

Service-Learning Update

Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

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"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip." Eleanor Roosevelt

www.pitt.edu/~psla

EarthFest: Celebrating Environmental Service

--by Sarah Backstrom,
PSLA Pittsburgh AmeriCorps*VISTA

The Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance and Earthforce are proud to host EarthFest, an environmental service fair to be held at the University of Pittsburgh in the William Pitt Union on Thursday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

With the new Pennsylvania environmental education standards added to the curriculum this fall; EarthFest is designed to meet the needs of teachers and students.

The morning will feature workshops. Teacher workshops will cover a broad range of topics from a simple introduction to service-learning, to how to implement a recycling program in your school, to presentations by teachers and students currently doing environmental service-learning.

While teachers are attending workshops about service-learning, students will be far from bored! Activities such as recycled object sculpture and papermaking are planned. If you have students who aren't artistically inclined, there will be opportunities to learn about composting, take walks in Schenley Park and learn about horticulture.

Around noon, lunch will be provided as students and teachers visit information booths sponsored by environmental

organizations and local AmeriCorps programs.

EarthFest is a free event that is open to teachers and students from grades 6-9. For more information, please call Sarah Backstrom at 412-648-1481. If you want to register, please contact Cathy Connor-Weiss at 412-648-1440 or check out our online registration capability at the PSLA website: www.pitt.edu/~psla

PSLA Act 48 Summer Service-Learning Symposium Series

--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director

The PSLA at the University of Pittsburgh will offer a summer symposium series for teachers to learn more about service-learning. This symposium series will be free of charge. The following topics are being considered:

1. Service-Learning 101.
2. Grant Writing for Teachers.
3. Service-Learning Documentation.
4. Student Driven: What it means and tips for making all service-learning projects student driven.
5. Character Education & Service-Learning.
6. Designing Service-Learning Websites.
7. Special Education & Service-Learning.

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8. Standards & Service-Learning: Making the connections between service-learning and state/school district standards and competencies.
9. Going from Community Service to Service-Learning: Take the leap with the PSLA.
10. The Community Needs Assessment: One of the most important aspects of a service-learning project.

The PSLA plans on finalizing the summer schedule by April 1st! Keep an eye on the PSLA website for more information as that will be the first place the schedule and symposium details will be posted:

www.pitt.edu/~psla

Service-Learning Tips and Ideas for Women's History Month

--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director

Women's History Month offers teachers a huge menu of choices for great service-learning projects. Take a look at just a few ideas you can use to link Women's History to Civics, History, Family and Consumer Science, Health and Computer Science curricula:

Civics

Did you ever stop and think just how many women have been instrumental in shaping our local, state and federal governments? There have been countless women that have made a mark on US history through their political involvement. This month, in honor of Women's History Month, consider a service-learning project with your Civics students that inspires them to educate younger children about women in politics. Here are some websites that might help inspire your students to educate others about the important role women are playing

on the local, state, international and national level:

CyberGirl: Women Politicians

<http://www.cybergrrl.com/fs.jhtml?/wotd-archive.shtml>

Center for American Women in Politics

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cawp/>

The Feminist Majority Foundation

<http://www.feminist.org/>

American Women Presidents

<http://www.americanwomenpresidents.org/>

White House Project

<http://www.thewhitehouseproject.org/>

History

Women's History Month is the opportune time to get your students involved with gender-related issues! By educating students about some of the important women in history that have helped shape the world, service-learning projects can be identified. Here are just a few women that deserve your attention:

Maya Angelou

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/angelou/angelou_bio.html

Service-Learning Project Idea:

Community Poetry Reading!

Mavis Leno

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/leno/leno_bio.html

Service-Learning Project Idea:

Awareness about gender apartheid problems worldwide!

Lillian Smith

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/smith/smith_bio.html

Service-Learning Project Idea:

Anti-Racism campaign!

LaDonna Harris

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/harris/harris_bio.html

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Service-Learning Project Idea:

A project that addresses native american issues!

Family & Consumer Science

Betty Crocker isn't the only woman associated with the culinary arts! March would be a great month for Family & Consumer Science students to research the many woman chefs that have helped advance the culinary arts. A service-learning project could involve your students in preparing a feast at a homeless shelter using recipes derived from some of the women they researched! Here are a few food divas to get you started:

Julia Child

<http://frenchfood.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.alacartetv.com/wisdom/julia.htm>

Alice Waters

<http://www.chezpanisse.com/alice.html>

Martha Stewart

<http://www.foodtv.com/celebrities/stewart/bio/0,3405,,00.html>

Sarah Moulton

<http://www.foodtv.com/celebrities/moulton/profile/0,3448,,00.html>

Ruth Reichl

<http://www.powells.com/authors/reichl.html>

Health

There have been many women in history that have been responsible for incredible advances in the medical and health fields. This month, consider rallying your students to spread the word in the community about some of these women! Students can champion the medical and health causes these women have helped to advance! Take a look at a few of the women we've connected to great service-learning projects that address a variety of health and medical issues:

Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D.

<http://campus.hws.edu/his/blackwell/>

Sister Kenny

<http://www.ott.zynet.co.uk/polio/lincolnshire/library/drhenry/srkenny.html>

Florence Nightingale

<http://www.dnai.com/~borneo/nightingale/>

Mary Mallon "Typhoid Mary"

<http://history1900s.about.com/library/weekly/aa062900a.htm?once=true&>

For more service-learning inspiration to help you connect a service-learning project with another curriculum, visit any of these Women's History oriented websites:

Women of Courage Profiles

<http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/profiles.htm>

Biographies of Historical Women

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/WomensStudies/ReadingRoom/History/Biographies/>

National Women's History Project

<http://www.nwhp.org/>

Multi-Media Sites in Women's History

--A lot of links!

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wom-mm.html>

Celebrate the Service of a Student!



--by Stephanie Gundry,
PSLA Pittsburgh AmeriCorps*VISTA

"The President's Student Service Awards and Scholarships are White House initiatives which recognize young Americans for outstanding community service, while encouraging more young people to serve."
www.student-service-awards.org or by calling toll-free (866) 550-PSSA.

There are two awards available to elementary and secondary education students:

- **Gold Award** – Youth, kindergarten through college, who have performed at least 100 hours of community service within one year.
- **Silver Award** – Youth, kindergarten through eighth grade, who have performed at least 50 hours of community service within one year.

The type of service performed can be with a community or religious organization, service through a school or service-learning project, or any individual effort to help others and improve the local community.

The award consists of 2 components, a lapel pin designed by the White House and a certificate signed by the President.

Each award costs two dollars. You can order the awards at www.student-service-awards.org or by calling toll-free (866) 550-PSSA.

Announcing Dr. Penny's Postings

The PSLA at the University of Pittsburgh announces the arrival of Dr. Penelope Miller from Clarion University as a member of its service-learning training and technical assistance team.

Dr. Miller has "hit the ground running." Using her experience with service-learning in her higher education teaching career and her considerable publications and professional development experience, she has already developed workshops, made site visits, evaluated grants and has assisted with planning the PSLA Special Education Teachers Conference and the PSLA Character Education Summer Institute for teachers.

You should look forward to her regular feature, "Dr. Penny's Postings" in the PSLA's weekly e-mail bulletins, wherein she will offer advice and assistance regarding service-learning. You can reach Dr. Miller by e-mail at penelope2198@yahoo.com.

Service-Learning Story Hour: Children's Books that Celebrate Women's History

--by **Cynthia Wetmiller,**
PSLA Assistant Director

Literature can be a great way to help educate young children about women in history! Women's History Month is a perfect time to get older students reading books about women in history to younger students. Check out any of these books from your school or local library:

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

Author: Catherine Thimmesh

This book tells the story of how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in their daily lives by inventing such items as correction fluid, helmets, the windshield wiper, baby carriers and disposable diapers.

Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Sacagawea to Sheryl Swoopes

Author: Amelie Welden

Thirty-three short biographical sketches of young women who achieved "something extraordinary" before age 20. The entries are in chronological order, beginning with Cleopatra and ending with tennis star Martina Hingis. Some of the names are familiar (e.g., Hellen Keller, Anne Frank, and Wilma Rudolf), while others are less well known.

Amelia Earhart: Courage in the Sky

Author: Mona Kerby

Follows the life of the pilot who was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by herself in a plane.

Eleanor

Author: Barbara Cooney

A picture book biography of the often lonely and painful childhood of Eleanor Roosevelt.

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The World at Her Fingertips

Author: Joan Dash

This biography of Helen Keller examines her childhood as well as her adult life when she emerged as a radical thinker and a popular presence on both the lecture and vaudeville circuits.

Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II

Author: Penny Colman

This book gives a great overview of the challenges presented to women in the forties when the men who previously held the factory jobs went off to war. There are lots of good photos and quotes to bring the time into focus.

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman

Author: Kathleen Krull

Book about one of the first female track stars who started out almost totally disabled from polio.

My Name is Georgia: A Portrait

Author: Jeanette Winter

This is the picture book life of Georgia O'Keeffe. Not truly an autobiography, the book is nevertheless told as if it were a self-portrait and we learn about the woman who knew from the age of twelve that she was going to be an artist.

Website Review:

What Kids Can Do!

--by Eric Hartman, PSLA Pittsburgh

<http://www.whatkidscando.org>

What Kids Can Do offers an inspiring look into the potential power of service-learning as a pedagogy that challenges students intellectually, while serving a public purpose. Site visitors learn about high school students, who acted as the catalyst for new business development in Howard, South Dakota; turned an abandoned water-treatment center into a state-of-the-art aquaculture center in Lubec, Maine;

developed a Youth Court system to deal with justice in Harlem and completed countless other dynamic projects.

These stories represent some of the best efforts to combine service and learning across the nation. That is the mission of *What Kids Can Do* – to comb the country to document compelling examples of schools and communities working together. The efforts they find are moving, and should move more students, teachers, and administrators to action. *What Kids Can Do* also provides a resource list that includes websites of organizations that act to engage youth, whether through experiential education, school reform or youth development.

WKCD also provides information on documenting competencies and learning outcomes. Teachers interested in proving academic rigor and relevance should follow the links on WKCD's "What's Learned" page.

News You Can Use: Current Events Can Inspire Service-Learning Projects!

--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director

As always, there a lot of current events that can inspire service-learning projects in your classroom! In order to help students take a lead in designing the project, print out any of these articles. Split your classroom into small groups and have each small group read a different article. After the articles have all been read, have the small groups debate their issue and design a service-learning project to help address the issue in the community. What a great way to encourage student-driven service-learning!

News this month is good and bad, but all issues can be addressed via service-learning projects:

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Blessings for needy go far beyond clothes

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/2783022.htm>

Service-Learning Project Idea: Students could host a clothing, toy, furniture or book drive!

Fish Warning Called Lacking

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/science/health/2002-03-01-fish-mercury.htm>

Service-Learning Project Idea: Students could research the fish that are caught on or near Pennsylvania's borders and help educate the community about toxins commonly found in fish!

Wireless Net Service Growing

<http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/2002/03/01/docomo.htm>

Service-Learning Project Idea: Students can partner up with a community agency that address connectivity issues in their community!

After 8 deaths, a painful vigil Slippery Rock teen-agers, drawn to latest crash site, try to fathom friends' deaths

<http://www.post-gazette.com/localnews/20020303grievingreg2p2.asp>

Service-Learning Project Idea: Students can take on teen driving safe issues and help educate the student body in their school about the importance of safe driving!

Service-Learning in the Limelight!



--by Faith Goldstein, PS LA Philadelphia

Millions of people tuned in to hear President Bush's State of the Union Address on January 29, 2002. On the forefront of everyone's mind were the tragic events of September 11, along with questions about how President Bush would address the ways our world has changed since then.

After speaking on a variety of points regarding the national security of the United

States, President Bush addressed the issue of national service. This surprise agenda item brought the idea of service into the public eye—a change for this often low profile program.

In his address, President Bush asked all Americans to perform some type of service for the equivalent of two years. This could be two complete years of service or a few hours a week of activities such as tutoring. To facilitate this process, Bush proposed the creation of the USA Freedom Corps. It will encompass the current programs of the Corporation for National Service; AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Peace Corps, and Learn and Serve, and will add a Community Service and a new Citizens Corps for homeland defense.

Citizen Corps is designed to help citizens prepare their communities for terrorist threat. It is being coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), using existing organizations like Volunteers in Police Service Program; an expanded Neighborhood Watch Program; the Medical Reserve Corps; and Community Emergency Response Teams, and new programs.

President Bush is also proposing to support an increase in the infrastructure for service. He called for additional 25,000 corps members, up from the current 50,000 members. In turn, these corps members would be asked to recruit another 75,000 through their service. Bush also called on colleges to have 50% of their federal work-study students working in the community. Currently only 7% of college work-study funds are mandated to address community needs by the Higher Education Act. Finally, he called to expand CNS's budget by 290 million. Some of this would go towards lowering the cost per member and providing more resources for the community organizations that host the member.

Freedom Corps aims to encourage good citizenship/ethics and "promote a culture of responsibility, service, and citizenship." The Corps was initiated by acts on Sept 11—reminding the country that freedom isn't free

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and must be preserved through citizen service.

Changes to the current service program include making federal funds more accountable to state and local needs. The Citizen Service Act of 2002 calls for changes to AmeriCorps designed to strengthen the role of states and communities and achieve greater accountability. Improvements to corps programs include the end of taxation of the education award and allow seniors to transfer ed awards to grandkids, etc.

The budget provides support for more than 1.5 million students to participate in service-learning. It also includes \$5 million for a new Parent Drug Prevention Corps to support more than 10,000 parent volunteers in efforts to reduce drug abuse, form parent drug prevention programs in communities and continue support for the Points of Light Foundation and America's Promise.

USA Freedom Corps Site
www.usafreedomcorps.gov

Citizen Corps Site
www.citizencorps.gov/

Homeland Security and Service
www.etr.org/nsrc/sites/misc_sites.html#homeland

America Responds: National Service Responds
www.cns.gov/news/americaresponds/nsresponds.html

The PSLA Website is full of great ideas for integrating your curriculum with service-learning! Visit the site today and see what you've been missing!

www.pitt.edu/~psla

T raining E vents with the Staff of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

The PSLA has a lot of great service-learning workshops planned in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Note the dates and register soon!

Pittsburgh

To register online for any of the workshops in Pittsburgh, go to:
<http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/WesternPennsylvania.html>

Intro to Service-Learning (Act 48)
Monday, March 25th
Beaver Vallley Intermediate Unit
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This workshop will give an overview of the eleven essential elements of service-learning and tips for incorporating these essential elements into all your service-learning projects. This workshop is sponsored by the PSLA's special education initiative, all teachers are welcome to attend as service-learning can be a great inclusionary activity! There is no cost to attend and lunch will be served. Deadline to register is March 18th!

Sign up online at:
<http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/BeaverValley.htm>

“Service-Learning Documentation Part I: Tips and ideas for documenting all aspects of your service-learning projects!” (Act 48)
University of Pittsburgh
Tuesday, March 26th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Do you have a digital camera but don't know how to use it? Do you have drawers full of photos from student service-learning projects but don't know what to do with them? How about your students' reflection pieces—are they just sitting in a filing cabinet collecting dust? Well, this is your chance to learn how all of these things and more can be an important part of the service-learning documentation process!

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This is the first in a two-part series on service-learning documentation. The second workshop, "The Service-Learning Scrapbook" will take place in May. Come join the PSLA staff as we help teachers begin the process of documenting service-learning projects! Lunch will be served! **Deadline to register is Friday, March 22nd!**

Sign up online:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/WesternPennsylvania.html>

"Tis the Season: Connecting Service-Learning Projects to Holidays and Special Events!" (Act 48)

University of Pittsburgh

Tuesday, April 16th

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Holidays and special events are a great reason to get a service-learning project going with your students! Attend this workshop to learn where to find out all the details about holidays and special events, how to connect these events to service-learning projects and how to connect the service-learning projects to your curriculum!

Deadline to register is Friday, April 12th!

Sign up online at:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/WesternPennsylvania.html>

Upcoming Events for April & May: Look for details about these events in the next issue or online at the [PSLA website!](#)

April 9th

Life Skills Crafting Workshop

University of Pittsburgh

April 25th

EarthFest: Celebrating Environmental Service

University of Pittsburgh

Students and Teachers Invited from Grades 6-9!

May 7th

Life Skills Workshop

Riverview Intermediate Unit

May 9th

Service-Learning Documentation Part II: "The Service-Learning Scrapbook"

University of Pittsburgh

May 14th

Special Education Service-Learning Symposium

--A conference for special education teachers BY special education teachers!

If you have any questions about the workshops or events in Pittsburgh, contact the person listed with each event or call Cathy at (412) 648-1440.

For information and details about these events visit the PSLA website:

www.pitt.edu/~psla

Philadelphia

To register online for any of the workshops in Philadelphia, go to:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/EasternPennsylvania.html>

Web Design Workshop

Monday, March 18, 2002

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: JFKennedy Center, 734 Schuylkill Avenue, 6th Floor

Learn the basics of web design! This workshop will introduce participants to HTML, the code that browsers translate into web pages. Software editors, which are designed to create HTML code, will also be explored. Additionally, participants will look at a variety of low cost and free options for hosting web pages. VISTAs will come away from the workshop with a solid background in HTML, as well as ideas for how to help their organizations create a web presence in a cost-effective manner. Participants must be familiar with the basics of using computers and exploring the Internet. No web design experience is necessary!

*This workshop is part of a series that The Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance is providing for Americorps members around the topic of the digital divide issues. This web design workshop is geared for VISTA/Americorps members.

To register for this workshop, contact Faith Goldstein at the Pennsylvania Service

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Learning Alliance. Phone: 215.573.2380,
email:

faithg@sas.upenn.edu

If you have any questions about the workshops or events in Philadelphia, contact the person listed with each event or call (215) 573-6535.

Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance Contact Information

To learn more about the efforts of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance, contact the offices of the PSLA in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia:

Philadelphia:

[Cynthia Belliveau](#), PSLA Director
(215) 573-6535

PSLA Philadelphia Fax: (215) 573-1134

Pittsburgh:

[Cynthia Wetmiller](#), PSLA Assistant Director
(412) 648-1673

PSLA Pittsburgh Fax: (412) 648-1404

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