National Recognition for North Carolina Campuses Engaged in their Communities

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Twenty-six North Carolina higher education institutions were named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in 2008. The Honor Roll was established in 2006 to recognize colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service.

“In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges,” said Nicole Goren, acting CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. “We salute these colleges and universities for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others.”

In each of the first 3 years of this recognition, North Carolina has had an institution identified in the “Presidential Awardees” category: Elon University in 2006, Johnson C. Smith University in 2007, and Duke University in 2008. The 2008 Honor Roll included these NC institutions:

- **Presidential Awardee:** Duke University
- **Honor Roll with Distinction:** Elon University, Guilford College, Johnson C. Smith University, Pfeiffer University, UNC Chapel Hill, Warren Wilson College, Western Carolina University
- **Honor Roll:** Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Campbell University, Catawba College, Central Piedmont Community College, Davidson College, Davidson County Community College, East Carolina University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Gardner-Webb University, Greensboro College, Halifax Community College, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Mount Olive College, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, Peace College, Roanoke Bible College, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, Wake Forest University, Western Piedmont Community College, Wingate University, Winston-Salem State University

The Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification

Thirteen North Carolina institutions, all members of NC Campus Compact, have been granted the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification. This elective classification was established in 2006 to recognize higher education institutions collaborating with their communities in an exchange of knowledge and resources. Elective classifications involve analysis of national data, data collection and documentation, with substantial effort invested by campuses.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced in December 2008 that 120 institutions received the Community Engagement Classification. The 13 North Carolina institutions so classified since 2006 are:

- Appalachian State, Duke University, East Carolina University, Elon University, NC Central University, NC State University, Pfeiffer University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, Western Carolina University

With 10 of North Carolina’s public universities deemed to be “community engaged,” NC’s state system exceeds peer systems across the country. “The fact that over half of North Carolina’s public universities have been nationally recognized for their commitment to working with communities sends a strong message for the future of our state,” said Leslie Boney, UNC Associate Vice President for Economic Development Research, Policy, and Planning.

One hundred four of the institutions that have received this classification are members of National Campus Compact. Maureen F. Curley, president of National Campus Compact, shared that, “Campus Compact is proud to be able to help members create partnerships and programs that have such a tremendous positive impact on the community. We’re pleased that this work is garnering the national recognition it deserves.”

NC Campus Compact’s website is a great resource regarding national legislation related to service. Check out the latest on the Edward M Kennedy Serve America Act at [http://org.elon.edu/nccc/resources/index.html](http://org.elon.edu/nccc/resources/index.html).

Dr. Patti Clayton of NC State University was one of 5 finalists for National Campus Compact’s Leadership Award for Campus and Community Engagement. This award honors the work of professionals who create high-quality initiatives, contribute to the development and sustainability of reciprocal partnerships, and foster a culture of engagement on campus. For ten years, Dr. Clayton served as the Director for the Service-Learning program. She was instrumental in creating NC State’s Center for Excellence in Curricular Engagement, now serving as Director.
North Carolina Campus Compact is a coalition of 42 college and university presidents collaborating to increase campus-wide participation in community and public service. Presidents commit their institutions to join with others in becoming “engaged campuses” that enhance a student’s sense of responsibility, citizenship, leadership and awareness of community, while reinvigorating higher education’s concern for improving the quality of life in North Carolina. NC Campus Compact is a member of Campus Compact, which has nearly 1,200 presidential members, and 35 state offices.

NC Campus Compact is grateful for the support of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement (P.A.C.E.) Conference

February 11, 2009, nearly 250 faculty, staff, students and community partners representing 36 colleges and universities in 5 states gathered at Elon University to consider best practices and theories associated with building community-campus partnerships. The annual NC Campus Compact conference, now in its 11th year, provides valuable information and skills participants can utilize in their work.

The 32 workshops explored aspects of effective civic engagement work including theory and research, program development and “how to” information. Workshops targeted all levels of knowledge and expertise, from novice to advanced practitioners.

Challenging attendees was keynote speaker, Jamie Merisotis, president of the Lumina Foundation for Education, the nation’s largest foundation focused on college access and success. Merisotis shared, “At Lumina, we believe higher education carries a fundamental power to change lives, drive the economy, and benefit society. Those are transcendent ideals, and they have compelled us to commit ourselves to an ambitious goal of 60 percent attainment of high-quality two- and four-year degrees among the U.S. population. Obviously, this is not a goal we can reach alone. We need your help and your commitment, and we need to work together.”

Pamela Kiser, professor of human services at Elon University, received NC Campus Compact’s 2009 Robert L. Sigmon Service-Learning Award at the conference lunch. Presented annually to a staff or faculty on a member campus, the award recognizes significant contributions toward furthering the practice of service-learning. Professor Kiser shared, “As educators we have a responsibility to prepare our students to tackle the difficult issues of their time. As part of this preparation, I consider it wise to provide our students with first-hand opportunities to grapple with the issues concretely as well as intellectually and to wrestle with their own understandings, values, and motivations related to pursuing ‘the common good.’” Bob Sigmon, a North Carolina native and national leader of service-learning and experiential education, was on hand to present the award named to recognize his contributions to the field.

Additional conference highlights can be viewed at www.nccampuscompact.org. Next year’s P.A.C.E. conference will be February 10 at Elon University.

2008 Student Conference: The Power is Yours!

NC Campus Compact’s 15th Student Conference was held at High Point University November 8, 2008, with over 250 attendees representing 34 campuses. Student leaders from across the state shared their civic engagement efforts with like-minded individuals from other campuses. The Conference included a student awards ceremony, guest speakers, panel discussions, and student-led workshops.

High Point University president, Dr. Nido Qubein, inspired each attendee to achieve personal success through service. The late State Senator Vern Malone presented 27 students NC Campus Compact’s Community Impact Student Award for significant, innovative contributions to campus-based efforts to address community needs. Recipients were also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Governor Michael Easley.

The 2009 Student Conference will be held November 7 at Western Carolina University. Friday arrivals will participate in a local service event.
AmeriCorps*VISTAs Mobilize Volunteers on North Carolina Campuses

NC Campus Compact has 26 AmeriCorps*VISTA serving 25 campuses in North Carolina. Throughout their year of service VISTAs support alternative break trips, advise student-led organizations, and create civic engagement programs. They include more students in volunteering, build partnerships with community agencies, and help campuses address local human needs. Since 2007, NC Campus Compact VISTAs have worked with the Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to ensure campuses have a plan in place to mobilize volunteers in case of a regional disaster.

According to Tierza Watts, Associate Director of the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service at NC State, “These talented young men and women have... strengthened our student leader and peer educator teams, helped us grow programs like the University’s Million Meals Event, and created educational tools for teaching social justice. We could not have grown in serving the way we have without their creativity and leadership.”

In 2007-2008, NC Campus Compact VISTAs equipped 6400 volunteers, supported 22,000 volunteers serving 412,209 hours, and generated over $170,000 in donations for local work.

E-news from NC Campus Compact:
To receive occasional email updates about civic engagement on higher education campuses, send name and email address to: nccc@elon.edu.

$1,216,000 Awarded for College Student Service

Since 2004, 1,216 North Carolina college students have each completed 300 hours of service in a total of 1,015 community sites in 73 counties. These students each earned a $1,000 education award, with a total of $1,216,000 distributed by CNCS. Called NC-ACTS! — North Carolina Activating Citizenship through Service — NC Campus Compact began the program in August 2004. Designed to engage individual students on member campuses in direct service to NC communities, 500 additional students are currently enrolled.

Students address the needs of underserved communities and populations by partnering with schools and community-based organizations. The $1,000 Education Award can be used for outstanding student loans or costs associated with college.

Grace Johnson, a senior at Wake Forest University, is the inaugural winner of the NC-ACTS! AmeriCorps Outstanding Service Award. Exemplifying student service through NC-ACTS!, Johnson is completing her service with Wake Forest’s Campus Kitchen, a food recycling program that takes campus unused food and makes nutritious meals for the community’s needy. As part of the Campus Kitchen leadership team, she trains new volunteers and helps to organize the annual Thanksgiving fundraiser. She worked on the Student Planning Committee for the National Campus Kitchens Project Conference helping students nationwide brainstorm ways to combat hunger. Johnson has also researched and advocated for starting a community garden that Campus Kitchen could use to help feed their clients.

Summer Associates to Promote First Generation Student Success

NC Campus Compact will place 18 Americorps*VISTA Summer Associates on five Triad campuses for 8 weeks this summer, thanks to federal stimulus funds. Campuses are recruiting first generation students who have completed at least their first year of college. These Summer Associates will receive a small stipend through the Corporation for National and Community Service for their fulltime service. They will work primarily with programs that help incoming first generation and minority college students lay a foundation for college success. Other work will be with programs that help first generation high school students gain access to college or develop skills of disadvantaged youth. They also will build partnerships with local community service agencies.

Summer Associates will participate in an eight week professional development program created by a team of NC Campus Compact staff and professors. The program will help them build on their first year of success in college, learn skills needed for their volunteer assignments, and develop a plan and strategies to help them enter the workforce after college. Summer Associates will be invited to serve in the fall as peer mentors for incoming first generation students. Both the professional development and peer mentoring curricula will be shared with all campuses.

NC Campus Compact’s Next Generation NC (NGNC) Task Force is also working to increase retention and graduation rates of undergraduates typically underrepresented on NC campuses by hosting an Institute for campus teams to review and assess current strategies; creating a resource that highlights campus best practices for student success; and reviewing how data could assist in promoting college student success.

Partnerships: A Journal of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement

A NEW peer-reviewed journal premiering May 2009 Learn how theories and practices can inform and improve partnerships, connections, and collaborations. Produced and published by a team of NC Campus Compact professors and AVAILABLE FULLY ONLINE. For more information, visit: www.partnershipsjournal.org.
NC Campus Compact Mini-Grants Empower 16,000 Volunteers Nationwide

Over 16,000 students, faculty, and staff representing 147 campuses in 29 states organized and implemented projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, January 19, 2009. NC Campus Compact, one of 7 lead agencies to receive grant funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service, helped facilitate the campus volunteerism through mini-grants and by providing the MLK Toolkit. The Toolkit introduces Appalachian State University’s MLK Challenge, a ten year tradition. A total of 24 North Carolina campuses mobilized 2,002 participants for the 2009 MLK Jr. Day of Service.

Volunteers from higher education institutions across the country spent the day honoring King though meaningful service. Students partnered with day laborers in beautification projects in Portland, OR, built a Habitat home with the governor in Williamsburg, VA, went clowning at a local hospital in Vermillion, SD, and hosted a read-a-thon in Greensboro, NC. In total, NC Campus Compact grantees hosted 755 service projects across the nation, partnering with 619 different community organizations.

A technology competition among campuses captured highlights across the country. Six finalists were chosen for public voting based on overall impact, originality, memorable content and a message acknowledging and honoring the principles of Dr. King. Bucknell University in Pennsylvania won the contest with a video documenting the university’s MLK Service Week, which involved 40 community partners and nearly 600 Bucknell volunteers and community members. To view finalists’ submissions, visit: http://org.elon.edu/nccc/MLKVoting.html.

380 students from Duke University and NC Central University celebrated the legacy of Dr. King by assembling over 75,000 meals to be sent to individuals suffering from severe hunger all over the world. The universities partnered with Stop Hunger Now, a relief organization based in Raleigh, NC.

For information about joining NC Campus Compact, go to: http://org.elon.edu/nccc/members/becomingaM.html

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