



SERVICE-LEARNING
Growing in Service • Growing in Learning

Service-Learning Connections

Fall 2004

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The Evolution of Service at CPCC

By: Mark Helms

Service to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community has long been one of the core values of CPCC. We have been "in the service business" in a myriad of ways: we provide an affordable education to prepare our students for good jobs and further studies; we offer those who

did not complete high school a chance to earn a diploma; we teach basic literacy to people who learned to read; we teach English to new immigrants who lack the language skills necessary to survive and succeed in this country. These efforts add up

and other efforts to serve those in need. We support United Way each year, with a goal to collect over \$30,000 in contributions from CPCC faculty and staff. The CPCC family is made up of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of individuals who deeply believe in the value of service, and who put their beliefs to action.

About ten years ago, a new concept for integrating service into the curriculum was introduced at CPCC. For several years, service-learning as a teaching method was supported, and many instructors began exploring ways to include service in their classroom activities. Brenda Armentrout, a dedicated speech communications instructor, worked very hard to forward this effort, and succeeded in inspiring many of her colleagues to adopt principles of service-learning, some of whom have continued using those teaching practices since that time.

In the fall of 2003, the newly-established CPCC Service-Learning Center opened its doors, and the College proclaimed a renewed commitment to serve our community. Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of CPCC, joined NC Campus Compact, a coalition of presidents of outstanding colleges and uni-



Jennifer Taylor sorts food at an Atlanta food bank.

versities in our state who are committed to developing a culture of service on their campuses. Dr. Marcia Conston, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, committed to fund the program, and found dollars in an increasingly tight budget to fund staff, buy resource materials, and support conference and training opportunities for faculty and staff. Janet Chernega, Vice President of Instruction, began to champion service-learning in her work with teaching faculty. Service-learning was included in the College's strategic plan as a method for promoting community development and partnerships. Support for the program was evident at the highest levels of College leadership, and an increasing number of instructors began to take serious interest.

During its inaugural year, the Service-Learning program achieved some remarkable

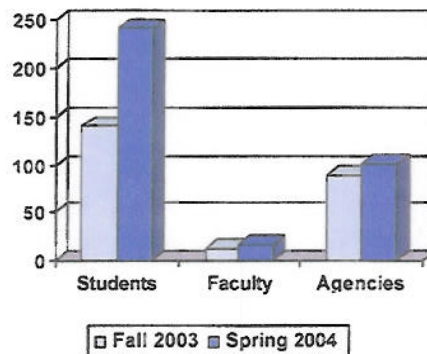
Please see Evolution on page 3

Current Service-Learning Faculty

- Ardella Blandford
- Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner
- Beau Bowers
- Dr. Chris Brawley
- William Brinnier
- Amanda Brown
- David Brown
- Richard Coulter
- Gary Dodgen
- Catherine Felton
- Chris Hailey
- James Kirkpatrick
- Connie Lanier
- Tommy Lopez
- Kathryn Messenger
- Lauren Payne
- Terina Roberson
- Dr. Rita Rodabaugh
- DI Von Briesen
- Pat West
- Stan Wisdom

to an invaluable contribution to the health and vitality of our community.

Over the years, CPCC has fostered a culture of caring that is woven deeply into the fabric of the College. Our student organizations have a long history of sponsoring service projects. Our faculty and staff have given of their time for many years to support Friendship Trays, Room in The Inn, Angel Tree,



North Carolina Campus Compact

North Carolina Campus Compact (NCCC) is on a mission. Not only are we working to deepen our support of NC institutions of higher education as they engage their communities and students civically, but we are envisioning our future as a statewide coalition. This is a year of increased energy and strategic planning.

Our forward-thinking comes amidst remarkable growth. In the past year, membership has increased to twenty-two charter members; two new AmeriCorps programs (NC Campus Compact VISTA and NC-ACTS!) have been implemented, bringing thousands of dollars in human resources and student scholarships to our campuses; and new initiatives and grants supporting our members' programmatic development have grown steadily. Nationally, NCCC will be partnering with Campus Compact and UNC Chapel Hill to present the 2nd Annual National Student Teleconference on February 23, 2005.

Mapping NCCC's growth and direction is key to ensuring continual support of our members and civic engagement. This year we will meet with our constituents and they will have an active voice in shaping the compact's programs and structure. We expect that in March 2005 we will be able to offer our Executive Board a detailed strategic plan.



North Carolina Campus Compact

Managing this growth is possible through the addition of two new staff members - Winter E-N Brown, VISTA Leader and Special Projects Coordinator, and Maggie Sawada, NC-ACTS! Coordinator. Together with our capable staff of student workers, they work diligently to ensure that our members' needs are met and the quality of programs is maintained. With the support and vision of our charter campus members, NCCC will continue to flourish, bringing opportunities and support to our members and their student bodies. We hope that you will join us.

NCCC is a coalition of college and university presidents established to increase campus-wide participation in community and public service and to integrate community service as a valued component of undergraduate education. The members of the Compact are committed to enhancing students' sense of responsibility, citizenship, leadership, and awareness of community, while reinvigorating higher education's concern for improving the quality of life in our society. To learn more visit our web site at www.elon.edu/nccc.

Charter Members:

*Appalachian State University
Catawba College
Central Piedmont Community College
Duke University
East Carolina University
Elon University
Gardner-Webb University
Greensboro College
Guilford College
Johnson C. Smith University
Lenoir-Rhyne College
Meredith College
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
Peace College
Pfeiffer University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College*

A day of service...

Martin Luther King Day Challenge

Service-Learning is excited to host our first annual Martin Luther King Challenge on Monday, January, 17, 2005.

"The MLK Challenge requires participants to work together, problem-solve, realize their capabilities, organize and achieve a major goal."

The MLK Challenge is a day of service projects. The process is structured differently from other service projects. The MLK Chal-

lenge takes service a step further by framing it as a "challenge." The end result will be that the participants are automatically in a different mindset and are prepared for a rigorous day. Once assigned their "challenge," teams will be given basic instruction, seed money to complete their project, and a final goal. The rest is up to them. This particular method of group service elicits the problem-solving abilities groups and individuals have within themselves to accomplish major projects with

limited time and resources. Far from being told what to do and how to do it, the MLK Challenge requires participants to work together, problem-solve, realize their capabilities, organize, and achieve a major goal. The seed money provided to each group enables success and creativity. We hope the effect will be powerful to each individual who wonders how he/she can truly make a difference. If you are interested in being a team leader or participating, contact Dena Shonts at 704.330.6558.



Student Spotlight: Nicole Kennedy

Our first featured student is Nicole Kennedy. She is enrolled in Interviewing Techniques, a Human Services Technology class taught by Tommy Lopez. Nicole is completing her 40 hours of required service with Urban Ministries, an organization that works with those in need. Her tasks at this agency range from direct contact with the clients to various office tasks. With her instructor's guidance, she is able to connect her service experiences to what she learns within the classroom. She was nominated by Tommy Lopez. The following is an original reflection piece.

Every now and then I find myself in the bits and pieces of my past.... Trying to piece them together and make sense of them.... Sometimes I can, sometimes I can't. Right now, they are flooding my mind. So many thoughts, all in bits and pieces. I want so much to convey the images in my mind, but there are so many. They are in no specific order and in no rhyme or reason. My head is screaming of all the thoughts that want to leap out. I want so much to

be able to say everything I'm feeling, experiencing, reliving, etc...etc...Not enough time, paper, ink, I could go on and on. My thoughts race as I scratch the words onto paper. I'm alive and energized when I think of all these words, that in turn come to be sentences, then paragraphs, then pages, then more pages, well you get the point. My life, through my eyes, into your life. ...So similar, but so different.

—Nicole Kennedy

First Institute on Service-Learning for Faculty

This summer, fourteen faculty members participated in the Service-Learning Center's first Service-Learning Faculty Institute.

Participants learned the basic procedures and methods of service-learning, how to implement it into the syllabus, and the basics of leading successful reflection exercises with students.

The faculty members also heard from a Community Partner Panel and a Student Panel.

The institute was made possible with the financial support from the Office of the Vice President for Instruction, Center for Transformational Learning, CPCC Service-Learning Center, and a grant from North Carolina Campus Compact and the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation.

For information regarding upcoming Service-Learning Faculty workshops, contact Mark Helms, Associate Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning at 704-330-6127.



Attendees included: Tom Pfahler, Suzanne Williams, Catherine Felton, Beau Bowers, Dr. Rita Rodabaugh, Dr. Chris Brawley, Terina Roberson, Richard Coulter, Chris Hailey, David Brown, Tommy Lopez, Richard Henderson, Stephany Briggs, and Laura Goppold.

Evolution

able accomplishments. Over 250 students completed service-learning components in courses taught by 16 instructors. They supported the efforts of over 100 agencies to meet a wide array of needs in our community. Our students tutored elementary school children, worked with homeless people, helped organizations fight alcohol and drug addiction, and supported research on birds of prey. They spent time with the elderly, sorted and distributed clothing and food for those living in poverty, and developed educational programs for public health professionals. Their time, combined with other ongoing service projects at the College, added up to over 10,000 hours of service performed by CPCC, and our community is better today for their work. Through the Service-Learning Center, CPCC is coordinating and expanding its commitment to serve our community. In addition to service through the classroom, we are helping our students become more engaged citizens through grant-funded activities like Project VOTE, Martin Luther King Challenge, and Alternative Spring Break. We are expanding our involvement with Room in The Inn, and we are deepening our partnership with CMS schools through Serve-Study,

...continued from page 1

Service-Learning Staff

Mark Helms

Associate Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning

Dan Herrin

Service-Learning Coordinator

Dena Shonts

Service-Learning and Student Life Coordinator

Aimee Brunton

Assistant Service-Learning Coordinator, North Carolina Campus Compact VISTA

Big Sweep Project VOTE

Students, faculty, and staff participated in Mecklenburg County's Big Sweep 2004. Big Sweep is an annual state-wide event that recruits volunteers to participate in creek, river, and lake cleanup. CPCC adopted Little Sugar Creek and has beautified the area for the past 6 years. This year **88 volunteers** worked **2 hours** to collect **500 lbs of trash** from in and around this creek.

In the northeast section of the county, 2 staff members successfully completed a 3 hour cleanup at Reedy Creek.

Special thanks to CPCC Science Instructors Scott Diegmann, Holly Kupfer, and Alisa Hylton for their ongoing support of Big Sweep.

Tires were among the many items found during Big Sweep 2004.

Project VOTE was a campus initiative to register students to vote and to educate them on the upcoming election.

Each campus participated by sponsoring a voter registration drive.

Central Campus held the largest event. Eight local organizations including the Democratic Party and the Republican Party were represented. Students were able to learn about the different organizations and become informed

about political issues.

The student organization ACT (Advocating Choices Together) registered students to vote. Phi Theta Kappa and SGA served free food to students enjoying the political gathering.

The six campuses combined had a total of **1570 participants**. CPCC distributed over **700** voter registration forms and mailed/delivered **403 completed** voter registration forms to Board of Election Offices.



Food Bank Project

The International Student the community.

Organization (ISA) spends the This project is open to any-fourth Saturday every month one in the CPCC community. volunteering at Second Har- ISA is always looking to re-vest Food Bank in Charlotte. cruit new volunteers to help at Members feel that participat- the food bank. For more in- ing in service projects to- formation about how you can- gether provides them with a get involved contact Dan better sense of the needs of Herrin at 704-330-6824.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Lambda is Central Piedmont Community College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two Year Colleges. The chapter recognizes outstanding academic achievement, encourages scholarship, and fosters a commitment to service within the community. For the second year in a row, Phi Lambda will continue its partnership with the American Cancer Society to help educate and promote awareness of all forms of cancer as well as raise funding to support ongoing research. Phi Lambda also participates and sponsors other area service projects including, but not limited to: Adopt-A-Street, Adopt-A-Stream, tutoring programs, and voter registration and education initiatives.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa call 704-330-6744 or stop by Van Every 102D.

Student Thoughts

By: Mary-Beth Duggan, CPCC student

I have been a student at Central Piedmont Community College for a year and a half and one of the programs I enjoy the most is Service-Learning. I enjoy service-learning because I love to volunteer during my free time. Central Piedmont Community College's Service-Learning Department allows me to help my community. Through the service-learning program, I have volunteered at the Charlotte soup kitchen and Room in the Inn, where we help place homeless

men and women into churches at night during the cold fall and winter months. I recently started volunteering with Charlotte's Second Harvest Food Bank. I sort through crates of food and place into the correct boxes for shipment. In the near future students will be involved with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, and also CPCC's Alternative Spring Break when we will travel to Charleston, South Carolina during our spring break to participate in a week of service projects.



Upcoming Service Projects



Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian organization that works with people from all backgrounds to build affordable homes. CPCC's Service-Learning Center would like to form a team to participate in the construction of a Habitat home in Charlotte.

Room in the Inn is a winter shelter program for homeless families and individuals that begins December 1st and runs through the end of March. CPCC volunteers are needed to register people for the night.

If you are interested in either of these activities or if you want to learn about more volunteer opportunities, please contact Aimee Brunton in Van Every 102B at 704-330-6445 or at aimee.brunton@cpcc.edu.

The New Side of College Spring Break Trips

Last year, the Service-Learning Center organized a service trip to Atlanta for 13 students searching for an alternative to the typical collage spring break. The students participated in hunger and homelessness service projects in an urban setting. Reflection followed every project allowing students to engage in thoughtful discussion about their service work. The result of this trip is an Alternative Spring Break program that the Service-Learning Center intends to grow every year.

This year two different trips will be offered for students. One group

will return to Atlanta to complete service focused on homelessness and hunger. Another group of students will travel to Charleston, SC to partake in environmental service projects at the coast. Each group will complete service activities during the day and have reflection time in the evening. The trip fosters unique relationships between students and the recipients of their service work. If you are interested or know someone who is interested in ASB for Spring 2005 please contact the Service-Learning Center at 704-330-6824.



Photo by: Russell Orr

ASB students took a break from tiling an industrial kitchen at Task Force for the Homeless in Atlanta, GA.

The Experience of a Lifetime on ASB

By: Russell Orr, CPCC student

Truly vast are the rewards for the toddler who learns to walk, but no less abundant is the bounty reaped by the generous soul that understands the power of kindness. As I look at the pictures and reflect on the memories of this trip, I cannot help but lose a great smile. This smile, a grin of a true and hard-won fulfillment is wonderfully unique; it resonates from the bottom of my soul and will never fade away. Nothing can obliterate those wonderful memories.

Going on the Alternative Spring Break was one of the best and most rewarding choices I have made in my life. It was a truly life-changing experience which I

thoroughly enjoyed, and I am a better human being because of it. I came back with a greater sense of purpose in life, as well as a powerful feeling of well being. I might have spent the rest of my living days searching for the euphoric sensation of altruistic happiness which I found in the one week that I

"Not only did I return from Atlanta with great hope for humankind, I also acquired a much better measurement of myself, my purpose, and my abilities."

spent in Atlanta. Not only did I return from Atlanta with great hope for humankind, I also acquired a much better measurement of myself, my purpose, and my abilities. The wealth of happiness I discovered deep inside me will never be exhausted; I will share these experiences with my family, my friends, and my classmates. I will share these sentimental sapphires, these intangible jewels of memory and purpose, with all who march beside me in the journey of life. The Alternative Spring Break is a chance for all participants to observe first-hand what kindness can do, walking together under the banner of humanity.

Taking Service a Step Further

By: Athena Lapan, CPCC student

Last March I had the opportunity to travel with twelve of my fellow students to Atlanta, GA. We pioneered the first ever Alternative Spring Break trip for CPCC. This trip was designed to provide us an opportunity to give back to the community during our spring vacation. Going into this I knew that we would be participating in different service projects such as working

with the homeless. I understood that we would be making a tremendous impact on society, but I had no idea how much this trip would impact me. Making the decision to go on this trip has forever changed my outlook on life. I participated in many service projects before this one, but this time I felt as though we were truly making a difference. I met many dedicated and selfless peo-

ple during this trip and made life long friendships that bloomed during our emotional experiences together. I also learned the true meaning of servant-leadership. I would not give back this experience for the world. Participating in this has helped me to grow as a person and as a leader. I would encourage any student to attend this trip because it will change their life.



Athena Lapan and Rachel Moore work tirelessly to tile this area.