

Service-Learning in Teacher Education : Report from The First International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education

By Marisa Bier

The First International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education was held in Brussels, Belgium, July 5-7, 2007. Participants from 6 continents and over 50 countries gathered to participate in *Conversations that Matter*, a series of workshops focusing on service-learning work in teacher education across the world. A session entitled "Citizenship With a Global Perspective: Lessons From the Field and Implications for Teacher Education" was facilitated by Terry Pickeral, Susan Stroud, Patricia Wasley, Marisa Bier, and Zoi Microulis*.

The session focused on the struggles educators face in developing and implementing effective pedagogy, curriculum, assessments and collaborations to teach civic literacy. The session aimed to advance discussion to another level by introducing civic literacy with a global perspective. Presenters shared their research, conceptual frameworks, insights and information identifying the knowledge, skills and dispositions teachers need to effectively teach citizenship with a global perspective, focusing on the role of teacher education programs, policies and practices.

The conversation began with a description of the Teacher Education Program at the University of Washington and the initiatives that are being undertaken in order to make the work of teacher education more visible and valuable to P-12 schools. The goal was to address the following:

- How does teacher education take on a service learning function?
- How does it contribute to teacher educators' and teachers' civic competencies?
- How is UW COE coordinating experiences that support diverse curricula of school and teacher education for future teacher educators?

New activities and roles were created to essentially redesign teacher education in order to make

Continued on page 2

Why Canada Needs a National Youth Service Policy! Editorial

By Jean-Guy Bigeau, Executive Director, Katimavik

Intentional or otherwise, governments define the public values of their nation through the policies they champion as well as those they chose to ignore. Through this lens then, what can be said about the importance (or lack thereof) that we as a nation place on preparing our youth to take their rightful place as our leaders of tomorrow? Not as much as we should, I believe. Toward this end, a logical starting place would surely be to ask what values we, as a nation-state, seek to promote or instil in our future generations that will contribute positively to the difficult business of nation building. Surely among the leading candidates for attention here is a culture of volunteer service; an understanding that along with the privileges and benefits of belonging to Canada, is the responsibility (and privilege) of contributing to the betterment of our country. A national youth service corps, offering young Canadians a structured learning opportunity, in which they contribute to communities through volunteer service in the fields of the environment, education, child and elder care, and recreation, to name a few, could serve as the principle vehicle to accomplish this.

National youth service as a concept is nothing new. As far back as 1947, no less a luminary as Mahatma Gandhi urged his country to "form a service army to undertake a thirteen-

Continued on page 3

INSIDE . . .

IANYS News and Updates	2
Resources	3
Upcoming Events	3
ICP News and Happenings	4
Service News Headlines	4

ICP Announces Winners of Innovations in International Youth Volunteering

As part of the Innovations in International Youth Volunteering research project, ICP, in partnership with v, is please to announce that following programs have been selected as award winners:

1st:
School Girls Unite
(United States & Mali)

2nd:
ManaTEENS
(United States)

3rd (tie):
*Unis-Cite &
Campo Amigo Ecuador*
(France & Ecuador)

Honorary Mention:
Young Philanthropists
(Kenya)

Canada

Continued from page 1

fold constructive program to bring literacy, healthcare, schools and agriculture cooperation and decency to every village in India.”(1) In 1965, then U.N. Secretary General U Thant weighed in with the declaration, “I am looking forward to the day when the average youngster [...] will consider that one or two years of work for the cause of development either in a faraway country or [...] his own community is a normal part of one’s education.”(2) These world figures and others recognized the reciprocal nature of volunteer service, that is the server often benefits as much if not more than those served. In fact today, over 65 countries have a legislated national youth policy.

Closer to home, there are no shortages of models to be found in our own backyard. For nearly 30 years now, Katimavik, Canada’s internationally celebrated national youth service program, has facilitated the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood for over 27,000 young Canadians who serve as volunteers with grass roots organizations in hundreds of communities from coast to coast. Additional benefits of this program include the unifying effect that accrues from living and working shoulder to shoulder with fellow Canadians from all provinces and territories, not to mention the understanding and tolerance that results from exposure to three different regions of the country throughout the course of the nine-month program. Other organizations provide a similar outlet with an international focus. However, in the absence of a supporting policy structure, these well-intentioned organizations represent a fragmented and therefore somewhat ineffectual approach to a worthy cause that deserves better. In fact, they exist at the whim of the government of the day, having to devote too much of their limited resources to securing their funding and ensuring their own survival.

A strong national youth service policy would produce visible evidence of the federal government’s commitment to ensure that this vital segment of our population is integrated into the socio-economic life of our society. By engaging Canadian youth in national service, we would promote active citizenship while at the same time helping to strengthen the capacity of volunteer-based community organizations.

To read continue reading Mr. Bigeau’s editorial, please click

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&id=4&gr=N&path=&file=National+Youth+Service+policy.pdf>

Service-Learning

Continued from page 1

the school community the site for civic engagement. Participants described the steps UW is taking to bring the Teacher Education Program into the schools. This includes offering Methods courses in the field where teacher candidates observe classroom practices and debrief with teachers, hosting “Studio Days” in the schools that involve conversations around student work, and placing graduate students as liaisons in partner schools to facilitate inquiry projects and share resources.



Picturesque Brussels hosted the International Conference

The rationale for this work is that it lends itself to developing a better understanding of school communities in which we prepare teachers. By participating in the schools, we are developing a sense of the work future teachers will need to be able to know and do, specifically as it relates to schools that serve students with the greatest needs. The activities and roles described are designed to address these challenges and bridge two cultures in order to learn from each other and collaboratively tackle critical issues in the educational community. What we know about student teachers is what they are learning at UW; what we need to know better is how school communities operate. Then we can seek to create better educational systems that support democracy. As we work together, we are addressing inequities in the school system and creating opportunities for civic engagement for practicing teachers, future teachers, and teacher educators. Just as service-learning with students means

Youth Service in Canada

To learn more about youth service in Canada, visit ICP’s Canada page at

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=articles&topics=40>

. You’ll find reference links, articles from past issues of *Service News Worldwide*, and other information.

IANYS News and Updates Submissions

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

Continued from page 2

coordinating carefully organized service experiences with the academic curriculum, through the initiative described, the UW program is enhancing what is taught in courses by extending learning beyond the college and helping teacher candidates make the connections between what they are studying in class and real-world teaching, while also engaging all in action and reflection.

Pickeral moved the conversation toward a discussion of global perspective by discussing the sustainability of service-learning work and the transition from teaching subjects to teaching kids. He portrayed UW's work as a vision for the future of teacher education, with well-planned strategies that involve Teacher Education Programs and Public Schools engaging in critical conversations that matter. The ideas of trust, tradition, and territory were reinforced in that two different cultures are coming together with a common goal and the activities described serve to build a foundation for the important work of preparing students for global citizenship.

*Terry Pickeral, National Center for Learning and Citizenship; Susan Stroud, Innovations in Civic Participation; Dean Patricia Wasley, Marisa Bier, and Zoi Microulis, University of Washington.

This article can also be found at:

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=MarissaBier-Brussels+Conference+Article.pdf>

Resources

AVSO Releases Report on Volunteering in Europe

AVSO, in cooperation with Members of European Parliament, hosted a conference on volunteering in Europe. Taking place in Brussels, the aim of the conference was two-fold: to present the latest research on volunteering and voluntary work; and to hear from policy makers on how research results could be used to formulate policy. The conference report can be downloaded from [AVSO](#).

Grants for MLK Day of Service projects are available

Deadline: Friday, August 31, 2007, 5:00 p.m. EST. The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network, through the generous support of the Corporation for National and Community Service, is pleased to offer Building the Beloved Community Grants so that we can continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 21, 2008. Award amounts will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. [Points of Light](#) has further information:

New Research on School-Based Mentoring Just Released

Public/Private Ventures has just released the long awaited school-based mentoring impact study. This new study is a must read for any school-based mentoring program, school partners, and others involved in mentoring. "Making a Difference in Schools: The Big Brothers Big Sisters School-Based Mentoring Impact Study" can be [downloaded](#).

"Growing Up Urban" Report Released by the UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund recently released a report titled "Growing up Urban" that calls attention to the upcoming largest wave of urbanization. As the report outlines, the projected unprecedented urban growth in developing countries presents an opportunity to enhance development and promote sustainability or an opportunity to deepen poverty and accelerate environmental degradation. The report was launched together with UNFPA's State of World Population Report in 120 cities around the world, where young people participated in the launch of the report. To learn more, visit the [UNFPA](#).

Upcoming Events

TUNZA International Youth Conference: August 26-30, 2007; Liverkusen, Germany. For more information please click [here](#).

X International Service-Learning Conference: August 30-31, 2007; Buenos Aires, Argentina. For more information please visit <http://www.clayss.org>.

The Working Group on National and Community Service: The Role of Service Projects in Positive Youth Development. August 30, 2007, 10:00 - 12:00. Location TBA, in downtown Washington D.C. Contact Beck Hauss at Rebecccasa@gmail.com.

The National Learn and Serve Challenge: Be a Solution: Sept. 17-23, 2007. For more information please click <http://www.service-learningpartner-ship.org/lchallenge>.

Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change: September 24-26, 2007; Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, please visit www.un-gaid.org.

International Symposium: Youth Participation and Empowerment - Getting Beyond the Rhetoric and Slogans: October 29th-November 2nd, 2007; Goa, India. For more information please visit <http://www.bankofideas.com.au/Goa/>

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

ICP News and Happenings

ICP welcomes three new staff members!

Charmagne Campbell-Patton joins as Program Associate. She has spent time in Africa working on peacebuilding and development programs. Charmagne oversees the planning and implementation of a wide range of activities related to youth service, including helping to design effective policies and programs and expanding the global service network.

Also joining ICP is Elizabeth Babcock as the Talloires Network Coordinator. Elizabeth will provide support to member universities and the governing body of the network through

regular outreach, information-sharing and strategic planning. Elizabeth was previously the Executive Director of the Civic Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago before joining the ICP team.

Robin Taylor returns to ICP after interning during the 2006-2007 academic year. As office manager, she serves as the main contact for ICP, as well as manages *Service News Worldwide* and the ICP website. Her research has focused on youth service programs in post-conflict settings around the world, with an emphasis on Northern Ireland.

Service News Headlines

Student volunteerism on the rise in Singapore

Volunteering for good causes or social activities is rising among students, according to the Community Development, Youth and Sports Minister at a student forum. A survey five years ago by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre put the national volunteering percentage at 14.9% - up from 9.3% two years earlier. The full article can be read at:

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/news-views/news/doc/student-volunteerism-on-the.html>

Student volunteerism on the rise in Singapore

Volunteering for good causes or social activities is rising among students, according to the Community Development, Youth and Sports Minister at a student forum. A survey five years ago by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre put the national volunteering percentage at 14.9% - up from 9.3% two years earlier. The full article can be read at:

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/news-views/news/doc/student-volunteerism-on-the.html>

UK leader puts volunteerism 'at the heart' of his vision for Britain

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown outlined a number of initiatives to encourage and support small community groups and charities, including giving £117m over three years to fund volunteering placements for young people - what he called a "national youth community service for Britain" - together with £80m of grants, and £50m of endowments made over to "local foundations" which would generate income for local bodies.

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/news-views/news/doc/uk-leader-puts-volunteerism.html>

UK leader puts volunteerism 'at the heart' of his vision for Britain

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown outlined a number of initiatives to encourage and support small community groups and charities, including giving £117m over three years to fund volunteering placements for young people - what he called a "national youth community service for Britain" - together with £80m of grants, and £50m of endowments made over to "local foundations" which would generate income for local bodies.

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/news-views/news/doc/uk-leader-puts-volunteerism.html>

The US Public Service Academy Featured in The *Washington Post*

The US Public Service Academy, currently under consideration in

The US Public Service Academy Featured in The *Washington Post*

The US Public Service Academy, currently under consideration in Congress, was

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