

# Service-Learning Update

Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

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[www.pitt.edu/~psla](http://www.pitt.edu/~psla)

## Back to School with Service-Learning!

### Weekly Email Bulletin Returns Better Than Ever!

The Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance (PSLA) is pleased to announce that the weekly email bulletin has been revamped to better meet the needs of our readers. Starting this month, readers will receive a different bulletin each week. The following bulletins will be published by the PSLA:

#### Week One: Service-Learning Update

This bulletin will highlight service-learning as a teaching methodology. It will provide tips on how to connect service-learning with the curriculum, academic standards (federal, state and school district standards), and ideas for identifying and addressing local community needs via service-learning.

#### Week Two: Keeping in PACE

With a primary focus on character education and service-learning, Keeping in PACE will provide readers with information about character education and tips for developing character education projects that use service-learning as the main activity. This bulletin is sponsored in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education.

#### Week Three: Wired for Service

Technology and Digital Divide issues will be the central focus of this bulletin published by the PSLA. From service-learning technology projects to after-school computer refurbishing programs, this bulletin will highlight projects that address

the Digital Divide. The bulletin will also feature Pennsylvania's Youth Driven Service-Learning Centers and their initiatives to bridge the Digital Divide.

#### Week Four: Special Education Weekly

Service-learning is such a popular pedagogy and learning strategy for teachers and students, that it was about time that a bulletin highlighting special education service-learning ideas and information was published! From Transition Education to Learning Support, this bulletin will be full of ideas for incorporating service-learning into the IEP of special education students.

#### Environmental Update

The PSLA will be publishing an environmental bulletin on the first Monday of every other month (October, December, February, April, and June) that will highlight service-learning and environmental education. The goal of this bulletin will be to encourage teachers to make Earth Day everyday in their classrooms and communities!

In addition to the above information, each bulletin will include links to relevant websites, a rundown of the special events and days occurring each month and an up-to-date training calendar the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance and the Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education.

If you do not wish to continue being in our email distribution list, send an email with the following message: "**Unsubscribe All Bulletins.**" If you wish to continue receiving a bulletin each week from the PSLA, **do**

**nothing** and the bulletins will continue to be emailed to you each Monday during the school year (September-June).. **If you wish to just receive a specific bulletin(s), please [send us an email](#) that includes the following message for each bulletin that you wish to receive: "Subscribe Special Ed" or "Subscribe PACE," or "Subscribe Technology" or "Subscribe Service-Learning or "Subscribe Environment."** To learn more about the email bulletins, contact Cynthia Wetmiller at (412) 648-1673 or [psla@pitt.edu](mailto:psla@pitt.edu).

### Back to School Service-Learning Projects

A service-learning project can be a great way to get your students out of their summer slump and back into the swing of learning. Here are a few project ideas that can help you get the ball rolling for a great year of service-learning:

#### Environment

September weather is just about as inviting as it gets for an outdoor environmental project, but it won't be long before the leaves start to turn and people start raking! Science students in any grade could plan a service-learning project to address the issue of composting. From identifying community leaf recycling programs, to building and maintaining a compost bin for the school district, there are many ways that students can make composting a priority in their local community. Visit any of these websites for more information about composting:

#### **US Composting Council**

<http://compostingcouncil.org>

#### **Composting in Schools**

<http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/schools.html>

#### **Composting with Red Wiggler Worms**

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/wormcomp61.html>

#### **The Compost Resource Page**

<http://www.oldgrowth.org/compost/>

#### Technology

Your students may not have been in the classroom all summer, but chances are pretty good that they may have been on a computer at home or in the community. A great service-learning project for computer science would be to involve students in setting up a web page for new students in the school district. As your students become webmasters and graphics goorooos, they will be providing a great service to students who are new to the school or community by posting important information about the school environment (a "where to turn" guide for the school district) and the local community (the best after school clubs or programs, volunteer organizations, the safest places to hang out, etc.). For more information about website design, visit any of these websites:

#### **Great Website Design Tips**

<http://www.unplug.com/great/>

#### **HTML Goodies**

<http://www.htmlgoodies.com/>

#### **World Wide Web Consortium**

<http://www.w3.org/>

#### Health

Summer winding down to a close does not negate the need for sunscreen or the importance of staying hydrated when exercising or playing outside. Students in Health class can communicate important safe sun and heat tips to fellow students and community members via service-learning! Whether students develop a brochure that highlights safe sun tips and skin cancer information or set up a Skin Cancer Awareness Booth at a community festival or event, there are many service-learning projects that will help your students learn more about these important health issues and inform the community about them, as well. Visit any of these website for tips on sun safety:

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### Safe Sun Tips

<http://www.aad.org/SkinCancerNews/SafeSunTips/>

### Environmental Health Center

<http://www.nsc.org/ehc/sunsafer.htm>

### Sun Protection

<http://www.loreal.com/sunprotection.org/index.asp>

## Human Needs

While the change in weather from summer to fall may be a treat for you and your students, the homeless need a little help getting ready for the colder nights and inclement days that will be here before we know it. Life Skills students or Family and Consumer Science students can host a blanket drive and collect gently used blankets for distribution to local homeless shelters. For more information and tips for helping the homeless, visit any of these sites:

### 54 Ways to Help the Homeless

<http://www.earthsystems.org/ways/>

### 8 Ways to Truly Help the Homeless

<http://www.iugm.org/how-help.html>

## Fall Conferences and Events Worth a Look



## Service-Learning/National Service/ Experiential Education

### Pennsylvania

September 14<sup>th</sup>

Robert Morris College, Moon Township

September 18<sup>th</sup>

Wolf's Den Restaurant, Clarion County,  
Knox, PARSAN Regional Forums

--Join local leaders in service, education, nonprofits, faith-based, community and youth organizations, public and private entities, in a daylong forum of

significant importance to the community at large.

To register, send an email to:  
[dsherwood@state.pa.us](mailto:dsherwood@state.pa.us)

### Nationwide

October 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

National Society for Experiential Education  
Annual Conference

Orlando, Florida

--The annual conference for NSEE, a national resource center for the development and improvement of experiential education programs nationwide. Website:

<http://www.nsee.org>

## Technology

### Pennsylvania

November 8<sup>th</sup>

Three Rivers

Educational Technology Conference

-- Event will allow educators and others to explore ways in which all forms of technology can be used to improve instruction and engage students in the learning process. Website:

<http://trec.org/csc/trec/>

### Nationwide

November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

Technology and Learning Conference

Atlanta, Georgia

-- The nation's premier event for K-12 education technology. Website:

<http://www.nsba.org/T+L/>

## Environment

### Pennsylvania

October 18-19

Energizing Schools 2001

King of Prussia

--A major regional conference on using energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels, and transportation themes to integrate technology, science, and social studies education. Website:

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

## Nationwide

October 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

North American Association for  
Environmental Education Annual  
Conference

*Little Rock, Arkansas*

--Annual conference for NAAEE, a network of professionals, students, and volunteers working in the field of environmental education throughout North America and in over 55 countries around the world. Website:

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

## Teaching/Professional Development

### Pennsylvania

November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Pennsylvania ASCD Conference

*Hershey, PA*

-- Conference sessions will focus on providing administrators with the opportunity to learn and share from their colleagues regarding successful supervision and leadership strategies, processes, and plans. Website:

<http://www.pde.psu.edu/staffdevelopment/supercurric.html>

### Nationwide

October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Co-Necting to Kids Annual Conference

*Toronto, Canada*

-- Educators and administrators from schools across the country will convene to explore the opportunities and innovations in technology integration, project-based learning, instructional leadership, assessment strategies, and schools as connected learning communities. Website:

<http://www.co-nectingtokids.net/>

## Special Days and Events to Celebrate with Service-Learning

The month of September offers teachers and students many holidays and days of recognition to jumpstart a service-learning project:

### Cholesterol Education Month

High cholesterol is no laughing matter! Health students can learn about the dangers of cholesterol and the role of a healthy diet and exercise in keeping cholesterol levels low and share their knowledge with the community via a local medical clinic, shelter programs and senior citizens centers. Have your students visit any of these websites to learn more about cholesterol:

- ✓ [National Cholesterol Month Education Kit Website](#)
- ✓ [American Heart Association](#)
- ✓ [Tips to Help You Lower Your Cholesterol](#)

### Baby Safety Month

Students enrolled in a Child Development course have the opportunity this month to put their knowledge about children to the test! What better way to understand and learn more about infant and toddler safety issues than to research them and become an advocate for safe babies in the community! Have your students visit any of these websites for ideas about promoting Baby Safety Month:

- ✓ [JPMA](#)
- ✓ [Baby Safety Month: A Calendar of Tips](#)
- ✓ [Child Proofing Your Home](#)

## Food Safety Education Month

Students enrolled in a Family and Consumer Sciences course learn a lot about Food Safety. Why not have them spend some of their class time this month putting together a Food Safety Brochure that students can take home and share with their families? Or, better yet, have students create the brochure in partnership with a local meat market or grocery store and pass the brochures out to customers so that the community learns more about food safety issues! Students can check out any of these websites to learn more about food safety:

- ✓ [Food Safety.Gov](#)
- ✓ [Food Safety Home Page](#)
- ✓ [Center for Food Safety](#)

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

Did you know that more than 26 million people in the United States are of Hispanic origin? In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, why not get your students involved in a great cultural diversity project? In addition to having your World Cultures, Geography or Spanish students research cultural organizations in their community that have Hispanic roots, students might want to host a community event where food, dancing and art from Hispanic regions of the world are highlighted. For more information about Hispanic Heritage Month, visit any of these websites:

- ✓ [Hispanic Online](#)
- ✓ [The Azteca Web Page](#)
- ✓ [Alegria](#)
- ✓ [Border Cultures](#)

## Ethnic Foods Month

Foreign Language students have a great opportunity this month to learn more about the culture and cuisine of various

countries (France, Mexican, Spanish, Germany, etc.) and campaign against hunger all at the same time! In honor of Ethnic Foods Month, consider getting your students to plan and implement an Ethnic Food Festival in the community. Not only will they learn about the cuisine of the countries who language they are learning to speak, they can charge admission to the festival and donate all the profits to an anti-hunger organization in the community! For more ideas for Ethic Foods Month, visit any of these websites:

- ✓ [Ethnic Foods Quiz](#)
- ✓ [Ethnic and Regional Recipes](#)

## September 9:

### National Grandparent's Day

Not all students are fortunate enough to have grandparents and not all senior citizens are fortunate enough to have grandchildren to spend time with. In recognition of National Grandparents Day, consider having your classroom adopt some grandparents at a local nursing home. Or, have your computer science students set up a volunteer day at a local community technology center so that senior citizens can learn how to email their grandchildren. For more information on National Grandparents Day or other intergenerational service-learning tips, visit any of these websites:

- ✓ [National Grandparent's Day Website](#)
- ✓ [Generations Together Center for Intergenerational Learning](#)

## September 17<sup>th</sup>: Citizenship Day

Getting your students involved in community service activities can promote citizenship. Getting them involved in service-learning is an even better way to promote citizenship skills because students not only get to practice being good citizens, they also get to

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learn about citizenship. Visit any of these websites for tips and ideas about promoting Citizenship Day in your classroom:

- ✓ [Active Citizenship](#)
- ✓ [The Measuring Citizenship Project](#)
- ✓ [Center for Environmental Citizenship](#)

### September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Autumnal Equinox

The approach of Autumn can be a very exciting time, but for shut-ins and persons with disabilities, keeping up with Autumn chores such as raking leaves, cleaning gutters, putting in storm windows, etc. can be a real challenge. This year, as Autumn approaches, challenge your Family and Consumer Science or Vo-Tech students to think of ways that they can help those who need assistance with these seasonal chores. For tips and ideas for helping shut-ins, visit this websites:

- ✓ [Elders Without Walls](#)

### Library Card Sign-Up Month

Many local libraries are short staffed, so why not get your English students down to the local library to help register community members for library cards? Library cards are important because when someone has a library card, they just might read a good book! Library cards are also important for young children to have so that they can learn to read, and parents can spend quality time with their children reading books and learning! Visit any of these websites for information about literacy:

- ✓ [American Library Association](#)
- ✓ [National Literacy Resource List](#)
- ✓ [America Reads](#)

### National Honey Month

Did you know that without bees our environment would be in really sad shape? Bees act as environmental monitors and they play a critical role in creating healthy plant communities and gardens. About 30 percent of our diet is the direct result of a pollinating visit by a bee to a flowering fruit tree or vegetable plant. This month, in honor of National Honey Month, consider getting your students involved in an environmental service-learning project that promotes healthy habitats for bees! Visit any of these websites for information about bees:

- ✓ [Bee Alert](#)
- ✓ [Bees and Honey](#)
- ✓ [See the World through the Eyes of a Honey Bee](#)

### All-American Breakfast Month

Soup Kitchens and shelters do more than serve soup and bread for dinner to those who are hungry and/or homeless. Many shelters could use a hand serving breakfast, too! In recognition of September being All-American Breakfast Month, encourage your Family and Consumer Science or Life Skills students to develop a service-learning project at a local shelter! Visit any of these websites for information on connecting your students with homeless shelters:

- ✓ [United Way's Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#)
- ✓ [The National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- ✓ [Bethlehem Haven](#)
- ✓ [Helping Hand for the Homeless](#)

## Fall Training Events with the Staff of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

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Just as teachers and students are tackling new schedules that come with a new school year, the staff of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance are in the process of adjusting to a new school year, as well. Our Fall training schedule will be ready for posting in the October issue of the "Service-Learning Update." Be on the lookout for this training schedule and get your date books ready!

In the meantime, if you want to discuss service-learning with any of the PSLA staff members, feel free to give our offices a call:

Philadelphia: (215) 573-6535

Pittsburgh: (412) 648-1673