

The Service-Learning Chronicle



LEARN AND SERVE COLORADO



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The 18th Annual National Service-Learning Conference Beyond Borders, Beyond Boundaries

For eighteen years, service-learning professionals, educators, non-profit representatives, community members and youth from across the nation and across the world have gathered to share their knowledge, best practices and examples of service-learning at the National Service Learning Conference.

The Conference hosted by the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) was an opportunity to go to New Mexico and build upon knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment to service-learning.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ April 12-13, 2007, Regional Public Achievement Conference, Boulder, CO.
- ◆ April 20-22, 2007, Youth Service Day/Earth Day.
- ◆ April 28-29, 2007 PeaceJam with Betty Williams, Denver, CO.
- ◆ May 13-20, [National AmeriCorps Week!](#)

The days consisted of workshops, networking and time spent carefully listening to the expertise of others. Knowing that that service-learning crowds have high standards, the conference planners included outstanding and entertaining keynote speakers. The over 2,500 attendees who packed into the Albuquerque Convention Center auditorium were not disappointed. Notable speakers such as the president and founder of NYLC Jim Kielsmeier, the renowned anthropologist and philanthropist Dr. Jane Goodall and also numerous youth presenters from across the U.S. created laughter, inspiration and reflection.

David Eisner, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, announced a service-learning goal for the country.

Echoing the motivation that most attendees shared, he said that "we are here because we believe service-learning is vital and that more people need to know its importance and success." From the overwhelming positive impact that service-learning has on our youth, Eisner reported that today "service-learning reaches more than 30% of K-12 schools." While this is a great improvement from the start of the service-learning movement, he set the goal of reaching 50% of schools by the year 2010. To help promote and educate others about service-learning, Eisner asked us all to mark our calendars for September 17-23, 2007 and to help name the inaugural week of recognition of service-learning.

This call to action can be achieved by continuing to do superior work supporting programs and further advocating for a culture of service-learning within communities and schools.

*Article submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member Malia Crouse, Regis University [Institute on the Common Good](#)*



Ortega Middle School Students Go to College

Approximately 70 students from Ortega Middle School (OMS) visited the Adams State College (ASC) campus to get a better idea of college life. The first annual College Days event was sponsored by the ASC Community Partnerships and ASC Student Support Services.

"We wanted this to be an opportunity to introduce OMS students to a college environment," said Avalina Martinez, Mentoring Program Coordinator of Student Support Services.

The OMS students began the day with a campus tour courtesy of the ASC Student Ambassadors. During the day they attended mock classes led by Adams State faculty members Dr. Catalina Bartlett, Dr. Marty Jones and Dr. Randall Emmons. Lunch was provided by the President's Office.

"I feel more comfortable talking to my friends and parents about going to college after visiting ASC," said Daniel Duran, a seventh grader at Ortega. His science teacher, Ms. Mimi Dolan, added "This event was so much more than I expected. The College students and staff members were wonderful. I couldn't have asked for a more positive experience for my

students. This is a fine example of the great services Adams State College has to help students get into and stay in college."

The visiting students heard from football player Kenny Jenkins, softball player Mandie Roark and non-traditional student Chris Medina about what it takes to get into college. The trio from Student Support Services encouraged the students to start good study practices now to ensure they earned the grades needed to enter college.

This day was not just a preview into College Life at Adams State, but included several key elements of service-learning such as a reflection, and addressing the issue of high drop out rates among youth of the San Luis Valley; some areas of the San Luis valley have dropout rates as high as 30%. The reflection activity was led by students from Student Support Service and staff members from Community Partnerships. This is just one of many things planned to keep student in the San Luis Valley looking towards the future.

*Article submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member Mary Benavidez, [Adams State College Community Partnerships](#)*

Students Taking Charge of Their Future!

The Partnership for Civic Engagement (PCE) at Colorado College in Colorado Springs participated in the Pikes Peak Work Force Career Fair. The fair was attended by students between the ages of fourteen to eighteen seeking employment or volunteer opportunities. Approximately thirty organizations were present at this fair including Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Army, and several volunteer-oriented groups.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Members Colleen Barnhill, Emily Stuart and Eilly Park.

This summer the PCE will be hosting an event called the Service-Learning Youth Challenge. This will enable students to participate in a [Public Achievement](#)-like project during the summer while building essential skills. The project will be student led, allowing

participating students to choose a need they would like to see addressed as well as the opportunity to design and implement a project addressing that need. Through this process they will be able to gain leadership, networking, team-work, and communication skills that will be useful in their future endeavors.

Despite a successful response at the fair, there is still room for more students! Interested students

between fourteen and eighteen should contact PCE at 719-227-8272.

*Article Submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Eilly Park, [Colorado College Partnership for Civic Engagement](#)*

C.H.A.M.P.S at West Middle School

From Afghanistan to Zambia, almost one-third of the world's countries are debilitated by land mines. Starving children line up for United Nations' rations only feet away from fertile farm land that cannot be used because of the buried explosives. Soldiers, civilians, and animals lose their lives daily, even long after peace has been declared in their region.

Fortunately, there is now a campaign for both awareness and safety regarding land mines, and an increased international effort to rid infected areas of them.

The Marshall Legacy Institute is a non-profit, international humanitarian organization whose mission

is to provide countries with practical solutions to their land mine problems. Addressing this issue largely includes the training and dispatch of explosive-sniffing dogs, as well as programs to educate the public about land mines. There are currently over 800 working dogs across the globe.

One of the Marshall Legacy Institute's initiatives is CHAMPS: Children Against Mines Pro-

gram. CHAMPS works as an educational and outreach program to schools and communities, highlighting the work of trained field dogs and fostering the notion of global citizenship among students.

On Wednesday, February 7, representative from CHAMPS visited West Middle School, one

of only seven schools chosen in the whole state of Colorado. Students were treated to a lesson on international efforts to eradicate land mines, and were also given a demonstration by a retired explosive-sniffing dog. West students will



use this knowledge to jump-start a service-learning project at their school. Many schools nationwide choose to sponsor a dog for training and deployment, helping to save countless lives. To find out more visit: <http://www.marshall-legacy.org/index.html>.

*Article Submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Emily Stuart, [Colorado College Partnership for Civic Engagement](#)*

SERVICE-LEARNING CHRONICLE

Learn and Serve Colorado Goes Digital!

You can stop checking your mailbox, it's not coming. That's right. The *Service-Learning Chronicle* is moving to an electronic format and will no longer be arriving in your snail mail box, but rather in your email inbox! Want to know why? Here are the top 10 reason why this is a positive change for you and Learn and Serve Colorado:

10. It saves money on printing.
9. It saves money on postage.
8. You will get the latest new from around the state even faster!
7. We can include more information!
6. You can follow internet links directly from the newsletter!

5. You will get email updates when the most recent edition is available!
4. It saves natural resources.
3. Its even easier to share with friends!
2. When you check out the [newsletter](#), you can find other helpful resources on the [Learn and Serve Colorado website](#).
1. It will continue to give you ideas on how to do service-learning better!

Email st.juliana_a@cde.state.co.us if you would like to be added to the newsletter email list!

*Submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member Alexis St. Juliana, [Colorado Department of Education](#)*

AmeriWhat?

[AmeriCorps Week](#) is this May 13-20 and what better time to talk about [National Service](#)?

[Learn and Serve](#) is part of the National Service family, but it is not an [AmeriCorps](#) Program. However, here in Colorado we have done something that few other states have done by working with [AmeriCorps*VISTA](#)! AmeriCorps*VISTA is an AmeriCorps Program that uses "Volunteers in Service to America"; these volunteers do indirect service to build capacity and help to eradicate poverty through a variety of programs such as disability inclusion, disaster preparedness and service-learning. AmeriCorps*VISTAs serve for one year and receive a small a living allowance. Upon the completion of service members receive an Education Award of \$4,725 to pay of loans, or go back to school. This opportunity is not just for recent high school or college grads, but is open to anyone willing to make the [commitment](#). Are you no longer a AmeriCorps member, but still want a piece of the action? Visit [AmeriCorps Alums](#) to get involved!

So, why does national service make sense for our service-learning youth? It is a way for them to keep learning, serving and growing while giving back to our communities.

*Submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA member Alexis St. Juliana, [Colorado Department of Education](#)*

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/SERVICELEARNING

Learn and Serve Colorado
Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203



For additional information and/or article submissions, please contact Alexis St. Juliana at: st.juliana_a@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6969