

Exchange E-News from the Atlantic Region

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1. Greetings From The Atlantic Center

Exchange Atlantic Region Has New Program Manager

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Kathia Monard-Weissman. I serve as Program Manager for the Atlantic Service-Learning Exchange located at the Institute for Global Education and Service-Learning in Levittown, PA. I am very excited to join the Service-Learning Exchange and to be able to assist you in your service-learning endeavors. I bring to this organization 10 years of experience in service-learning. I have directed international service-learning exchanges and have researched the impact of these programs on students, administrators and community members.

If you have questions or need a Peer Mentor to help you, please do not hesitate to contact me at atlantic_exchange@comcast.net or at our toll free number: 1-877-572-3924.

Also, if you would like to share your service-learning news with other peers in the region please email us at the above address. We will regularly be distributing an e-newsletter to keep you informed about service-learning activities, conferences, available resources, and programs, both locally and nationally.

We would also like to invite you to visit our new website at <http://www.igesl.org>. Here, you can find information about our programs, links to other service-learning websites, and on-line resources you might find helpful.

Looking forward to working with you,

Sincerely,

Kathia Monard-Weissman, Ph.D.

2. National Service Learning Conference **By Joan Liptrot, Atlantic Regional Center Director**

The cold midwestern winter was a distant memory as over 2200 service learning professionals and youth gathered in Minneapolis Minnesota for the 14th Annual National Service Learning Conference. Featured speakers included Juan Williams from NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and writer, teacher and activist, Parker Palmer.

Exchange staff from the regional and national centers were quite busy as we hosted a number of events throughout the conference. On Wednesday evening immediately following the opening ceremonies everyone was invited to attend a Regional Networking session hosted by the Exchange. Forty service-learning practitioners from the Atlantic region met to renew old friendships as well as meet some first timers to the service learning conference. During that session four new Peer mentors were recruited. A new feature for this year's conference was an opportunity for those involved in service-learning for several years to meet with others and examine questions necessary to take us to the next level in service-learning practice. These "Advanced Track" participants met on Wednesday evening following the Regional network session and again for final reflections on Friday afternoon. Kate McPherson from the Pacific Region led 45 of her peers from across the country in this timely and engaging discussion.

Throughout the conference the Exchange hosted a number of ongoing events including an Exchange Information Booth that provided details about Exchange services as well as bottled water for weary conference goers. Just behind the Exchange information booth, we were happy to once again provide "The Consultant Is In" - a place to sit down and talk one-on-one with an experienced practitioner. This year's Exchange volunteer Consultants provide assistance to 13 people looking for answers to their service-learning questions.

The Exchange also hosted a series of conference sessions designed specifically for those new to the field. The "Rookie Track" consisted of seven sessions including; *Introduction to Service-Learning, Learning About Your Community; Needs, Assets, and Partners, Making the Curricular Connection, Using Multiple Intelligences to Ignite Reflection, Assessing, Evaluating, and Celebrating-All in One!, Youth Voice: An Essential Element*

of Service-Learning, and Getting Started and Keeping It Going. For more information on these topics and more contact us at the Atlantic Regional Center.

3. Update your Peer Mentor Profile!

Whether you just verify your contact information or update your areas of expertise we ask that everyone visit the Academy section of the Exchange website to be sure your information is up to date and accurate. If you will not have access to your school or organization e-mail or regular mail throughout the summer we ask that you supply "summer contact info", you never know when we'll have some breaking news or important information to share!

Also, you can visit our website at <http://www.igesl.org/NSLE.htm> for directions on how to create a Service/Event Log.

4. State Farm Launches National Ad Campaign for Service-Learning

The largest promotional campaign for service-learning in history, made possible by the State Farm Insurance Companies, will reach more than 100 million magazine and newspaper readers around the nation over the next six months.

The campaign, which began March 30, 2003 in Parade Magazine, will continue through September in more than 17 other weekly and monthly magazines. State Farm will run advertisements and "advertorials" extolling the benefits of service-learning. A wide range of publications will carry these ads, such as: American Enterprise, American Teacher, Better Homes & Garden, National Geographic, NEA Today, Newsweek, Parenting, People, Time, U.S. News & World Report, and more.

"Service-learning is an educational approach that fits well with State Farm," said Maggie Bullard, Public Affairs. "Our agents' and employees' involvement in the communities where we live and work makes service-learning a perfect extension of State Farm's belief that strong communities begin with strong schools and a community investment in the lives and futures of our young people."

Learn more about State Farm's philanthropic commitments to education on their web site at <http://www.statefarm.com/edexcell/edexcell.htm>

5. Mini-Grants for K-12 Service-Learning (Oct 17)

Each year, thanks to a generous grant from The Maurice R. Robinson Fund, Constitutional Rights Foundation awards mini-grants of up to \$600 for K-12 service-learning projects designed to address community issues.

CRF's Robinson Mini-Grant Program honors the late Maurice R. ("Robbie") Robinson, founder of Scholastic, Inc., champion of innovative education, and longtime supporter of effective citizenship education.

The deadline for this year's grant application is October 17, 2003.

Please visit the link below to view a list of last year's winners and to download the 2003 guidelines and application form: http://www.crf-usa.org/network/crf_robin.html

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6. Are you an advocate for service-learning? Have you joined the National Service-Learning Partnership?

The National Service-Learning Partnership (NSLP), created through the Learning In Deed initiative, is the only national membership organization bringing together practitioners, administrators, policy-makers, researchers, community leaders, parents and young people to support K-12 service-learning. The Partnership serves as a national leadership hub for more than 2000 individuals and organizations committed to raising the visibility and enhancing the quality of service-learning in schools and communities across the country. The NSLP offers a variety of information services and educational opportunities to keep members connected to the latest ideas and developments in the field. They help this diverse group learn from each other, and acquire the skills and resources they need to become effective service-learning advocates. They also work with educators, youth development specialists, government officials and funders to help them understand the value of high-quality service-learning and how to foster its growth.

Members receive monthly electronic publications providing comprehensive news and information about developments in the K-12 service-learning field and legislative news and advocacy information to support service-learning activists.

What are you waiting for? Membership is free! Join today!

To join the Partnership visit <http://www.service-learningpartnership.org>

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Mark Your Calendar:

7. Connecting Service-Learning to the Curriculum Institute

Openings are still available for "Connecting Service-Learning to the Curriculum" our annual week-long intensive summer institute.

Dates: Mon.-Fri. July 28-August 1, 2003.

Location: The Institute is situated at uniquely beautiful Shelburne Farms <http://www.shelburnefarms.org> on the shores of Lake Champlain in a private setting. Easy connections may be made through nearby Burlington International Airport-Vermont.

The Institute provides resources and tools accompanied by curriculum examples, and the opportunity to dialogue with other practitioners. It is appropriate for K-16 teachers, administrators and program coordinators. More Information on the Institute can be found at Community Works On-Line <http://www.vermontcommunityworks.org>. In addition to general information you will find an Institute flyer available for dwnd. in PFD format. We have also provided links on local information and accommodations.

To Register: please contact Leslie Graham at Shelburne Farms (Email: lgraham@shelburnefarms.org - Phone: 802-985-8686.)

For Information: on the Institute (credit/relic. options, course content, etc.) please contact Joe Brooks at 802-655-5918, or go to Community Works On-Line <http://www.vermontcommunityworks.org>

8. June in Baltimore: The Orioles, Crabcakes and National Service. June 8-10, Baltimore, MD.

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation are co-convening the 2003 National Conference on Community Volunteering June 8-10 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The conference brings together leaders in volunteering and service to share knowledge, gain new skills, and spread the message of service. There will be a host of workshops, seminars, and speakers and time to meet colleagues from government, nonprofits, businesses, and community groups.

Information on the conference, including registration, is available at www.nationalservice.org/conference/info.html.

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9. July 9-10, 2003 Character Education & Service-Learning: A Conference for Teachers and Community Advocates State College, PA.

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Character Education and the Pennsylvania Service-Learning Alliance are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a conference on character education and service-learning for teachers and community advocates this summer in State College, PA!

For more info visit: <http://www.pitt.edu/~psla/PSLA/Workshops.htm>

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10. November 16 – 18, International Conference on Civic Education Research, New Orleans, Louisiana.

This interdisciplinary conference will draw together researchers with a common interest in civic education. This research would include work on service-learning, moral education, character education, as well as policy research and work on the civic capacity and skills of citizens. It is inter-disciplinary and will include faculty from Education, Political Science, Sociology, Public Policy and Evaluation as well as practitioners. The conference is international because it is relevant to scholars from other countries and it will include research from many different countries, not because the intent is to only study civic education in an international context.

The conference will take place November 16th through 18th, 2003 at the Hotel Inter-Continental in New Orleans Louisiana. For more information on the conference, including hotel information, travel information, registration information, please go to the website: www.indiana.edu/~civiced

11. November 6-8, 2003, 3rd Annual International Conference in Service-Learning Research, Salt Lake City, Utah.

This year's conference will convene international scholars and practitioners who are actively engaged in service-learning research to present new study findings, methodological and theoretical advances, and recently completed research agendas for the study of service-learning in K-12, teacher education, and higher education. Further, the conference will provide opportunities to explore numerous service-learning research issues from a variety of perspectives, including the presentation of service-learning research from various countries around the world. Finally, we want to continue to focus on building our world-wide community of service-learning researchers to share research findings, build networks and partnerships, and identify new directions for service-learning research.

The conference will offer more than 75 sessions and presentations, including presentations of papers in Volume III of the Advances in Service-Learning Research book series.

The conference will feature:

- **Keynote addresses** and presentations by leading service-learning researchers, including Ira Harkavy and others.
- **Paper presentations** of findings from new service-learning studies.
- **Interactive Topical Forums** that engage participants in in-depth discussions of a variety of issues regarding service-learning research.
- **Roundtable Discussions** that convene individuals informally to share their interests and thoughts on particular issues.
- **A Graduate Student Forum** in which doctoral candidates present their work for peer analysis and discussion by leading service-learning researchers.

- **Special Interest Groups** that bring together individuals with similar interests to formalize their networking.
- **Resource Sharing** of materials, research papers, and reports in the Ballroom foyer.
- **Special Business Meetings** of national and regional service-learning groups.
- **Affinity Groups** will be provided time and meeting space to meet on a first come/first serve basis (contact Marshall Welch 801-585-7826 or mwelch@sa.utah.edu)
- **Group and Self-guided Campus Tour** of the University of Utah, host of the 2002 Winter Olympic Village and home of the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center.

To learn more about the conference, please go to the website:

<http://www.sa.utah.edu/bennion/sl-conf/SLConf/Confinfo.htm>

12. January 3-10, 2004, International Partnership for Service-Learning Conference – 2004, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Service-learning, leadership, participatory governance, sustainable development, justice, peace. The line of connection between these concepts and practices is clear. Institutions of higher education around the world are discovering that the pedagogy of uniting academic study and volunteer service is producing a new kind of leader, aware of the problems facing communities, nations and the world, and committed to addressing them in a cooperative, inclusive way. The 22nd International Conference of The International Partnership for Service-Learning will bring together educators and service providers from around the world to consider how service-learning lays the foundation for leadership that in turn builds stronger, healthier and more peaceful societies. The Conference will begin each morning with opportunities for participants to meet with colleagues, learn about a variety of programs combining academic study and volunteer service, discuss issues related to service-learning, and hear about research into the impact of service-learning on institutions, students, agencies, and communities.

These discussions and presentations will be held in the format of "poster sessions," in which presenters talk informally with participants who come to their table. Presenters may bring printed materials for (free) distribution. To submit an application to conduct a poster session, follow the guidelines below. For more information about the Conference, visit the website at: <http://www.ipsl.org/organization/conferences.html>

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