

Service-Learning Update

Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

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*"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."
Malcolm Forbes (1919 - 1990)*

www.pitt.edu/~psla

Earth Force Watershed Conference in Philadelphia

The Eighth Grade Friends' Central Earth Force Education Committee invites you to our watershed conference to address issues involving the Darby-Cobbs Creek watershed, water quality, invasive plants, pollution, drought, erosion and soil quality.

The conference will be held on Saturday May 18th from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. at the city avenue campus, 1101 City Line Avenue, Wynnewood, PA, 19096. There will be a continental breakfast provided from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.. Please Join the Green Team and Help Save Our Streams!

Please R.S.V.P by May 5th by contacting Lise Rahdert at (610) 952- 4311, or email her at LRahdert@friendscentral.org.

PSLA and PACE to Host Character Education/Service- Learning Institute in July!

*--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director*

The Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance and the Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education are teaming up to sponsor the Pennsylvania Character Education/Service-Learning Institute, July 9-11 in State College, PA. From where to start, to how to evaluate service-learning and character education programs, this conference will explore all aspects of implementing service-learning character education programs in the K-12 classroom. Teachers experienced with service-learning and character education will also have plenty of

opportunities to sharpen their skills and expand their current curriculum.

The institute will be an excellent opportunity for K-12 teachers to:

- **Learn** more about the many connections between service-learning and character education!
- **Earn** up to 17 Act 48 hours! For free!
- **Investigate** new teaching ideas for your classroom!
- **Develop** a plan for connecting your K-12 classroom with the community!
- **Learn** how service-learning can be utilized to meet academic standards!
- **Network** with K-12 teachers from across Pennsylvania to learn more about service-learning and character education!
- **Get involved** with some of the best educational programs offered in Pennsylvania!
- **Recognize** service-learning and character education as being ideal tools for urban education!
- **Discover** how service-learning and character education can promote tolerance!

There is no registration fee to attend this conference! Teachers are, however, responsible for lodging and evening meals while in State College. Register online today: www.pitt.edu/~psla

**Questions? Call Cathy at (412) 648-1404.
Want to present a workshop? Call Eric at (412) 648-1491.**

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Service-Learning Congressional Liaison Update

--by Nelda Brown
State Education Agency
K-12 Service-Learning Network

Over the next several weeks, Congress will reauthorize national service legislation. This is the process by which Congress reexamines a previous piece of legislation and establishes the funding level, administrative structure and program direction that legislation will follow upon renewal. In a related process called the appropriations process, Congress will decide the program's actual funding level. President Bush has announced his support for "promoting student service and effective service-learning," and has recommended new priorities and operational guidelines for Learn and Serve America. Under the President's plan, Learn and Serve America will remain flat-funded, but that same \$43 million will be spent somewhat differently from years past.

In congressional testimony, Les Lenkowsky, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, explained that the Administration is primarily interested in improving program quality and excellence. The President's objectives for Learn and Serve America are to increase opportunities for professional development and establish new performance measures for grantees, which would allow the Corporation to evaluate and terminate grants when necessary.

Within the next few weeks, under the leadership of Congressmen Peter Hoekstra of Michigan and Tim Roemer of Indiana, the House Subcommittee on Select Education is expected to submit a first draft of its bill to all members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. May 15 has been announced as a tentative date for the sub-committee meeting to review and deliberate on the first draft of the bill before it is submitted to the full committee the following week. The process will also move

quickly in the Senate and will be led by Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Judd Gregg of New Hampshire.

Service-learning advocates have been busy building awareness of and support for service-learning. The following is just a snapshot of the type of activities taking place:

The Service-Learning Presence on Capitol Hill: A grassroots network of service-learning congressional liaisons has grown to include nearly 100 participants over the past six weeks. As a direct result, new voices in the House joined long-time champions for service-learning Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Wellstone to voice support for service-learning during recent congressional hearings. Representative Susan Davis of California spoke out on behalf of service-learning, and Representative Tim Roemer of Indiana voiced support for raising the visibility of and restoring funding for Learn and Serve America in the most recent House hearings on national service. Congressional liaisons and other representatives of the National Service-Learning Partnership had recently contacted both. In addition, the Partnership's Advocacy Committee has received more inquiries from congressional staff members as a result of the faxes and calls from the field.

Several service-learning practitioners took the initiative to submit considerations, recommendations, and letters of support that were sent directly to the architects of The School Service Act of 2002, commonly known as "the Edwards bill." As a result of outreach and encouragement from ardent service-learning advocates from Maine, Representative Tom Allen recently signed on as a co-sponsor of the Civic Education Enhancement Act, legislation originally developed by Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota to dramatically expand resources for service-learning and civic education.

Mobilizing in Local Schools and Communities: The 14th Annual National Youth Service Day took place on April 26-28, 2002. National Youth Service Day

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celebrates the contributions that millions of young people make to their local schools and communities every day and was sponsored by NSLP member organizations Youth Service America and the National Youth Leadership Council, in partnership with Parade magazine. This year, President George W. Bush, and Mrs. Laura Bush, served as honorary chairpersons.

What You Can Do: You can build on the momentum of National Youth Service Day. Nothing is more persuasive than seeing service-learning in action. As many of you wind-down for the end of the school year, consider inviting legislators and public officials to participate in a service-learning class activity, celebration, or award ceremony. Congress will be in recess May 27- 31, 2002. Members of Congress will most likely be in their home states and jurisdictions, so start planning now.

Building Capacity at the State-Level: Whether you advocate to Congress, your state legislature, or local school board, the needs, strategy, and tactics are similar. The State and Local Policy Subcommittee is organizing to ensure states and local school districts are prepared to take full advantage of new Federal policy developments. The subcommittee will share successful strategies that demonstrate how Federal policy can be employed through state and local systems to develop state and district policies that encourage, support, and reward service-learning.

Service-Learning Tips and Ideas for Summer Service & Senior Projects

--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director

School doors will be closing soon for many students, but that doesn't mean that learning and servicing have to end! This summer, encourage the students in your classroom to actively get involved in service. By staying involved in service during the summer your students will develop more leadership,

communication and community building skills. So, when they return to the classroom in September, they will be ready to go with your school's service-learning initiatives.

Summer service activities are also a way to encourage students to address their required senior project. While many students are organized and already working on their senior project, many students are leaving school this June without a senior project topic or any idea how to get started. Encourage students who are lost in the senior project process to get involved with a community issue and address the issue for their senior project via service-learning over the summer. From actively researching an issue and taking steps to address the issue, students will be on the right track for school in the fall, and their senior project will be one less thing they have to worry about!

Here are some sites worth exploring with your students before school is over:

**United Way
of Southeastern Pennsylvania**
<http://home.uwsepa.org/index.asp>

Pittsburgh Cares
<http://www.pittsburghcares.org>

Philadelphia Cares
<http://www.philacares.com/>

United Way of Allegheny County
[http://www.uwac.org/uwac/index.jhtml;\\$sessid\\$PH5GCTV5MODAMCTEBAGB2RQ?requestid=4737](http://www.uwac.org/uwac/index.jhtml;$sessid$PH5GCTV5MODAMCTEBAGB2RQ?requestid=4737)

Global Links
[http://www.uwac.org/uwac/index.jhtml;\\$sessid\\$PH5GCTV5MODAMCTEBAGB2RQ?requestid=4737](http://www.uwac.org/uwac/index.jhtml;$sessid$PH5GCTV5MODAMCTEBAGB2RQ?requestid=4737)

Faith Tech
www.faithtechcenter.com

Friends of Philadelphia Parks
<http://www.philaparks.org/>

Habitat for Humanity
<http://www.habitat.org/>
**Three Rivers Center
for Independent Living**

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<http://trcil.org/>

UCP Pennsylvania

http://www.ucp.org/ucp_local.cfm/130

Homeless Outreach Program

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/4795/>

Bethlehem Haven

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

Celebrate the Service of a Student: Nominate someone today!

The President's Student Service Awards and Scholarships recognize young Americans for outstanding community service while encouraging more young people to serve. It is not too late to nominate one of your service-learning students for one of these awards! To learn more, visit this website:

www.student-service-awards.org

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

--by Cynthia Wetmiller,
PSLA Assistant Director

As always, there is lots of news to share—some good, some bad!

Pittsburgh's Moms Rank Among the Nation's Most Wired

<http://www.post-gazette.com/breaking/20020507momsnetp6.asp>

Service-Learning Connection: Computer Science students can tackle the gender digital divide via service-learning! A mother's day out program in the community would be a great place to start!

FBI Seeks Student in Pipe Bomb Case

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/US/05/07/mailbox.pipebombs/index.html>

Service-Learning Connection: Many kids download pipe bomb recipes off the Internet! Get your students actively educating the children in the community about online safety and violence prevention strategies!

Program helps immigrants learn English, adjust to culture

<http://fyi.cnn.com/2002/fyi/teachers.ednews/05/05/back.to.school.ap/index.html>

Service-Learning Connection: English classes—adopt some immigrants new to your community today!

Gratz Service-Learning

<http://www.philly.com/mlid/inquirer/news/local/3212756.htm>

Service-Learning Connection: Get involved with international service-learning projects in Foreign Language classes!

Summer Training with the Staff of the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance

The PSLA has a lot of great service-learning workshops planned for this summer! 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>

Summer Service-Learning Symposium Series #1

Monday, July 15th through
Friday, July 19th

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

15 Act 48 hours will be given to teachers who attend all five sessions!

Three symposia will be offered:

Symposium #1

Service-Learning 101:

An introduction to service-learning. From what service-learning is, to how it works in

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the classroom and community. This is the perfect seminar for teachers new to the methodology of service-learning! The PSLA's REACH Chart will be the foundation for this seminar.

Facilitator: Joe Greene, PSLA

Symposium #2

Curriculum Integration:

Connecting service-learning to the curriculum. This is one of the most important elements of service-learning. Teachers will be engaged in activities that help them learn how to connect service-learning to a variety of curricula and how to assess the service AND the learning!

Facilitator: Eric Hartman, PSLA

Symposium #3

Funding Service-Learning: How to Write a Grant and Where to Look for Money!

There are many funding sources for service-learning. Teachers will learn how to write an educational grant and develop a strategy for funding.

Facilitator: Cyndi Wetmiller, PSLA

Summer Service-Learning Symposium Series #2

Monday, July 29th through

Friday, August 2nd

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

15 Act 48 hours will be given to teachers who attend all five sessions!

Two symposia will be offered:

Symposium #1

Service-Learning and the IEP

Special Education teachers in Pennsylvania have been working with the PSLA for a number of years and great strides have been made to integrate service-learning into the IEP of students with disabilities. Special Education teachers will be introduced to the service-learning methodology and will explore how service-learning can meet IEP goals and objectives, as well as serve as an important strategy for inclusion.

Facilitator: Cyndi Wetmiller, PSLA

Symposium #2

Keeping in PACE with Service-Learning

Service-learning is a great activity to promote character development in the

classroom! The symposium, sponsored in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education, will introduce teachers to activities that can connect service-learning and character education.

Facilitator: Joe Greene, PSLA

Online registration for the Summer Service-Learning Symposium Series will be available after May 1st! If you don't have online capabilities, call Cathy at (412) 648-1440 to register!

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

www.pitt.edu/~psla

For information and details about PSLA workshops and training opportunities in Philadelphia, call Dr. Cynthia Belliveau at (215) 573-6535 or go online to <http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/EasternPennsylvania.html>

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:

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