://www.okhighered.org/campus-com/>, along with those from 2007 and 2006 surveys. For the highlights shown below, an arrow indicates whether Oklahoma's performance for 2008 has increased or declined compared to its 2007 survey results.

### Students involved in Community Service, Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Activities

Average % of student FTE: National 31% OK 29% ↑

### Student Participation in Service Activities

Average hours per week/per campus: National 3.7 OK 2.7 ↓

### Service Learning Courses Offered

Average per Campus: National 43 OK 23 ↑

### Faculty who taught a Service-Learning Course

Average % of faculty FTE: National 7% OK 8% ↓

### Value of Student Service on Oklahoma Campus Compact Member Campuses

2007-2008:

**\$52,762,454 total value**

**2,605,553 total hours**

Source: Campus Compact

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Oklahoma Moderators and Recordors Academy

This two-day workshop, taught by experienced moderators and recordors, is designed to teach the skills of convening, moderating, and recording deliberative forums. Using a deliberative framework on the issue, participants will learn to:

- Deliberate, rather than debate or just discuss important issues
- Convene forums for deliberative dialogues
- Moderate, record and report deliberative forums
- Create common ground for action
- Connect with officeholders
- Stimulate public action.

Conducted by the Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation (OPPD), the workshop trains participants to use the National Issues Forums to network for opportunities for adults and older youth to deliberate challenging public issues of the day in local forums. The Summary of the Public Deliberation Forum on Public Health Care Reform conducted at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in November, 2008, is available on the Oklahoma Campus Compact website at:

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

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED

*Theme for 2009 Oklahoma Moderators and Recordors Academy  
Before the Taps Run Dry: Deliberating Water Rights in Oklahoma.*

June 22-23, 2009

East Central University

Fentem Hall

Ada, OK 74820

Registration Fee: \$100

Conference Lodging Available

Register online at: <http://www.OKdeliberates.org> (credit card only), OR contact OPPD at Oklahoma State University at 405-744-6489.

### Oklahoma Campus Compact Annual Workshop Highlights

Community Service and Service-Learning Directors and other campus personnel who work with civic and community engagement gathered at Oklahoma City University on April 24th to hear presentations on the latest developments in Oklahoma:

- **Dr. Jean Cate, Associate Director of the K20 Center, University and Academic Partnerships, at the University of Oklahoma (OU)**, led a team presentation of the OU Engagement program. A 40-member committee with representatives from the three campuses meets monthly to advance institutional-community engagement. Dr. Cate shared OU's experience in completing the Carnegie Community Engagement for the elective classification, then Mr. Quyen Arana, Associate Director, K20, Technology and Industry Partnerships, presented an overview of the OU Engage website. Incorporating information from faculty, students, and community, the OU Engage portal will allow for needs assessment, project matching, volunteer searches, and feedback forms. The resulting information will yield projects databases, volunteer tracking, assessment reports, partnership development, and engagement highlights. The website is expected to go live next September. The complete OU presentation is available on the Oklahoma Campus Compact website at <http://www.okhighered.org/campus-com/> under Past OkCC Conferences.
- **Dr. Dann May, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Director of Service-Learning, Wimberly Center for Ethics and Servant Leadership, Oklahoma City University**, presented service-learning research on faculty and student surveys with Ms. Lea Anne Burgess, Graduate Research Assistant, Oklahoma City University. Their presentation gave insight into faculty and student participation and attitudes, and is available on the Oklahoma Campus Compact website at <http://www.okhighered.org/campus-com/> under Past OkCC Conferences.
- **Ms. Abby Klepper, State Program Specialist, Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS)**, briefly described the CNS programs in Oklahoma, new program funding, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the new CEO at CNS, and mentioned that 9/11 will now become a day of service.
- **Mr. John Phelan, Coordinator for Service-Learning, Community Service and Engagement, Western Oklahoma State College**, gave an overview of academic service learning from the small institution perspective, and described the Service-Learning Guide and Journal provided to each participant.
- **Mr. Jym Brittain, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, Northeastern State University**, discussed the challenges and opportunities for community engagement from the four-year institution perspective.
- **Mr. Josh Krawczyk, Director / Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Volunteer & Service Learning Center**, briefly described UCO's Transformative Learning Program.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED

In **networking activities** the participants asked for Oklahoma Campus Compact and the State Regents to lead a state committee modeled on the University of Oklahoma's Community Engagement committee to work toward utilizing OneNet for individual campus websites modeled on OU Engage. Developments on this initiative will be forthcoming.

### **Campus Compact Professional Development Institute To Be Developed Online**

Campus Compact's ground-breaking Professional Development Institute for community service and service-learning professionals is moving to an online format. As more campuses institute travel restrictions, and as new technologies make it possible to interact more effectively, Campus Compact is responding by creating a series of webinars geared toward institutionalizing civic engagement and implementing best practices in community service-learning. This new format will allow more participants to connect over a greater period of time, extending the reach of the curriculum while facilitating deeper learning. More information about this series, slated to begin this fall, will be available in the coming months. The in-person Professional Development Institute will not be held in 2009.

### **Additional Professional Development Opportunities**

#### **Summer Institute for Civic Studies**

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service  
Tufts University, Medford, MA (near Cambridge and Boston)

This institute is primarily aimed at PhD students across the disciplines. Tuition is free, but students must find their own housing. For more information, including a course outline, visit <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/?pid=714>

To apply, send an email about your interests and background, your CV, and your graduate transcript to Peter Levine, Director of Research and Director of CIRCLE (Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement), at [Peter.Levine@Tufts.edu](mailto:Peter.Levine@Tufts.edu).

#### **Ninth International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Community Engagement**

Research for What? Making Inquiry Matter

October 9-12, 2009

International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement

Westin Ottawa Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

For further information please contact the conference staff at [ircslce2009@uottawa.ca](mailto:ircslce2009@uottawa.ca) or see the website at [http://www.researchslce.org/files/2009Conference/Conference\\_Main.html](http://www.researchslce.org/files/2009Conference/Conference_Main.html)

#### **Third International Symposium on Service-Learning**

Service-Learning in Higher Education: Educators, Communities, and Students

November 22-24, 2009

University of Indiana-Athens, Athens, Greece

For further information on the symposium please visit <http://www.uindy.edu/issl2009>

Or contact Liz Newman, Indiana Campus Compact at 317-274-6500, or [www.indianacampuscompact.org](http://www.indianacampuscompact.org).

## AMERICORPS\*VISTA NEWS

### Campus Compact and the Serve America Act

Campus Compact was deeply involved in ensuring that the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act included opportunities for higher education. This message from Maureen F. Curley, President of Campus Compact, provides highlights of Campus Compact's recent policy efforts in support of funding for campus-based community work:

On April 21, President Obama signed the Service America Act, which authorizes and expands the programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). As the only higher education association invited to advise Congress on this legislation, Campus Compact has played a pivotal role in designing key provisions and advocating for a strong role for higher education.

Among other provisions, Campus Compact was involved in developing the Campus of Service concept, which will recognize higher education institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to service-learning, service, and community engagement. Campus Compact was also successful in preserving or expanding fund limits for campus-based efforts, including maintaining 25% of Learn & Serve funds for higher education, and inserting colleges and universities as eligible partners under a new Youth Engagement Zone program. In addition, Campus Compact's call for a 10-year longitudinal study on the impact of serving-

learning will allow campuses to tap into future funding for evidence-based practice.

Full appropriation for this act is now Campus Compact's top priority. President Obama's budget calls for a modest increase in Learn & Serve and VISTA funding and includes \$1 million for the first year of the longitudinal study. Campus Compact's national and state offices are working together to advocate for funding with Congress. Campus Compact is also deeply involved in crafting regulations for new programs. Campus Compact executive staff will be testifying at the CNCS public sessions in cities across the country, presenting their ideas about how best to implement this new law.

Campus Compact sponsored a highly successful campaign to support the Serve America Act, including talking with key Congressional representatives and sending a letter signed by member presidents to all members of Congress. Thanks to all who supported the legislation -- it made a difference.

Maureen F. Curley, President of Campus Compact

**55.5 percent of professors consider it "very important" or "essential" to "instill in students a commitment to community service" (an increase of 19.1 percentage points since the last survey).**

Source: The American College Teacher: National Norms for the 2007-08 Faculty Survey  
Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA

## RESOURCES

### Websites with Opportunities for Students in Volunteerism and Service Learning

These sources were provided by Joyce Montgomery, Coordinator of the Service-Learning Volunteer Center, at Oklahoma State University:

[www.impactconference.org](http://www.impactconference.org)  
[www.greencorps.org](http://www.greencorps.org)  
[www.powershift09.org](http://www.powershift09.org)  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

Also check out Jobs for Change, a repository for nonprofit and social change jobs on the Change.org website: <http://www.change.org>.

## STUDENT LED ORGANIZATION FIGHTS DRUG ABUSE

### University of Oklahoma group is first of its kind in the state

*Spencer Pittman*

In August 2008, I created a student organization at the University of Oklahoma that has had an impact well beyond my campus. Receiving national attention, Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse has been growing in size and, more importantly, in its advocacy reach.

When originally seeking endorsements from addiction treatment professionals, a common response we heard was "Oh great, another anti-drug group. They're all the same." Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse has proven this statement wrong.

Ours is the only anti-drug-abuse organization run by college students in the state. We offer education to youth, college students, and the community through awareness raising, strategic programs, and mentoring relationships leading to better choices and healthier lifestyles.

Leaders within the group include students of criminology, pharmacy, medicine, and education. This base gives us unique insight into what is effective in anti-drugabuse campaigns. We know that student-to-student interaction is essential for understanding how and what narcotics are being abused on our campuses—something many sociologists are unable to research. For instance, we believe that attention to addiction needs to start focusing more heavily on abuse of prescription drugs, which is rising on college campuses.

In addition to work on campus, we support community efforts. In one program, I have teamed with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity (for which I serve as Philanthropy Chair) to create an event called "Capture the Flag Against Addiction." This is designed as an annual, cornerstone philanthropic event in which a campus sports tournament raises funds for community efforts. Proceeds from the 2009 event this spring will go to the Norman Addiction Information AND Counseling (NAIC) center, which specializes in addiction prevention, outpatient counseling, and classes.

One of NAIC's specialties is drug court, an educational alternative to standard probation that is less expensive and more effective in preventing relapse among nonviolent, first-time drug offenders. One of our goals is to create an endowed fund that awards drug court graduates with \$100 upon completion. For graduates, the money will serve as positive reinforcement and a means of helping to alleviate the stress of reintegration into society. We plan to raise \$20,000 to implement the award.

Members of Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse see this work a paradigm shift for students aspiring to become actively involved in their campuses and communities. Our organization is not just another anti-drug club donating funds to charity without thought. We have developed a professional relationship with a successful treatment center to help support its work in a meaningful way.

Teresa Collado, NAIC's executive director, praises these efforts not only for raising funds but also for publicly highlighting an effective means of treating addiction. This is in keeping with our goal of studying and supporting cutting-edge methods of combating drug abuse. We expect our programs to go beyond affecting our campus and our community to support advocacy efforts nationwide.

*Spencer Pittman is a junior at the University of Oklahoma. For more information about this program, please email him at [spencer.pittman@ou.edu](mailto:spencer.pittman@ou.edu).*

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



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

If you have any questions about items in this newsletter or need assistance, please contact:  
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