

2007 National Learn & Serve Challenge

By Paula Fortner, ICP Service Scholar

As schools across the country geared up for a new academic year, hundreds of students demonstrated a commitment to their communities through the National Learn & Serve Challenge during the week of September 17-23, 2007.

The National Learn & Serve Challenge was organized by the Corporation for National and Community Service, an organization where ICP director Susan Stroud served in a senior position and helped to implement the Learn & Serve America program. The Challenge was also supported by the National Service-Learning Partnership, Youth Service America, Camp Fire USA, and SEANet-the State Education Agency K-12 Service-Learning Network.



Students from John Dewy Learning Academy teach local elementary students about the importance of water in the environment.

The goals of the weeklong campaign were to increase public understanding of service-learning and the federal Learn & Serve America program, and also to inspire more communities to launch their own service-learning programs. Service-learning is a hands-on teaching method that engages young people in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of academic studies and other out-of-school time learning activities.

“As schools and communities around the country struggle to ensure student competitiveness in the marketplace, providing young people the opportunity to connect and apply what they learn in the classroom to real world

experiences has emerged as an effective teaching strategy that keeps young people engaged and excited about learning,” said Nelda Brown, executive director of the National Service-Learning Partnership. “We are proud to celebrate the work of thousands of teachers, youth workers, and

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Profile: Presidential Hopefuls' National Service Plans

By Alex Etra, ICP Service Scholar

With primaries just four months away, National Service (NS) is gaining traction as an important campaign issue among presidential hopefuls. Here are summaries of National Service schemes proposed thus far by some of the 2008 Democratic Presidential candidates.

Barack Obama: Despite playing up his being from a younger generation, Barack Obama has a relatively underdeveloped national service and youth service agenda. Obama has proposed the creation of a 5-E (Energy Efficiency, Environmental Education and Employment) Youth Service Corps to "directly engage disconnected and disadvantaged youth in energy efficiency and environmental service opportunities to strengthen their communities while also providing them with practical skills and experience in important career fields of expected high-growth employment." Obama has also introduced legislation to create a National Emergency Volunteer Corps of health professionals who are trained and ready to respond to disasters.

Christopher Dodd: Although he remains well behind the frontrunners, Chris Dodd has proposed one of the more ambitious, comprehensive and detailed National Service schemes. Dodd, who spent two years in the Peace Corps, wants to start a conversation about what he calls the "New American Patriotism." His plan calls for elevating the Corporation for National Service to cabinet-level status; expanding AmeriCorps from its current level of 70,000 corps members a year to 1 million (with the help of a bigger college-tuition grant) by 2016; doubling the size of the Peace Corps by 2011; establishing a "Rapid Response Reserve Corps" to work alongside first responders in a crisis; offering tax credits of up to \$1,000 per worker to employers who offer paid time off for community service; and giving seniors incentives to serve with \$1,000 grants they can

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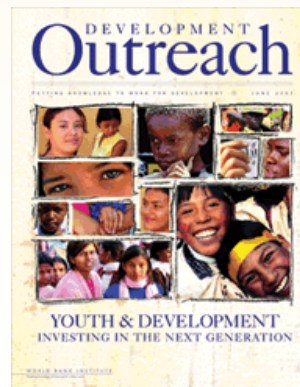
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ICP Featured in World Bank Institute's Development Outreach Magazine

ICP's work on engaging youth in service as an asset for development is featured in the current issue of *Development Outreach*. Authored by former ICP Projects Coordinator Charlotte McDowell, the article focuses on how youth service can strengthen democratic practices, increase employability, and contribute to post-conflict recovery.

Charlotte's article may be downloaded from the ICP website: <http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=9&gr=Y&path=&file=Development+Outreach+2007.pdf>

Development Outreach, a publication of the World Bank Institute, can be found online at: <http://www1.worldbank.org/devoutreach/>



Interested in learning more about the Talloires Network?



Visit the website:
<http://www.tufts.edu/talloiresnet/work/>

E-mail the Talloires Network Coordinator, Elizabeth Babcock:
babcock@icicp.org

Presidential Service Proposals

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use for their own continuing education or that of a child or grandchild.

John Edwards: The Edwards campaign has yet to advance any concrete proposals for a National Service scheme. In May Edwards's statements caused some confusion about his position on the issue. While talking about the need to speak out about the war in Iraq (on Memorial Day) he said "One of the things we ought to be thinking about is some level of mandatory service to our country, so that everybody in America—not just the poor kids who get sent to war—are serving this country," he said, "We have people from all walks of life in America who are serving, including Reservists and National Guard," he said. "What we want to do is to have all Americans to have a chance to serve their country." Later Edwards's wife Elizabeth tried to clarify his position, "John is not in favor of a military draft. Never has been. When he was in the Senate and in the 2004 campaign, he proposed a national community service program for high school students, modeled on the program at the public school our older children attended. The habit of public service is one that we want to encourage."

Learn about the other candidates at:
<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=articles&idx=More&topics=379&article=832>

Stay up-to-date on candidates' service proposals with *Service News Worldwide!* The November issue will feature candidates from the Republican Party.

Talloires Network Update

Building a Global Movement: Universities and Civic Engagement

By Elizabeth Babcock, Talloires Network Coordinator

There is a growing movement across the world to engage universities in civic and social work and to teach students to also be responsible citizens. There are outstanding examples of this work being done every day. In Tanzania, the [University of Dar es Salaam](#) runs a program called TUSEME, a Swahili expression which means "let us speak out," aimed at empowering girls to overcome their inhibitions and voice their concerns in public. Girls work with university students in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, learning the skills necessary to clearly and powerfully express their views in any forum.

At Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, [the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service](#) works to educate active citizens, instilling these values in students across campus. Students learn that their own academic work and service activities do not exist in separate spheres and that they have the power to impact society as a whole. Ifeyinwa Mora ('04) noted: "Through my work as a University College Scholar, I began to understand that all children's issues are interconnected in the larger societal context."

These universities and 34 others make up the current membership of The Talloires Network, which seeks to unite universities across the globe to tackle civic issues and create new opportunities for change. The Network understands that now is key moment in history for higher education, as the worldwide student population will double to 200 million by 2030. The impact of universities is also expanding, as greater public demands for civic engagement bring down the walls of the ivory tower. Universities today are more open than ever and increasing global cooperation can amplify the impact of this change.

The Talloires Network seeks to amplify this change. The Network was born out of a conference convened in September of 2005 by Tufts University President Lawrence Bacow. Tufts University's European Center in Talloires, France served as the host to 29 university presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors from 23 countries. They gathered for the first international meeting of heads of higher education institutions devoted to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.

Since 2005 the Talloires Network has continued to grow and invites new membership at any time. The members of the network agree to promote the civic roles and social responsibilities of their institutions as well as to deepen engagement with local and global communities. Members take part in individual and shared activities and come together at regional meetings to highlight their work and exchange best practices.

Recently, the Talloires Network organized a one day meeting in anticipation of the 10th annual International Service Learning Conference in Buenos Aires August 30th and 31st. Co-organized by the Talloires Network, CLAYSS (Latin American Center for Service Learning) and the University of Buenos Aires, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how a global network such as Talloires might work with and support local, regional and national networks. The meeting was very well attended, with over 30 participants from across South America, Mexico, Spain, the U.S. and the U.K. Dean Robert Hollister of the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University presented on the history and vision of the Talloires Network. He also proposed coordinated and sustained efforts to work with existing networks engaged in civic work within universities. This approach enables the Talloires Network to offer more context-driven support and make it more accessible to larger numbers of institutions. University representatives enthusiastically supported his proposal and many expressed hope that their institutions would join the movement.

To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=Talloires.pdf>



Participants from the 10th annual International Service Learning Conference

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other community leaders who are on the front lines of preparing young people for success academically, socially, and in the world of work through service-learning.”

Throughout this week, hundreds of local and regional service-learning public awareness events and activities took place. There were also signature events that highlighted the powerful impact of service-learning in the lives of young people and their communities, including:

- **September 14–18; Northridge, CA**—California State University Northridge student mentors engaged 50 youth in the MOSAIC BioMotors Dirty Diesel project by explaining through presentation and release of their informational DVD how they were able to get their diesel powered school bus converted to run on waste vegetable oil (WVO).
- **September 18; Washington, DC**—In an effort to give a face to the homeless population of DC, students of the Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) prepared a dinner and ate with members of this marginalized community.

September 18 & 27, Lecompton, KS—On September 27, John Dewey Learning Academy in Lecompton, Kansas kicked off a school-wide year-long activity of water testing with their Second Annual Water Festival. Students organized and hosted this event in an effort to teach younger students about the importance of water in our world.

To learn more about these programs and others, find links to videos from youth taking part in events, and further information about the annual Learn & Serve challenge, please read the full article at:

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=Learn+ + Serve+Challenge.pdf>

Resources

Serving America: A National Service Agenda for the Next Decade

Released on September 18 by the Center for American Progress, Shirley Sagawa’s report presents programs that work, the benefits of national service programs, and recommendations to maximize the impact of these programs. The full report can be downloaded here:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/09/pdf/national_service.pdf

Indifferent or Just Different? The Political and Civic Engagement of Young People in Canada

This report reviews the literature addressing youth political and civic engagement in Canada, synthesizes the state of existing knowledge and identifies research gaps and priorities. It also includes policy recommendations for increasing youth engagement. To learn more or download the report, visit

<http://www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=1751&l=en>

Southern Growth Policies Board Seeking Nominations for 2008 Inno- vator Awards

This awards honor unique programs that target youth ages 14-24 and encourage volunteerism and community service, involve youth in meaningful decision-making roles, increase youth participation in the political process, serve non-traditional populations, and promote youth entrepreneurship. To learn more, visit <http://www.southern.org>

State Farm Service-Learning Grants Deadline Approaching

With the generous support of the State Farm Companies Foundation, Youth Service America is offering grants of up to \$1000 to support youth (ages 5-25), teachers, or school-based service-learning coordinators in implementing service-learning projects for Global Youth Service Day 2008. To learn more, download an application and grant guidelines at

<http://www.YSA.org/awards>

Upcoming Events

League of Arab States Youth Forum: November 19-22, 2007; Ein Soukhna, Egypt. For more information please visit <http://www.lasyouthforum.org/en/index.php>.

Youth Service Institute: "Surfing the Wave of Change": hosted by Youth Service America in San Diego. December 12-14, 2007. <http://ysa.org/institute>

19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference: Youth for a Change. April 9-12, 2008; Minneapolis, MN. <https://programs.regweb.com/met/ro/NYLC2008/index.cfm>

6th Annual Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning: Nashville, TN, March 13-15, 2008. <http://campus.belmont.edu/gss2008/speakers/index.htm>

Global Youth Service Day: events take place around the world, April 25-27, 2008. <http://www.YSA.org/NYSD>

19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference Awards Nominations

Do you know someone who should be honored for their outstanding work in Service-Learning? The National Service Learning Conference will present awards to deserving youth and adults on April 11, 2008. Nomination forms can be found on ICP’s website at:

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=articles&idx=articles&topics=355>



ICP News and Happenings

ICP welcomes 2007 Fall Interns!

ICP welcomes Allison Bukowski and Arfa Alam as 2007 Fall Interns!

Allison is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she received a bachelor's degree with Distinction in Political Science with a minor in African studies. While attending UM, she mentored and tutored elementary school children in Detroit and volunteered at the Ann Arbor-area hospice, and continues to be a hospice volunteer in DC. Allison intends to pursue a graduate degree in African studies and is interested in a career in political

development and conflict resolution/post-conflict reconstruction in sub-Saharan Africa.

Arfa is currently attending Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, where she is working on her Master's of Public Policy, concentrating on International Policy and Development. She is a 2007 graduate of the University of Florida. She majored in political science, graduating summa cum laude. While at Florida, she was active with Impact UF, IDEAL, and the Pakistani Student Association, and served as the co-director of the Gator Institute of Leadership Development. She has also spent time volunteering in Pakistan.

Service News Headlines

New Magazine Launched by International Youth Foundation

YOUth, the International Youth Foundation's new flagship magazine, offers interviews, personal stories, and essays focused on youth development around the world. Published by IYF twice a year, the magazine seeks to celebrate the power and promise of young people to change the world, while incorporating the varied voices and perspectives from those in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. To read the premier issue, visit:

<http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/31/286>

Vocational Training and Jobs for Former Malaysia National Service volunteers

National Service trainees who are unable to further their studies or gain employment now have an opportunity to study without paying any tuition fees. The NS Training Department, together with the Skills Development Department, has hooked up with MEA Technology Centre to allow the youths to take up vocational training in the industrial sector. To read more:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/9/30/nation/20070930194941&sec=nation>

Partnership agreement promotes National Volunteerism Scheme in Burkina Faso

United Nations Volunteers and the French Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès (AFVP) have signed a partnership agreement on promoting the new National Volunteerism Scheme in Burkina Faso. AFVP and UNV volunteers will work together to set up facilities in three Regional Volunteer Centres for rostering and managing national volunteers called to boost the spirit of volunteerism for development. Read the full announcement (in French only) here:

<http://www.unv.org/fr/actualites/actualites/doc/convention-de-partenariat-entre.html>

Representative DeLauro Urges Renewed Commitment to National Service

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), House sponsor of the Summer of Service legislation, wrote in support of strengthening and renewing Congressional support for national service programs. Published in *The Hill*, the daily Congressional newspaper, Rep. DeLauro's article can be found here:

<http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/students-benefit-a-lot-by-doing-community-service-2007-09-18.html>

IANYS News and Updates Submissions

Are you an member of IANYS? Share you stories with other IANYS members and *Service News Worldwide* readers! Please submit content to Robin Taylor at taylor@icicp.org.

Service News Worldwide is produced by Innovations in Civic Participation. This monthly newsletter is intended to be a resource for current news and events related to service, country information, relevant publications and internet resources, in addition to in-depth discussions of different types of service and the issues that accompany them.

Comments and/or suggestions are welcomed, and we strongly encourage contributions for future issues.

Please direct enquiries to info@icicp.org