

# END OF YEAR: LESSONS LEARNED, SERVICE-LEARNING CELEBRATED!



Amid all the end-of-year activities, take a moment (or two or more) to pause, reflect, and celebrate the good work accomplished. This is the process of culmination. "Culminate" comes from the Latin root *cernere* and means to *reach the highest point*.

After all your service-learning efforts, reward yourself, your students and all involved by making time for this essential process.

Where to begin? Apply what we know to be true about service-learning: reflection matters. This is the cornerstone of your end-of-year activities: To reflect and assess, to demonstrate to others, to recognize and celebrate all that has occurred.

Consider a conversation to **reflect** with your school faculty and administrators, program staff, students, and community partners, using such questions as:

- What have we learned?
- How has this work changed how I teach or learn?
- How have our service-learning activities advanced students' academic and civic proficiencies?
- What key questions will help us offer better service-learning experiences next year?

Be sure to **assess** such service learning elements as:

- Student learning (skills developed, relationships, application of information acquired),

- Impact of service (the contribution matching the need), and
- The process (student involvement in planning, decisions, and ideas for next time).

And of course: engage the community through **demonstration, celebration, and recognition!**

**Gather Community Partners.** Invite all the players and honored guests, such as district leaders, local and state public officials, and members of the media, for a celebration festival. Students will have many suggestions for sharing their good work in creative ways.

**Spread the Word.** Who should you tell? Brainstorm with students to decide who in the community needs to know about what has been accomplished. Proceed to craft ideas for telling students' service-learning stories complete with photos, data, remarks from participants, and dynamic, colorful writing. Always emphasize students' academic growth and mastery of standards.

The service-learning process affords a myriad of possibilities and options to culminate your important and significant work. And all along the way, even at year's end, students continue to develop the skills, resources, creativity, and knowledge that confirm that the practice of service-learning is completely worthwhile.

Cathryn Berger Kaye

"Cathy's Corner" Publication

National Service-Learning Partnership Website

# MAY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT IDEAS

Specific Dates/Events in May that you can use as a springboard into a service learning project:

## Cinco De Mayo

This celebration on May 5th is a great way to incorporate the teaching of a different culture in the classroom. Ideas include doing a project around the food associated with the event, the celebrations, the Spanish language and culture. The event can be used as a learning experience for the entire school as well the community. This is also a great way to learn more about the Spanish-speaking population in your community.



## Armed Forces Day – May 16th

This is a great chance to do something for the people in the Armed Forces. Anything that can be done for soldiers or their families would be a great project. Ideas include: making flags or pins or writing letters to the soldiers. This is also a chance to learn about what Armed Forces day is and why it is celebrated.



## Memorial Day – May 25th

Another great opportunity to do something special for soldiers and their families as well as the many veterans of the armed forces. This is a chance to utilize what Memorial Day is all about and taking it one step further in the classroom. Ideas for projects include: interviewing veterans, cleaning town or cemetery before Memorial Day parade, helping local VFW with Memorial Day preparations



Now that winter is gone and the temperature is on the rise, it is a great time to get outside and do something to improve the way your school looks. There are ample opportunities for students to do something to help out the school and do so while learning. A school beautification project is a great way to have students learn about the outdoors and the environment and then use that knowledge to improve the school grounds.



A school beautification project is a great way to get out in the nice weather, be outside and do something to improve your schools appearance. Planting flowers and trees around the school property is a very simple and easy example.



Taking this one step further, going into the community and doing the same thing is a great way to improve the place that you live. Picking up trash along the side of the road, cleaning a local stream or river or pollutants, or cleaning up a local park are all great things to do for the community you live in as well as a way for students to learn about the hazards of pollution on the environment and ways to improve local ecosystems. Not to mention the health benefits of getting outside and getting some exercise.



# CAMPUS COMPACT: EDUCATING CITIZENS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

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Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents, representing some 6 million students, who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, Campus Compact promotes public and community service that develops students' citizenship skills, helps campuses forge effective community partnerships, and provides resources and training for faculty seeking to integrate civic and community-based learning into the curriculum.

Campus Compact's membership includes public, private, two- and four-year institutions across the spectrum of higher education. These institutions put into practice the ideal of civic engagement by sharing knowledge and resources with their communities, creating local development initiatives, and supporting service and service-learning efforts in areas such as K-12 education, health care, the environment, hunger/homelessness, literacy, and senior services.

## History

Campus Compact was founded in 1985 by the presidents of Brown, Georgetown and Stanford Universities and the president of the Education Commission of the States. In the mid-1980s, the media portrayed college students as materialistic and self-absorbed, more interested in making money than in helping their neighbors. The founding presidents believed this public image was false; they noted many students on their campuses who were involved in community service and believed many others would follow suit with the proper encouragement and supportive structures.

Campus Compact was created to help colleges and universities create such support structures. These include offices and staff to coordinate community engagement efforts, training to help faculty members integrate community work into their teaching and research, scholarships and other student incentives, and the institutional will to make civic and community engagement a priority. Today more than 98% of Campus Compact member campuses have one or more community partnerships, and more than 90% include service or civic engagement in their mission statements. These campuses are putting their knowledge and resources to work to help build strong communities and educate the next generation of responsible citizens.

## Mission

Campus Compact advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility.

## Vision

Campus Compact envisions colleges and universities as vital agents and architects of a diverse democracy, committed to educating

students for responsible citizenship in ways that both deepen their education and improve the quality of community life. They challenge all of higher education to make civic and community engagement an institutional priority.

The goal at Campus Compact is to educate college students to become active citizens who are well-equipped to develop creative solutions to society's most pressing issues.

## Turning students into citizens

Over the past 20 years, Campus Compact has engaged more than 20 million students in service and service learning, and participation rates keep rising. Each year, their member students work in thousands of communities, both locally and globally, to provide desperately needed services.

These students provide more than \$7 billion annually in service within their communities. But they do more than volunteer. They build strong community partnerships. They lobby Congress. They start their own nonprofit agencies. They learn to apply their knowledge in ways that will bring about lasting change. And Campus Compact gives them the skills and resources to do it.

## The reach to make a lasting difference

As a presidents organization, Campus Compact's reach extends across campus, allowing a coordinated approach to building community programs.

They develop and spread effective practices through a multifaceted approach that combines research, policy work, fundraising, and training.

Their extensive print and online resources have helped thousands of campuses form effective community partnerships, combine service with academics, and nurture student leaders by providing real-world learning experiences.

Their unique structure, with a national office and 35 state offices, allows them to provide national advocacy and leadership as well as on-the-ground programs.

## How have they been able to achieve so much?

Starting in 1985 by four committed leaders, their coalition has grown to nearly 1,200 college and university presidents, representing more than a quarter of all American higher education institutions. Together, they have made educating citizens a national priority.



Campus Compact

# SERVICE-LEARNING 201

- DATE:** 4/30/2009
- WHAT:** Service Learning workshop for experienced practitioners
- WHEN:** April 30, 2009
- TIME:** 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (*Lunch will be Provided*)
- WHERE:** Ionia County Intermediate School District  
2191 Harwood Road  
Ionia, Michigan 48846

**Learn. Discuss. Network.**

## Social Justice & the Environment

- Date:** May 13, 2009
- Time:** 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Location:** Ionia County ISD  
2191 Harwood Rd.

This session will explore the factors that affect the food supply world wide, the threat that climate change poses to food security, and the things that we can do as individuals and as a society to make a positive difference. Bonnie Bucqueroux, a Web pioneer and award-winning Ag journalist who is currently teaching digital journalism at MSU's School of Journalism, will be the keynote speaker.



**Don't Forget to check out our website for  
other upcoming workshops and events.  
[www.ioniaisd.org](http://www.ioniaisd.org)**

