



SERVICE-LEARNING
Growing In Service • Grounded In Learning

Service-Learning Connections

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The Power of Partnerships

By: Mark Helms

Service-Learning is about partnerships – relationships between organizations and individuals who come together to focus on collaborative solutions to problems. Much like the relationships we have with our family, friends, and colleagues, these relationships require time and energy to thrive. As in a marriage, a service-learning partnership must have common goals, shared interests, mutual benefits, and effective communications. At their best, service-learning partnerships are also based on a spirit of reciprocity, and are developed with an underlying intention to be sustainable over time.

Courts/Belmont neighborhood. Our Early Childhood and Nursing students have been involved in service activities that support these children’s learning and health needs. For several years, CPCC work-study students have served as tutors and teaching assistants with First Ward Elementary and Walter G. Byers Elementary schools, two CMS schools near uptown Charlotte with a high proportion of at-risk students. Historic Rosedale Plantation is a 200-year-old plantation home three miles north of uptown. Our instructors and students in the welding, history, and horticulture programs are exploring and developing great, sustainable projects with Historic Rosedale. Also, students in sociology are in their first semester supporting the efforts of the First Baptist Church West after-school program, an outstanding initiative that is changing the lives of disadvantaged children on the west side of Charlotte.

At CPCC, we are involved in a number of emerging partnerships that meet critical needs in our community. The Belmont Literacy Project is a collaboration between CPCC and the Seigle Avenue Pre-school Cooperative. Located near Central Campus, this dynamic pre-school serves disadvantaged preschool children from the Piedmont

National and Global Youth Service Day (NGYSD) is coming up on April 21. As a member of NC Campus Compact, the statewide lead agency for NGYSD, CPCC will host a regional service event. North Carolina Campus Compact’s goal is to involve over 500 youth across the state in service and reflection. We will invite students from area colleges, universities, and schools to partner with CPCC students as we roll up our sleeves and tackle seven environmental service projects around the county. Three of these projects will take place on our own campuses, as students begin to create urban wildlife habitat areas with native plantings that will provide

By the Numbers

**Total CPCC Curriculum
Service Hours**

Fall 2006

4,396

**Total CPCC Curriculum
Service Participants**

Fall 2006

265

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Keisha Wannamaker and Kenny Paul

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Disaster Relief Training



On December 7, 2006 several Service-Learning and Student Life staff members participated in a countywide disaster training simulation. This event was designed to help local emergency responders prepare for disaster relief.

The disaster scenario involved an earthquake in Arkansas that caused levees to break in Memphis, TN. Volunteers served as victims and evacuees to utilize all aspects of the local emergency services in the greater Charlotte region including Air National Guard, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police and Fire, Red Cross, MEDIC, EMS from surrounding counties, VA Administration, State Emergency Management, Presbyterian Hospital, Carolina Medical Center, the Health Department, the Department of Social Services, and many more.

The 75 volunteer victims were assigned injuries ranging from heart issues and pulmonary distress to broken bones and gunshot wounds. Along with the injury, many victims received some moulage, the application of mock injuries to aid in

trainings. By: Aimee Brunton
The drill also included uninjured evacuees and animals.

After the victims unloaded from a large cargo plane, a physician immediately assessed them and assigned a level of urgent care. Next, Red Cross volunteers interviewed the victims and transported them to one of the local emergency rooms where their conditions were evaluated at length. At this point, the volunteers were able to create their characters and back stories. Some spoke of family from whom they were separated. Others spoke of the horrors they witnessed and were put under the care of psychologists.

Although this was a simulation, it gave local emergency personnel a hands-on training in how to deal with mass evacuees and victims if a disaster occurs. Volunteers were also given an inside glimpse into how a variety of emergency services are able to work together in times of crisis.

Partnerships

Continued from Page 1

food and shelter for wild birds at Cato, Levine, and Central campuses. We will also pick up trash and inventory potential pollution sources at two locations on Little Sugar Creek, near Central Campus, and a tributary of Irvin's Creek near Levine Campus. Finally, students will plant an "ozone garden" on Little Sugar Creek, south of Freedom Park, which will be an educational garden designed to help people better understand air pollution through plantings which are visually-impacted by high levels of ozone.

Partnerships are at the heart of our plans for NGYSD. Many College partners are involved in collaboration with the Service-Learning Center, including the Futures Institute, Horticulture Program, Biology Department, and our Facilities/Grounds staff. External partners include the Carolina's Clean Air Coalition, Mecklenburg County Water Quality, and Trinity Episcopal School, which will encourage local elementary school children to participate in our program. We hope you can join us for National and Global Youth Service Day on April 21.

As we foster these partnerships in our mission to improve our community and enhance and protect our environment, we offer our students a chance to learn, grow, and embrace their responsibility to become citizens committed to making the Charlotte community a better place to live.

Service in Action! Growing Strong

The results for Service in Action! (SiA!) Fall 2006 are in and the signs are great! On average, each service event drew three more students during Fall 2006 than Spring 2006. In addition, Fall 2006 saw a large number of students who attended multiple events.



Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control SouthPark Adoption event

Service in Action! provides students the opportunity to meet new people, develop skills, and engage with pressing community issues. Faculty and staff members are always welcome to suggest agencies we might work

with in the future and to participate themselves during any event. Without the excellent support we've received so far, Service in Action! could not attract as many students as it does.

To learn more about SiA!, please visit: <http://www1.cpcc.edu/service-learning/service-in-action>

Or contact Brandon Lewis: Brandon.Lewis@cpcc.edu, (704) 330-6445, Overcash 257



Students clear weeds at Historic Rosedale Plantation

CPCC NC-ACTS! Helps Charlotte's Kids By: Dena Shonts

North Carolina-Activating Citizenship Through Service! (NC-ACTS) is an AmeriCorps program of North Carolina Campus Compact (NCCC). NC-ACTS! began with a grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) in August of 2004 with the following goals: to foster civic engagement among higher education students, to promote the national service movement, and to encourage positive relationships between campuses and communities.

NC-ACTS! AmeriCorps Members are able to serve in a wide variety of service partnerships in three different areas: Education, Human Needs and Volunteer Recruitment/ Capacity Building. Students are required to complete 300 service hours during the

academic school year. Upon completion students receive \$1000 Educational Award. This award can be used to pay back student loans, to finance any undergraduate, graduate, or vocational training and can be kept for up to seven years.

CPCC has 10 students enrolled in the program. These students are placed at Walter G. Byers Elementary School, First Ward Elementary School, Seigle Avenue Preschool, and Seigle Avenue Partners. These students will have completed a total of more than 3000 hours at the end of this academic year. For more information on this program and how to enroll students for next year, please contact Dena Shonts at 704.330.6558.

The Service-Learning Center Thanks the 2006-2007 CPCC NC-ACTS! Team

**Lashawn Barnes
Kitalya Brown
Beverly Davis
William Dunlap
Heather Higgs
Kimberly Hutchins
Sterlene Jones
Amy Thao
Michelle Whittemore
Nina Wilson**

The Way to Celebrate MLK Day!

By: Kenny Paul

As I walked up to the Overcash Building where the MLK Challenge was about to commence, I anticipated building a fence, cleaning an old church, or even painting walls. After I registered and had breakfast, the official program began with a skit.

The skit made me think about the words I use. Whenever I was in Florida, I would

use the term "nigga" with my friends like it was nothing. The skit helped me to realize the power of words and I've become more thoughtful about the ways I use them.

We paired up with our project teams after the skit. In these groups, we learned which tasks we needed to accomplish for the day. Most of my group assisted with shelves at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. However, Matt Long, SGA President, and I built and reassembled shelves instead. It was educational because I had never done anything like it before. I learned a lot about carpentry. In addition, I learned to synchronize my work with someone else. When our tasks were done, the store's employees were impressed with our results. I was relieved that we were finished because it was



Reggie Pincham at the Afro-American Cultural Center

such hard work. Nevertheless, to see the staff's appreciation was well worth it. Finally, we returned to CPCC to reflect on our day and enjoy pizza.

I would recommend to everyone to be involved with MLK Challenge because it's a great way to meet new people and make a difference in our society. Serving and giving back to the community took precedence over anything else I could have done that day.



Students prepare to weld an engine mount for Carolinas Aviation Museum



Welding and History Team Up!



By: Dr. Hugh Dussek and Steve Gore

The Welding Technology Department and the History Department have “forged” a new partnership in both word and deed. We, History and Welding, started by forming a Learning Community this past fall semester. One of our goals was to perform service-learning projects that would benefit both the classroom and the community.

Steve Gore, from the Welding Technology Department, and Hugh Dussek, from the History Department, are working together at the CPCC Harper Campus on a learning community that brings together courses in welding and world civilizations. In addition to regular coursework, the courses examine the role of metals in historical development. The service-learning project looks at the connections between ironworking and history in a practical way. We desired to enhance the learning environment by working on projects that mesh the historic with the technological. On September 12, 2006, History and Welding students from CPCC visited Historic Rosedale Plantation for a service-learning project that aims to rebuild an old blacksmith’s shop.

Historic Rosedale Plantation is an antebellum planta-

tion house on North Tryon Street. A thriving blacksmith’s shop was once part of the plantation, but the building that housed the smithy no longer exists and its site is overgrown. The History/Welding Learning Community, together with the student blacksmithing club, the Black and Tans, is planning to rebuild the smithy as a service-learning project.

Members of the Learning Community have examined the site to gain an understanding of the history of the plantation. The next steps will be to work with historians from Historic Rosedale Plantation to determine the exact location of the smithy, what the building looked like, who worked there, the ironwork items they produced, the plan to clear the site, and how to reconstruct the building. This will be a long-term project involving CPCC students in a response to a community need: education about our local history.

Ultimately, it is our goal that the “Olde Smithy Shoppe” be rebuilt and one day have live blacksmithing demonstrations carried out by CPCC’s Black and Tans. This is, of course, a dream, but with enough determination and support this dream can become reality.

Historic Rosedale Thanks CPCC

Historic Rosedale Plantation (HRP), a circa 1815 preserved backcountry plantation located on North Tryon, is the fortunate beneficiary of hardworking and caring CPCC students, faculty, and staff. HRP and CPCC have entered a unique collaboration through the Service-Learning Center.

Each semester the Service-Learning Center sends a diverse group of students and faculty to assist Rosedale with a variety of projects. To date they have carefully weeded and mulched sections of our formal garden as well as our heirloom boxwoods. The most recent project was conducted for the MLK Challenge and involved our modern kitchen. They cleaned it

from top to bottom and even spruced up the walls, cabinetry, and closets!

By: Deborah Hunter

The groups that have visited Rosedale have ranged in size from 5 to over 15.

They each have achieved phenomenal results! Our board members and staff have worked with each group when they have been on site. It is a privilege to host such dedicated and focused students to work on our behalf.

We always look forward to a new group. Thank you!



Historic Rosedale Plantation

MLK Challenge Enters 3rd Year!

By: Terry McMicking

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech to a crowd of people – black, white, young, old, male, and female. He said, “*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’*” Even though “all men are created equal” has been one of the most recognized political phrases in this country, we certainly have not always been treated as equals.

On January 15, 2007, students, faculty, and staff—black, white, young, old, male, female—gathered at Central Piedmont Community College to honor Dr. King by learning about his life and philosophy and by working together to help our community. For the past three years, CPCC’s Service-Learning has sponsored the MLK Challenge on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. This year, 60 people used their day off to work a total of 460 hours at seven different project sites.



Group Picture, Jackson Park Ministries

The day began with breakfast and food for thought from Tracy Moore, Armah Shiancoe, Amanda Capobianchi, Mark Helms, Jennifer Conway, and Aimee Brunton. Tracy, as Dr. King, and the rest of the cast performed a skit to emphasize the power of words. The skit made us aware of how some words that are used casually are hurtful to others.

After our teams were formed and introductions made, we went out to work at our assigned, non-profit agencies. Team leaders Harry Phillips, Steve Gore, Brantlee Drake, Tracy Moore, Brandon

Lewis, Aimee Brunton, and Terry McMicking worked with groups at Historic Rosedale, Carolinas Aviation Museum, Uptown Men’s Shelter, CMPD Animal Control, Jackson Park Ministries, Afro-American Cultural Center, and Habitat ReStore. The projects included painting, cleaning, organizing, and building a mount for a large airplane engine.

When we returned, we reflected on the things that we had learned about ourselves and others. As members of each group shared their stories, it was apparent that we had bonded with our teammates and were proud of the work we accomplished. These diverse groups were a testament to the power of Dr. King’s dream. “*With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.*”

National and Global Youth Service Day

By: Brandon Lewis

In the coming months, you will be hearing about National and Global Youth Service Day (NGYSD). On Saturday, April 21st youth from southern and western North Carolina will gather in Charlotte to perform a variety of environmental projects in conjunction with Earth Day and NGSYD.

National and Global Youth Service Day supports youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, the media, and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders.

Central Piedmont Community College’s NGSYD activities will span three campuses and include seven project sites.

At each campus, students will create urban wildlife areas by preparing designated areas and planting vegetation to attract wildlife. These projects will create a space on campus for students to enjoy nature and provide a sustainable reminder of the importance of our environment’s health. Creek cleanups near Central and Levine campuses and a cleanup on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway will beautify our county’s waterways and reduce water pollution. Students working at Freedom Park will create an ozone garden. Ozone gardens contain plants that will manifest physical reactions to unhealthy levels of ozone in the atmosphere. These plants will be a visible reminder of the importance of improving air quality in our region.

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