The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently honored Cleveland State Community College as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Cleveland State was admitted to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community. This is the second time CSCC has been named to the Honor Roll; the first time was in 2010.

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes in communities they serve.

A total of 690 higher education institutions were named to this year’s Honor Roll, but only 33 community colleges were named to the list.

“Congratulations to Cleveland State Community College, its faculty and students for its commitment to service, both in and out of the classroom,” said Wendy Spencer CEO of CNCS. “Through its work, institutions of higher education are helping improve their local communities and creating a new generation of leaders by challenging students to go beyond the traditional college experience and solve local challenges.”

“For Cleveland State to be one of only 33 community colleges named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Honor Roll is a tremendous compliment,” stated Susan Webb-Curtis, Director of Cooperative Education and Service-Learning. “Our administration and faculty have made a serious commitment to implementing service-learning activities in our classes over the past five years, and this honor roll recognition is evidence of that dedication.

The fourth annual Volunteer Expo is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium. Community agencies and organizations will staff display booths to share information about their needs for volunteers. Faculty, students, and community members are encouraged to “shop” the Expo for potential service-learning partners. Everyone is encouraged to join the excitement and find out how you can volunteer!
Webb-Curtis said, “Sherry Holloway, CSCC’s Service-Learning Coordinator, has been a tremendous asset at our college. With her guidance, our faculty’s dedication, and outstanding community agencies as partners, our students are making a positive difference in our area communities. At the same time, these service experiences are making a difference in our students’ educational experience. Cleveland State is committed to assisting our students on the road to becoming civic-minded graduates.”

Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator stated, “We appreciate the organization’s recognition of our dedicated team of faculty, staff, students and community partners. It is my honor to serve this caring team and my privilege to share their stories of community outreach.”

Holloway continued, “The President’s Higher Education Community Honor Roll spans July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. During that time, Cleveland State’s faculty and students demonstrated their dedication to Service-Learning and Civic Engagement by completing a variety of incredible projects. Their stories positioned CSCC for placement on the President’s Honor Roll.” Holloway shared the following story highlights:

Jason Holcomb, EMT Instructor, and Alejandra Hoffer, Associate Professor of Spanish, led students on a service trip to Honduras, where they volunteered with Dr. Ronald Coleman of Doctors without Borders to provide free medical services to the citizens of impoverished Honduran communities. They also volunteered at Honduran schools to provide quality educational experiences for underprivileged children. Margaret Horten and Sandy Whetmore led Early Childhood Education students to develop Math and Science Kits for Pre-K through Third Grade teachers at Taylor Elementary School. Matt Ryerson, Law Professor, partnered with Bradley County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide students an opportunity to train and serve as volunteer advocates to the court, where they investigated allegations of child abuse and spoke on behalf of at-risk children. Robert Brewer, Associate Professor of Biology, partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the TN Wildlife Resources Agency for students to volunteer in the Cherokee National Forest where they surveyed trout populations and treated hemlock forests. Sonya Franklin, Associate Professor of Nursing, partnered with the staff of Rhea County Volunteers in Medicine for sophomore nursing students to serve at a weekend Free Clinic, where they assisted medical professionals in providing services to people in need from across the region. Suzanne Wood, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, conducted the annual Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss literacy event to instill a love of reading in children and inspire parents/guardians to become better readers.

Tennessee had 23 colleges and universities named to the 2013 Honor Roll. “Tennessee is very fortunate to have a strong Tennessee Campus Compact Office and the guidance of a passionate and nationally involved Executive Director, Dr. Mani Hull,” stated Webb-Curtis. Three community colleges in Tennessee were selected—Cleveland State, Southwest Tennessee and Volunteer State.”

“I think this college is very fortunate to have people like Susan Webb-Curtis and Sherry Holloway in that we have built a fabulous service-learning initiative here at the college,” stated Dr. Carl Hite, CSCC President. “Over 50 percent of the faculty is engaged in service-learning, so I’m very proud of the fact that the college has been recognized for its accomplishments in service-learning.”
The CSCC Service-Learning Team proudly announces Jana Pankey, Associate Professor/Program Coordinator, Human Services and Social Work, as the 2013 Service-Learning Champion! The Service-Learning Champion Award is a faculty/staff nominated award honoring a fellow member who has demonstrated commitment to the promotion of service-learning.

Jana began incorporating the teaching pedagogy upon joining the college in 2006. She volunteered to serve on the first Service-Learning Advisory Council in 2008 and assisted the Service-Learning team with community contacts. Since that time, Jana has continued to demonstrate her dedication to students, the college, and the community by incorporating inspired service-learning experiences in her classes. Jana was presented three awards at CSCC’s 2013 Awards Night—the Outstanding Instructor Award, the Jim Cigliano Outstanding Service to Students Award and the Social Work Club Advisor Award. She now has another award to add to her collection!

The list of service-learning opportunities Jana has offered students over the years includes numerous food drives; volunteer opportunities with Blythe Bower and Taylor Elementary schools; Christmas Memories; Nancy’s House; National Guard Meth Task Force Prevention Program; New Hope Pregnancy Center Walk for Life; Teddy Bear Collection for Tennesse Baptist Children’s Home, TC Thompson Children’s Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House; Family Resource Agency’s domestic violence Clothesline Project; Bradley Baptist Association’s Project Helping Hands program; McMinn County Interagency Diaper Drive; Bradley Healthcare and the Children’s Advocacy Center; Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk; and Buckets of Hope Food Drive and funds collection for Haiti relief efforts. Jana also encourages her students to be active volunteers for other campus and community activities, such as Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss, Special Olympics, Boys and Girls Club, CASA, Action Counseling, and Junior Achievement Reality Check.

Dr. Carl Hite, CSCC President, recognized Jana, “Jana Pankey is one of a kind. I just wish I could clone her. She has embraced the concept of service-learning in her classes and I am amazed at how much she accomplishes at this college in a given semester. I believe these service-learning opportunities give her students an edge when it comes to learning and to entering the workforce upon CSCC graduation. Definitely a well-deserved honor.”

During 2012 and 2013, Jana’s students led a campus public service outreach event to educate students about substance abuse; organized a community drive to collect socks and underwear for the homeless and for disadvantaged families of New Hope Pregnancy Center, The Salvation Army, and the Blythe Avenue Center; and partnered with Safe Harbor House of Cleveland and The Hope Center of Athens to collect donations and purchase hygiene items, blankets, socks, washcloths, and other items needed by families. Many of the service-learning activities Jana initiates become annual events, such as the food drive for military families and emergency shelters, and collecting aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House in support of chemotherapy treatments for young patients at T.C. Thompson’s Children’s Hospital. Jana recognized her students’ success, “When students are given a hands-on assignment to put knowledge into action, the results are amazing. I am always so impressed with their motivation and excitement in helping others.”

Alejandra Hoffer, Associate Professor of Spanish acknowledged Jana’s service contributions, “Jana has worked for years offering students service-learning activities. Her dedication to students is obvious; her office always has visiting students. She not only advises them about classes, but also about their involvement in future programs. If we start talking about her service to the community (with students or not), we will never finish; they are beyond expectations. I think Jana deserves the Service-Learning Champion Award—and more—for all her dedication!”

Jana challenges herself and her students to think of innovative ways to reach increased numbers of community members each semester. During Fall 2012, students conducted their first “Free Store” project in the community room of a local low-income housing complex. Approximately 50 families were served—many having young children or elderly members. The students also provided an information station to distribute listings of community resources. At the event’s conclusion, Jana said, “I believe this is one of the most inspirational learning experiences I have ever been involved in. The students really embraced this project with a passion for helping others, expecting nothing in return. I saw the lives of families and students change as a result of this project.” Items left at the end of the day were donated to Goodwill and People Helping People.

In addition to service-learning projects, Jana also leads campus-wide service events and activities. She is the founder and coordinator of the college’s annual National Social Work Month Celebration and Reception, Veteran’s Day Program and Multicultural Fair. With her leadership, the planning committee, students, faculty, staff, and community volunteers made the Spring 2013 Multicultural Fair the best ever!

Dr. Denise King, Vice President of Academic Affairs acknowledged Jana’s success, “In Jana Pankey’s use of service-learning we see an exemplary fulfillment of our college mission to engage diverse students, to promote...”
We Make a Living Continued

success, to enhance quality of life and civic involvement. What is remarkable to me is the way it is so apparent that from one seed a thousand more seeds can be created—just as from a few projects in 2006 many have sprung over subsequent years—not only here at the college, but as students carry those seeds of change out into the world. Jana’s commitment to the integration of learning and service transforms lives and communities—through personal action. This work lies at the heart of our mission as a college.”

In her email salutation, Jana includes a quote attributed to Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Churchill’s words speak volumes about Jana’s vision and mission to provide “life making” opportunities for her students and the community. Everyone is encouraged to keep an eye on this Service-Learning Champion. The best is yet to come! Congratulations Jana!

Simply the BEST!

Quiz time! What is the highest Partner of the Year award bestowed by the Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce? Platinum! What must BEST (Business & Education Serving Together) Partners do to earn the prestigious award? Exceed their basic partnership agreement with excellence! Which BEST Partners were honored with the 2013 Platinum Partner of the Year Award? Why, Taylor Elementary and Cleveland State Community College, of course!

BEST is an ongoing Chamber of Commerce program that encourages interaction between the business/industry sector of the community and the local school systems. In April, the Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce recognized excellent partnerships of Taylor Elementary and Cleveland State Community College; Cormetech Environmental Technologies, Inc. and Cleveland High School; Lonza and Walker Valley High School; Santek Waste Services, Inc. and Prospect Elementary School; and SkyRidge Medical Center and Black Fox and Hopewell Elementary Schools through presentation of 2013 Platinum Partner of the Year Awards. Other BEST Partners were also recognized for strong partnerships through presentation of Gold and Silver Awards.

Taylor Elementary and Cleveland State had another terrific year working together on behalf of deserving Taylor students. One major project that took place across the twelve months of April 2012 through March 2013 was creation of a Literacy Garden. The garden was inspired by Kelly Ormsby, Associate Professor of English/Learning Support, and built by Kelly, Rob Ormsby (Kelly’s husband and a CSCC graduate), other CSCC faculty and staff members, and student volunteers. The team also worked with a number of local businesses to acquire material donations. Additionally, the team applied for and received financial grants on behalf of the school, for investment into the garden. Kelly and support teams worked tirelessly to create a beautiful, sustainable garden designed to feed the minds and bodies of Taylor Elementary students.

The annual Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss Celebration is another major annual event where Taylor and CSCC partnered to provide a fun, memorable experience for students. Led by Suzanne Wood, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, CSCC faculty and students traveled to Taylor’s campus to read with students during the celebration and Taylor faculty and students traveled to CSCC’s campus to participate in the college’s 10th annual Early Childhood Education event. The Early Childhood Education Program also donated 20 Book Buddy Bags to Taylor Elementary. The bags included a book and various related activities including puppetry, music, and art. The Book Buddy Bags are available for loan to parents who wish to provide home literacy activities for their children.
Upon students’ arrival at Taylor Elementary, Dr. Sherry Shroyer, Principal, and the Taylor faculty encourage students to be forward thinkers. They provide information, materials, and experiences to help ensure students are college or career ready when they graduate high school. CSCC hosted Taylor 4th and 5th grade students for the annual College Is For Me program. Taylor students came to Cleveland State to learn about the college experience and about majors and career options available to them. They also participated in college courses taught by Denice King, Associate Professor of Biology; Jana Pankey, Associate Professor/Program Coordinator, Human Services and Social Work; and Jim Peters, Assistant Professor of Biology/Coordinator for Human Anatomy & Physiology I/CSCC Anatomy Society Advisor.

CSCC students, faculty, and staff assisted with parent learning opportunities provided through Taylor’s Parent University. They also assisted with celebrations for Taylor students who excelled in the school’s Accelerated Reader program. Cleveland State’s faculty team introduced the Taylor Faculty Team to the Staples Rewards program, whereby used toner cartridges can be turned-in for recycling. Joyce Chapman, Business and Technology Secretary, actively supported the program by collecting cartridges across CSCC’s campus and throughout her community. Kim Hicks, CSCC Systems Manager, now handles the recycling program on behalf of Taylor.

Cleveland State education majors worked with Taylor teachers, staff, and students to meet their course required observation hours. In a project initiated by Katie Willingham, CSCC Coordinator of Student Activities and Women’s Softball Coach, and coordinated by Jason McDonald, Taylor Guidance Counselor, CSCC students filled and donated Christmas shoe boxes to select Taylor students. The Tennessee Department of Education Focus Grant provided iPads for Taylor students. CSCC’s Technical Department provided technology guidance on the purchase of appropriate applications for the new devices.

CSCC and Taylor faculty and staff communicate throughout each year via email, telephone, and campus visits to continually nurture their collaborative partnership. Additionally, as a Service-Learning Community Partner, Dr. Sherry Shroyer served on the Cleveland State Service-Learning Advisory Council.

Taylor students are very active and visible on the Cleveland State campus, as well. Fifth grade student Tiffany Brown submitted the winning design in Cleveland State’s Christmas Card Contest. Her creative design appeared on the college’s official 2012 Christmas Card. Taylor Kindergarten through 5th grade students designed Christmas ornaments for the CSCC Student Center Christmas Tree. Taylor’s Student Council participated in the Cleveland Christmas Parade in honor of their BEST Partners Cleveland State Community College and Eaton Corporation. The Taylor Tiger Chorale, directed by Music Specialist, Jason Streun, presented excellent performances on their caroling trip to CSCC. They held their Christmas Concert in the George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center. Larry Burns, CSCC Media Specialist, managed all technical aspects of the concert, which came off without a hitch!

What a busy and successful year! A resounding “thank you” to all Taylor Elementary and Cleveland State students, faculty, and staff who volunteered their time and talents to make this partnership the BEST around!
What a Difference a Day Makes!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Dedicated faculty, staff, and students of Cleveland State Community College answered that question by coming together on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21, 2013, for a celebration of service. Instead of taking the day off, the group chose to take a “day on” and volunteer with non-profit agencies across the college’s service area.

The “Day On” was initiated and led by Tracey Wright, Director of Special Programs and Community Relations. Tracey was supported by a committee of dedicated faculty and staff who helped plan and implement the event. Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator, identified six Community Partners with large-scale projects who were eager to participate. GravelRoad Entertainment LLC donated funds so that each group would receive $50.00 in seed money to help purchase any needed supplies. The event was funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Title III Grant P031A110185.

Community Partners that participated in the event were Tri-State Therapeutic Riding Center of Bradley County, Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland/Bradley County, McMinn County Senior Citizen Center, Athens-McMinn YMCA, Amedisys Hospice (Monroe County), and Keep Monroe County Beautiful.

The “Day On” planning committee recruited and dispatched six teams of students, faculty, and staff to project locations. Materials needed for the day were provided by the agencies and the resourceful volunteer teams. The day was a true labor of love as Cleveland State teams worked tirelessly to distribute, expand, plant, preserve, remind, renovate, restore, and revive important resources used in the Community Partners’ outreach programs.

Volunteers for the “Day On” were Aleks Dinin, Alicia Preston, Allie White, Ami Bell, Andy Foskey, Ashley Green, Billie Bell, Brandy Vaughn, Brooke Hanyon, Carl Hite, Christy Hughes, Deshawn McCleary, Diane White, Janet Carter, Jaynae Wright, Komlan Attiglo, Kristi Davis, Kyle Hall, Larry Burns, Lorelei Odom, Lynn Redmond, Madisen Gilreath, Mark Wilson, Meghan Peeler, Michael Stokes, Michelle Anderson, Naomi Beh-Judah, Ponzetta Chapman, R.J. Martinez, Sandy Stephens, Sara Smith, Sergey Stoliarchuk, Shivam Patel, Sonia Calvin, Spencer Gaskins, Susan Birdwell, Susan Webb-Curtis, Trudi Bell, Tullie White, Verrill Norwood, and Xing Xiao.

The CSCC team at Amedisys Hospice of Monroe created life story boards to aid residents living with Alzheimer’s and dementia in preserving some of their precious memories. Additionally, the boards helped medical professionals provide better care through knowing and understanding patients. The team at McMinn County Senior Citizen Center worked in a newly acquired facility to clean floors, walls, cabinets, and fixtures. They also painted rooms and acquired carpet, a space heater, and lighting. The team at Keep Monroe County Beautiful secured bricks to create a border for plants around the Tellico Plains Jr. High School sign. They also planted rosebushes and mulched the garden area at Tellico Plains Elementary and installed playground equipment at the Tellico community baseball field. The group at Athens-McMinn YMCA worked in the City Park Community Garden to remove weeds, haul top soil and mulch to raised beds, and till the soil in preparation for spring planting. The team at Tri-State Therapeutic Riding Center began clearing a four-acre pasture required for additional horses needed to support program expansion. They also worked with clients in the therapeutic riding clinic. Volunteers at Habitat for Humanity worked in the ReStore receiving area to sort and prepare donations for the sales floor and canvased Cleveland to distribute posters for the agency’s “Bike to Build” fundraiser.

In a quote to the chattanoogan.com, Tracey Wright said, “This day of service provided a win-win for the agencies and for Cleveland State Community College volunteers. The agencies were able to have projects accomplished and the volunteers were able to contribute to their community, learn new skills, learn about the agencies, and meet new friends—all while reflecting on the life of Dr. King and others who were a part of the Civil Rights movement.”

Project Leader, Tracey Wright led the teams in a time of reflection at the close of the day. The teams expressed feelings of camaraderie and accomplishment. The 2013 “Day On” was a huge success!
First Year Seminar and Service-Learning

Service-Learning continues to expand across Cleveland State’s campus! The newly developed First Year Seminar (FYS) includes a strong service-learning component. Each student taking FYS is required to complete eight service-learning hours during the semester.

Dr. Liz Moseley, Assistant Professor of Psychology/First-Year Seminar Coordinator, taught a successful mini-pilot FYS during the 2013 summer semester. To fulfill their service-learning requirement, her students volunteered with The Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland (CSCC Campus), Cleveland Animal Control, Ark of Cleveland, and the Habitat For Humanity of Cleveland ReStore. Students shared positive reflection on their experiences through open class discussion.

A full-scale FYS pilot will take place this fall as 11 faculty members volunteer to teach the course to approximately 200 students. The fall service-learning component will be focused on activities designed to help alleviate poverty and inadequate housing in Bradley County.

First Year Seminar faculty and the Service-Learning team—including AmeriCorps VISTA, Kourtney Yonge—will prepare students for volunteer opportunities with Family Promise of Bradley County, Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland, The Caring Place, and United Way of Bradley County. Each agency will provide student volunteers detailed orientation to ensure not only a successful service experience, but also a successful learning experience. Students will volunteer with the agency of their choice and learn about that agency’s mission, vision, and role in the community. Volunteer opportunities will center on actual client needs, giving students a real hands-on opportunity to positively impact the lives of others. The Service-Learning team will work with agencies to measure and report project progress and success rates, document and distribute results of the completed FYS Service-Learning component, and use the results and feedback from stakeholders to make adjustments to the program for future years.

Cleveland State students will contribute approximately 1,600 volunteer hours to improve the lives of people who are impoverished, homeless, or have insufficient housing. Students participating in the 2013-2014 FYS Service-Learning component will help Habitat for Humanity increase ReStore donor giving by 5%; adopt two Family Promise families transitioning into new housing; help The Caring Place increase scheduled volunteers by 10%; and assist The United Way as they plan and complete a survey of homelessness in Bradley County. Additionally, AmeriCorps VISTA, Kourtney Yonge, will serve on The Mayor’s Coalition Housing Council to help identify and facilitate other impactful service-learning opportunities for FYS students.

The First Year Seminar and Service-Learning teams look forward to the opportunity to have a positive impact on the communities of Bradley County!

Welcome Kourtney!

Cleveland State Community College expresses sincere thanks to Tennessee Campus Compact for approving an AmeriCorps VISTA to help support the Service-Learning component of the college’s new First Year Seminar (FYS). FYS Service-Learning will focus on alleviation of poverty and homelessness across our community.

The Service-Learning team is pleased to announce Ms. Kourtney Yonge accepted the AmeriCorps VISTA position and joined the Cleveland State team July 29, 2013. Kourtney, a California native, graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2012. She is currently enrolled at Lee University and will graduate in December 2013 with a Masters of Counseling: Emphasis on Holistic Child Development. Kourtney plans to pursue a career as a Child Life Specialist.

Kourtney will be located in office E308A and can be reached at (423) 614-8794, or by email at kyonge@clevelandstatecc.edu.
Community Partner Corner

New Service-Learning Opportunity at Hiwassee River Heritage Center

This past May, the Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society held a grand opening of the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, Tennessee. The mission of this center is to provide an educational tool for residents and visitors of the Hiwassee River region. It will also function as a welcome center and a gateway to other regional historic sites.

With this opening, a new opportunity has been extended to Cleveland State students. Students will have the chance to earn service-learning credit while working as an attendant for the center. Working closely with society officers and Cleveland State History faculty, students will provide a wide range of duties from greeting and informing visitors to assisting in the preservation of historic and genealogical artifacts. In addition, students majoring with a History emphasis will have the opportunity to participate in an internship program at the center.

The center is open weekly Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. For more information about this specific service-learning opportunity, please contact the Cleveland State History Department.

Hiwassee River Heritage Center exhibit wall.

The 2013 “Remember the Removal” Bike riders visiting the Hiwassee River Heritage Center.

Seedlings

Brief Bits of News About Service-Learning

Susan Webb-Curtis, Associate Professor/Director of Cooperative Education & Service-Learning, and Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator, were honored to present Building and Sustaining a Higher Education Service-Learning Program: The Journey of One Community College, at the Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education in Louisville KY and the Service Unites Conference on Volunteering and Service, convened by Points of Light, in Washington, D.C.

Cleveland State is pleased to be included (along with Lee University) in the United Way of Bradley County’s Online Volunteer Center, introduced August 1, 2013. The Volunteer Center utilizes a Hands-On Network platform to make it easy for non-profit agencies to share volunteer needs and easy for the community to find volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer Center is a great resource for Cleveland State faculty and students who are seeking Service-Learning or other civic opportunities. Dates/times for CSCC training will be announced soon.

Service-Learning Faculty Consultants

For help incorporating service-learning, contact:
Sherry Holloway, (423) 473-2385
Susan Webb-Curtis, (423) 614-8718
service_learning@clevelandstatecc.edu

Visit our webpage for more information:
http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu/service_learning

At our Service-Learning website, you will find community agencies looking for student volunteers and faculty partners, as well as forms, sample syllabi, and other resources to help you with your service-learning activity.

Hiwassee River Heritage Center exhibit wall.

The 2013 “Remember the Removal” Bike riders visiting the Hiwassee River Heritage Center.

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