



Service Learning Initiative

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OHIO STATE STUDENTS' SERVICE EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Ohio State University was recognized last week as an Honor Roll member with Distinction in the third annual President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Of the 83 institutions achieving this designation, Ohio State is the nation's largest in single-campus enrollment. Only four other Ohio schools were named to this list.

Highlights of community service provided by Ohio State University students:

- More than 12,500 Ohio State students engaged in 384,280 hours of service during the 2007-2008 academic year.
- One-third of these students committed at least 20 hours per semester to community service.
- Of these students, 2,328 were enrolled in service-learning courses.
- More than 40 percent of these students and 30 percent of the total hours were devoted to high school completion (dropout prevention) and college readiness support services for youth in disadvantaged circumstances, a special focus area of the Honor Roll.

"This high honor speaks volumes about the dedication of our students and faculty to scholarship and service," said Joyce Beatty, Ohio State Senior Vice President for Outreach and Engagement. "They embody the 'One University' ideal of collaboration and cooperation to improve peoples' lives both on and off campus. We will use this distinction as further motivation to expand the scope of our service-learning initiatives and extend Ohio State's reach as an educational, economic, and social partner in our communities and our world."

Ohio State's Honor Roll application, prepared on behalf of the university by the Service-Learning Initiative, demonstrates meaningful contributions to community service made by undergraduate and graduate students with the support of faculty and staff during the 2007-2008 academic year. Ohio State was also named to the Honor Roll in 2006 and to the Honor Roll with Distinction in 2007.

Brief summaries of exemplary projects follow. For more details, see Ohio State's Service-Learning Initiative website: <http://service-learning.osu.edu/spotlight.php>.



OHIO STATE NAMED TO HONOR ROLL, 2

The Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support innovative, effective, and exemplary community service programs. Criteria for selection include scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

The Honor Roll is jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, through its Learn and Serve America program, and the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, Campus Compact, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

General Community Service: Summary of Exemplary Projects

1. Pharmacy doctoral students partnered with urban and rural pharmacists to develop innovative patient-care programs focused on health literacy, healthy behaviors, and access to health care in the College of Pharmacy's Partner for Promotion project. More than half of the participating pharmacies continue to provide innovative patient care services using patient education materials and health screening strategies developed by the students.
2. Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity examined over 1,500 patients in Sebaco, Nicaragua, many of whom had never had eye examinations before. Optometry students solicited donations from Lions Clubs so they could provide free eyeglasses and sunglasses to these patients as well as medicine to treat eye conditions requiring more than glasses.
3. The Mount Leadership Society is a learning community of students committed to leadership and service who participate in community service projects. First-year Mount Scholars created their own projects. During Mount Legacy Week, they raised awareness of homelessness, made 300 sack lunches for a local church, promoted "No TV Week" and healthy alternatives to elementary school children, and hosted culture week at YMCA, "Read Your Way to Scarlet and Gray" week for elementary students and a plastic bag recycling competition on campus. Second-year Mount Scholars completed their "Year of Service" by volunteering at least 75 hours, partnering with 39 agencies/programs. Types of projects included creating a Girl Scout troop and serving as a troop leader for 9 girls who would benefit from extra involvement, tutoring adults seeking to gain their GED, coaching a team of Special Olympics athletes, organizing blood drives for the American Red Cross, and tutoring children at numerous after-school programs.
4. Undergraduate education majors in Lifespan Motor Development, a service-learning course, provided motor skill intervention twice weekly for preschool children with developmental delays. Students in this course also conducted physical fitness activities for older adults at a city recreation center. Students conducted studies of individual children or seniors and presented posters on their research. Results showed that preschool children in the programs significantly improved their gross motor skills and older adults improved their fitness.
5. The Ohio State University Kid Corps members are students who help at-risk preschoolers develop the skills needed for school success. In 2007-08, the students served 170 children from disadvantaged circumstances in 6 preschools, 5 Head Start centers, and a Columbus Early Learning Center. At outreach events they provided families with inexpensive strategies to engage their children in language and literacy activities at home. Through more than 20,000 hours of service, Corps members helped improve the children's scores on early literacy tests..

Special Focus Area: High School Completion (Dropout Prevention) and College Readiness Support Services for Youth in Disadvantaged Circumstances. Summary of Exemplary Projects

1. Through the Buckeye Mentoring Hub, 360 Ohio State students served as mentors and tutors for 233 children, the majority from disadvantaged circumstances, in 13 elementary, middle, and high schools and community sites. Some

worked with Spanish-speaking, Russian-speaking, or Somali immigrant children, helping ease their transition to a new country.

2. Ohio State students are ambassadors for the Marion campus' I CAN Center of Excellence, a college access program offered in a seven-county region. They visit classrooms to talk about college, read to elementary students from a book about college and careers, lead campus tours, assist with financial aid awareness and college planning, and participate in "Adopt A College Student," an activity in which elementary students learn about college life by writing to a college student. These activities show students who have no family members who attended college or are economically disadvantaged that higher education is necessary, desirable, and obtainable.
3. Blueprint: College is also aimed at getting low-income families to start thinking about college. Ohio State faculty, staff, and students worked with families of fourth- and fifth-grade students from Columbus City elementary schools to create "blueprint plans" to help set the right path toward academic and college success. While parents participated in workshops, Ohio State undergraduates directed "College Camp, leading the children in age-appropriate activities including role-playing, learning about careers, and designing study spaces. The college students served as role models and ambassadors for higher education for the younger students, answering their questions about what college life is like.
4. Two student service programs focused on Indianola Middle School, a University District public school in which 92% of students are economically disadvantaged. Adopt-A-School is an organization through which Ohio State student volunteers have tutored and mentored at Indianola since 1995. In 2007-08, University Honors and Scholars provided 150 tutors, who helped increase state test scores for Indianola students. The Student-Alumni Council conducted a college awareness program for the Indianola after-school program. Six members visited the middle school four times each quarter, working with 15-20 seventh-grade students on activities geared toward helping them stay in school, graduate, and attend college. The seventh-graders increased their learning motivation, confidence in their abilities, and awareness that college is possible.
5. The Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing's Outreach Program involves Ohio State students in projects designed to enhance literacy and writing. They provide after-school and in-school tutoring and preparation for district achievement tests for Columbus City Schools students in an elementary school, a middle school, and 10 high schools. In the Columbus Africentric Middle School, Ohio State students and staff helped young journalists write about their experiences and social change issues in an electronic newspaper. At Columbus Africentric Early College Elementary, Ohio State students worked with third through fifth graders after school to write and revise poetry, letters, fiction, and nonfiction. The students also supported adult literacy by helping clients of the Columbus Literacy Council enhance their language skills with a computer-training program. At the Godman Guild they helped GED instructors facilitate writing workshops designed to increase adults' confidence and proficiency with the essay portion of the GED test.

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