2012 Community Impact Student Award Winners

Appalachian State University - Ava Whitehead

Ava, now co-chair, has been an integral member of the impACT team for the past 3 years. She has served on many of ACT's big event committees including Don't Throw it Away/BIG Sale, MLK Challenge, and the Alternative Service Experience (ASE) Leadership Team. Ava recently assisted in the recruitment and selection of almost 60 Peer Leaders for the ASE program, helped to plan and facilitate their retreat, and is preparing to lead her own ASE to the Dominican Republic in January. She also has big plans for the Serve.Snap.Share photo contest that she has taken on as a leadership project this year. Ava is a senior from Cary, NC.

Central Piedmont Community College - Emily Kidd

Emily has served over eighty hours of service through the Service in Action program. She is very involved in student organizations and has been a part of Student Government, Go Global, Student Leadership Academy and Service Club. This year Emily is leading CPCC's Service Club as co-chair president. She is very passionate about working with others in the community and especially the environment. Through the work-study community service program, Emily works at the Carolina Raptor Center to conserve and rehabilitate different birds of prey. Emily is in her second year and is from Charlotte, NC.

Davidson College - Melodie “Mel” Mendez

Mel is a Bonner scholar who, early in her college career, began serving at the LEARNworks afterschool program and was quickly promoted to recreation supervisor. Passionate about youth and the environment and the rights of marginalized individuals, Mel has raised awareness of environmental justice and intimate partner violence and volunteered with Davidson Students Volunteering for Science. Last summer she travelled to Peru where she worked with Amigos de las Americas to improve sanitation and community health through youth education. She has integrated service into her various leadership roles as president of the Organization of Latin American Students, VP for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and ambassador for the Multicultural House. Melodie is a senior from Bronx, NY.

Elon University - Caroline Taylor

Caroline currently serves as president of Elon’s Habitat for Humanity chapter and director within Elon Volunteers!, a student-run organization that engages students in service through regular programs, one-time events, and alternative break service trips. As a director, she works specifically with students placed at local community organizations who serve as liaisons to Elon’s campus and capacity builders within those organizations. Caroline has effectively inspired student engagement, improved programs, and created new sustainable initiatives. She will graduate as a Civic Engagement Scholar—an honor students earn through completing coursework and working within the local community to address important social injustices. While actively addressing social issues locally, she also has engaged in global service through her experience abroad, where she addressed poverty and health issues. After
graduating, Caroline is hoping to serve abroad with the Peace Corps. Caroline is a senior from Lawrenceville, NJ.

**Fayetteville State University - Ebony Norris**

Ebony maintains a straight-A average while serving as one of the lead dancers for the Fayetteville State University Dance Ensemble and as an ensemble dancer with Koffee Dance Company out of Durham, NC. She volunteers as a dance teacher to children in an after school program and at two churches. She is also a popular tutor and mentor to other FSU students. When faculty members are looking for a responsible, capable student to represent FSU, Ebony is often called upon. Ebony is a junior from Fayetteville, NC.

**Lenoir-Rhyne University - Yanepsi Alvarado**

Yanepsi is president of the Spanish Club, member of Circle K (LRU’s Service Club), a Broyhill leader, and serves on a faculty, staff, student committee that is working on a grant through the Appalachian Colleges Association to give access, provide retention initiatives, and insure University completion for Latino students. She is an RA who won the *Most Caring RA* award as a sophomore. In addition, she is in the Delta Zeta sorority and through all her affiliations connects with community organizations that provide service throughout Catawba County. Yanepsi is a junior from Thomasville, NC.

**North Carolina Central University – Korey Mercer**

As a freshman, Korey became involved with the Soaring Service Leaders initiative which facilitates alternative break trips devoted to service-learning. Now president of the group, he has planned and participated in numerous service trips during his career at NCCU: to post-Katrina New Orleans; to Washington, DC, Baltimore, and New York to address hunger and homelessness; and to Capitol Hill to lobby the NC Congressional delegation against proposed cuts to Pell Grants and other aid for low-wealth students. He also organized “Weigh the Waste,” raising money and educating students about reducing food waste in dining halls. He is currently training students to continue leadership for the organization after his graduation. In September 2012, as a result of his four-year commitment to Soaring Service Leaders and his internship in the Office of Congressman David Price, Korey was selected to introduce Michelle Obama during her visit to NCCU. Korey is a senior from Durham, NC.

**NC State University – Britt Taylor**

Britt is committed to social change and serving others. After serving as team leader for an Alternative Service Break trip to Italy where members met with officials in United Nations agencies focused on world hunger policy and food insecurity issues, Britt brought this knowledge back to campus and has been involved in efforts to end world hunger. He is a Certified Hunger Event Facilitator (C.H.E.F.) through Stop Hunger Now and is in charge of meal packaging events and in training of volunteers. In addition to his work with hunger, Britt has been an intern in the Center for Leadership, Ethics and Public Service working with various service initiatives, a member of the Impact Leadership Village on campus, and
currently serves as president of Delta Upsilon International Fraternity. Britt is a senior from Matthews, NC.

**Pfeiffer University - Beth Kauffman**

As a Francis Scholar and Bonner AmeriCorps member, Beth has served at least 300 hours per year through Pfeiffer’s many programs for the benefit of communities throughout the world. In addition to participating in service trips to Cuba and South Korea through the United Methodist Church, she served as the Alternative Break Coordinator for the Francis Center for Servant Leadership since fall 2010, organizing at least three service trips per year. These service trips have allowed Pfeiffer students and staff to volunteer at nonprofits in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and South Carolina, benefiting not only those communities but Pfeiffer University as a whole. Beth is a senior from Noblesville, IN.

**Queens University of Charlotte - Julie Lang**

For the past two years Julie has volunteered two times a week as a lunch buddy and a mentor at Sedgefield Elementary School. Everyone at the school knows her name and she has made a significant impact on the lives of the students. Her passion for the youth at Sedgefield and her desire for every student to begin the year with new supplies, drove Julie to organize a school supply drive this summer collecting over 1000 new pencils, 200 notebooks and 200 glue sticks. Julie has also initiated a campaign, which includes writing letters to school administrators and meeting with student organizations, to encourage Queens to provide transportation to Sedgefield for students that cannot drive but want to volunteer. Julie is a sophomore from Davidson, NC.

**UNC Asheville - Macon Foscue**

Macon is a senior Interdisciplinary Studies major who developed his own course of study called Environmental Sustainability Community Consciousness. He has been an active leader on campus within the Key Center for Service-Learning & Community Citizenship. He founded ASHE (Active Students for a Healthy Environment), which has organized many campus events related to sustainability issues and also organized an alternative spring break trip focused on mountain-top removal. He was a leader in a social business project about food access for people living in low-income communities. Macon is a senior from Chapel Hill, NC.

**UNC-Greensboro - Frannie Williams**

Throughout her tenure at UNCG, Frannie has served as a role model of engagement both in and out of the classroom. As a first year student, she resided in Make A Difference House (MADH) – a service-themed living learning community. As a sophomore she served as the Peer Academic Leader for the Freshman Seminar course associated with MADH, assisting with the arrangement of the service-learning component of the course and leading reflections. As the Student Reflection Leader Coordinator in the Office of Leadership and Service-Learning for the past two years, Frannie has facilitated reflection training for over 100 students, allowing student-led reflection to take place in academic service-learning classes and during service trips. In addition to her ongoing direct service experiences, she serves as
mentor to a group of international students from China, working to engage the students in meaningful community service while in the U.S. Frannie is a senior from Concord, NC.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Camille McGirt

During the fall of 2010, Camille participated in The White House Internship: A Public Service Leadership Program within the Office of Presidential Personnel. Wanting to continue public service efforts and combine it with her love for preventive health education, during the summer of 2011 she established “Healthy Girls Save the World,” (HGSW) a program that promotes healthy lifestyles for girls ages 8-15 in North Carolina. HGSW provides free events for girls to learn about nutrition, physical activity, and positive relationships, and allows for participants to meet and engage in activity with collegiate athletes. Her program has grown into a national award winning organization reaching close to 100 girls in the community within just one year. Camille is a senior from Durham, NC.

University of North Carolina at Pembroke - Dalton Hoffer

Dalton is the Community Development Student Service Leader with the Office for Community and Civic Engagement and the Community Service chair for Greek Life. Dalton serves as a resource to engage students in initiatives and efforts that address social and educational disparities in the local community. He coordinated a Greek Day of Service, and co-coordinated campus-wide Days of Service and individual reading parties. Dalton connected over 120 college students with 230 elementary students in the public schools of Robeson County to provide over 300 hours of mentoring. He also networks with other student leaders to develop projects that address hunger and homelessness, teen outreach, and community partner development. Over the summer, Dalton conducted a community assessment that empowered UNCP to better serve the region and make the most meaningful impact to aid community capacity building. Dalton is a senior from Sneeds Ferry, NC.

University of North Carolina Wilmington - Kayla M. Churchill

Kayla has served as a program leader in the Center for Leadership Education and Service for two years, organizing and implementing the annual Angel Tree Christmas gift program, chairing the STOP HUNGER NOW program, and organizing students to volunteer at local senior centers and increasing participation in the programs. She is the Junior Class president, chair of the Student Affairs committee of the Student Government Association and a member of the Pre-Law Society. Kayla is a leader in her sorority, Alpha Phi, where she has organized service events for the members. Kayla is a junior from Emerald Island, NC.

Warren Wilson College - Blanca Perez

Blanca has taken multiple service-learning courses, engaged weekly with elementary school students in a school garden, and is currently co-leading a weekly mentoring program for Latino youth. Her leadership with WHOLA, a multicultural student group that seeks to promote cultural relativism by addressing the diversity of the Latino community at large, prompted her peers to report that she “defies the social constructs of what it means to be a Latina woman.” Additionally, Blanca spent her summer with South Central Farmers, a community garden that supports healthy and nutritious food availability
for those living in Los Angeles. Upon graduation, she aspires to return to her home neighborhood in LA to start a community resource center. Blanca is a junior from Los Angeles, CA.

**Western Carolina University - Kaleb Ticknor**

Kaleb has been instrumental to WCU’s voter registration, education, and engagement initiatives on campus. He is chairperson of the Voter Initiative on campus and has been the intermediary across the whole campus (College Democrats/Republicans, NCPIRG, Center for Service Learning, etc.). He is arranging for a Mock Debate between College Republicans/Democrats, and is planning on seeing all of this through by arranging (with his committee) for transportation of voters through early voting and Election Day. He is taking on the Chair position of Citizenship & Civility for the spring semester. Kaleb is a freshman from Fayetteville, NC.