



From:

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and Assessment

April Service-Learning Newsletter

Creighton University Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment

With Spring evidenced all around it, it is not surprising to see a number of growth-filled opportunities presented to learn about, participate in, and advance our community-engaged work. This April newsletter is lengthier than many, but I strongly encourage you to peruse the MANY opportunities currently available!

Below you will find 5 important dates, some current legislation updates, and 2 acknowledgements of Creighton students' local presentations, organized in our usual digest format. Included below:

1. **April 24th: Deadline to register for Patti Clayton's "Deepening Critical Reflection and Civic Learning" workshops:** Both the 9:00-noon workshop on "Guiding Students to Transformational Learning via Critical Reflection" and the 1:30-3:30 workshop on "Fostering Student Civic Responsibility" are FREE (but registration is required). Also, there will be a chance to have breakfast with Dr. Clayton at 7:30 a.m. (cost of \$6.50). A box lunch is available for purchase for those staying all day (cost of \$12). Please bring a check for these expenses, payable to Iowa Western Community College. See below for more details.
2. **May 15th: Students Beyond Boundaries Grant (Round 2) proposals due.**
3. **6th Annual Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education**, September 23-25, 2009 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
Conference Theme: Millennials Making a Difference, with Keynote Speakers: Mark Milliron, Catalyze Learning International, and Shelley Billig, RMC Research Corporation
 - a. **Submission deadline for conference proposals: June 1, 2009**
 - b. **MCSLHE Annual Recognitions: Nominations due September 8, 2009**
4. **College of Saint Mary's Faculty and Staff Community Orientations:** August 17 & 18, 2009—**Contact Mary Ann Danielson by May 5, 2009 if interested in attending.** The goal of these orientations is to bring faculty and staff together across the colleges/universities and across the disciplines in order to learn more about pressing community problems and to connect with those trying to create solutions. The topic for this year are: Omaha Responds (August 17, from 8:30-2:00) which will focus on community responses to the Omaha World Herald's OMAHA IN BLACK AND WHITE series and Omaha's Environment (August 18, from 8:30-2:00) which will focus on a number of questions surrounding sustainability in the Omaha area. Lunch, transportation and a small stipend is provided to the participants.
5. **Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act** (informational update from Cyndy Littlefield, AJCU): Below is an outline from Chairman Miller, House Education and Labor Committee on the Kennedy Service Act. If interested, **contact Mary Ann Danielson for a copy of the legislative language for H.R. 1388**, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Given the nature of service at our Jesuit institutions, this legislation will be an opportunity to enhance what is already in place. I wanted all of you to be aware of this important legislation, also initiated by the Obama Administration that carries out their main priorities of Health, Education and Energy.

6. Creighton University Student Presentations

- a. **Congratulations** to Ellen Stryker, Max Zollicker, and Brady Keim who presented their “Second Life” work and to Amanda Pasche (and Kimberley Begley, one of her faculty co-researchers) for her Sacred Heart project; both projects were showcased during the first annual College of Saint Mary’s Poster Symposium. The posters are on display through the end of April in the Library at CSM.
- b. **Congratulations** to Dr. Sue Crawford’s Public Policy Analysis Class who partnered with Holy Name Catholic School’s 8th grade class for a Civic Research Partnership. Their research on issues of Environmental Policy, Improving Student Health, Violence in Omaha, and Cyberbullying were shared on Creighton’s campus on April 16th. What a wonderful example of service-learning, civic engagement, and the mentoring of “future Creighton students.”

Reminder: Please register ASAP for the Patti Clayton workshops, if interested, AND please contact Mary Ann Danielson not later than May 5th if you are interested in participating in either of the faculty/staff community orientations in August—space is limited!

As you can see, there are a **number of opportunities** for us to participate in local training and conferences, continue to seek additional service-learning funding, submit the best of our work for public discussion and sharing, stay current on national initiatives and potential sources of new funding, and recognize some of our own colleagues’ good “works-in-progress.” You are encouraged to pass along your congratulations and take advantage of these excellent opportunities!

As always, please contact me with questions,

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1. Deepening Critical Reflection and Civic Learning - Dr. Patti Clayton

May 1, 2009, Iowa Western Community College

Register online before April 24th, 2009 www.regonline.com/MCSLHE_PattiClayton

The Midwest Consortium is sponsoring the event "Deepening Critical Reflection and Civic Learning" with Dr. Patti Clayton at Iowa Western Community College (IWCC). Dr. Clayton is a consultant specializing in developing student leadership in service reflection. She was named the North Carolina College Personnel Association's Distinguished Scholar and is widely published. Clayton has integrated service-learning into all of her own courses, and in all aspects of her work she seeks to support the intellectual, personal, and civic development of students and faculty through creating with them opportunities for reflective practice and leadership. There will be two sessions for faculty and staff at your institutions to attend.

The workshops will be offered **free of charge, the only expense for your faculty and staff participants will be for lunch**. For the faculty and staff attending the meeting that are NOT member representatives, they will be eating in the Arts Center-Black Box: pasta bar (including salad, bread sticks, cookies, and drink) for \$12. Please contact Corrine Grace (cgrace@iwcc.edu or 712-256-6539) at IWCC **before** April 24th with any dietary or mobility needs. It would be greatly appreciated!

Special for Consortium Representatives - breakfast with Dr. Clayton at 7:30am in Loofft Hall. Cost for breakfast: \$6.50. In order for us to have a head count **please register online**.
www.regonline.com/MCSLHE_PattiClayton

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me and I'll get your questions answered! Sharona Ernst, AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader, Office: 402-472-6219, Cell: 402-245-0020.

2. Social Media Service-Learning Grants (round two).

The RFP may be found at this link:

http://midwestconsortium.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=49&Itemid=147

3. Millennials Making a Difference - 6th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education

September 23-25, 2009, University of Nebraska, Omaha

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2009 .

Keynote Speakers:

Mark Milliron, Catalyze Learning International
Shelley Billig, RMC Research Corporation

Conference themes:

- Innovative use of Social Media to develop, promote and manage service-learning projects.
- Academic Service-learning – Best practices of integrating service-learning into curricula, in methods of assessing learning in the experiential context and in strategies of project evaluation.
- Professional Development – Best practices in research-based, collaboratively planned, ongoing professional development for
 - Faculty and staff
 - Community partners
 - Student leadership
- Community Partnership Development – Best practices in engaging and sustaining reciprocal, collaborative partnerships focused on addressing community issues.
- Research
 - Best practices in developing collaborative community based participatory research projects in which students and faculty apply research methods to community identified and guided studies.
 - Best Practices in applying research to the pedagogy of service-learning for continuous improvement.

Please see website [for more information and submit online.](#)

http://www.midwestconsortium.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=229:call-for-proposals&catid=55:2009-conference&Itemid=141

3 b. 2009 MCSLHE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education invites you recognize your colleagues -- faculty, students, community partners, VISTAs and others -- for their efforts to further service-learning at the college level. The Consortium's award program, which coincides with its annual conference on Service-Learning provides the opportunity to do just that.

Please review the award categories below and consider who among those you work with daily might deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication. The application process has been streamlined this year, so giving that pat on the back will be even easier. After reviewing these categories, please go to [this page on the Consortium web site](#) (or go to www.midwestconsortium.org and follow the links to the 2009 conference) **for more information and instructions** about submitting your nominations. **Remember**, the **nomination deadline** is **September 8, 2009**, but submissions are welcome sooner rather than later.

The Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education (MCSLHE) seeks nominations for six awards recognizing the hard work and dedication of outstanding people and programs in its member institutions during the '08-'09 academic year. Each award includes a certificate of recognition and a \$100 stipend.

Award Categories:

1. **Administration Commendation in Service-Learning** - This award honors an exceptional service-learning program administrator (faculty/staff member or VISTA with responsibility for coordination of service-learning activities) who has demonstrated excellence in creating, providing, and sustaining opportunities for engaging college students in service-learning.
2. **Service-Learning Teaching** - This award honors a faculty/staff member, or graduate assistant, who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to incorporating service-learning pedagogy in the college classroom and collaborating with community partners and/or students in course design.
3. **Service-Learning Research** - This award honors a faculty/staff member or graduate/undergraduate student who has shown outstanding commitment to the exploration of service-learning through research and the promotion of the scholarship of engagement among his/her colleagues.
4. **Student Commendation in Service-Learning** - This award honors an undergraduate or group of undergraduates who showed exceptional leadership, citizenship, and commitment through service-learning; demonstrated innovative and sustained approaches to address an issue in the community; and/or advanced the service-learning infrastructure of their institution.
5. **Community Partner Commendation in Service-Learning** - This award honors a community organization whose members have maintained an active voice in creating and sustaining opportunities for engaging college students in service-learning. Community partners should have collaborated with a service-learning program for more than one year in order to be nominated.
6. **Voyager Award** - This award honors a MCSLHE member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership in the field of service-learning throughout their professional career. This individual will be selected based on their advancement of the principles of effective practice, development of a culture of engagement within their institution, innovation in program growth and sustainability, and dedication to advancing the mission and goals of the Consortium.

4. Metro Area MCSLHE Member Representatives Faculty and Staff Community Orientations, August 17 and 18, 2009

In our institutional subgrants from the Midwest Consortium, College of Saint Mary and Nebraska Methodist College requested funds for faculty and staff community immersion/orientations in Omaha. The goal of these orientations is to bring faculty and staff together across the colleges/universities and across the disciplines in order to learn more about pressing community problems and to connect with those trying to create solutions. The topics for this year are as follows:

Omaha Responds (August 17 from 8:30-2:00) This faculty orientation will focus on community responses to the Omaha World Herald's *Omaha in Black and White* series which documented the

stark realities of African American poverty in Omaha. (Omaha's African American poverty rate is the third highest in the nation; we rank first for percentage of African American children in poverty.) It will examine the effects this concentrated poverty has on health and educational outcomes and explore ways we, as faculty and institutions of higher learning, might be involved in the efforts to reverse these trends.

The day will begin on the Nebraska Methodist College campus with a panel of experts discussing efforts to address the inequalities noted in *Omaha in Black and White*. It will then proceed with two site visits to organizations working to address these disparities.

Omaha's Environment (August 18 from 8:30-2:00) This faculty orientation will focus on the following questions regarding Omaha's environment: What are the major environmental issues facing the Omaha community? How can we as faculty work to shape institutional and personal responses to these issues? Foci will include water quality, food, waste, and how institutions can work in a sustainable manner.

The day will begin on the College of Saint Mary campus with a panel of experts on major environmental issues, and then will continue with site visits to two organizations that are working to address these issues.

How to Register: Please reply **by May 4, 2009** to Mary Ann Danielson, maddam@creighton.edu, should you wish to participate. Please include your email address, a phone number where you can be reached in mid-August, and indicate for which orientation you wish to register. It is important to note: your commitment to the date is important. **If you cancel, YOU are responsible for finding a substitute to participate.**

People can participate in one or both orientations. Lunch, transportation, and a small stipend provided. A full itinerary will be emailed directly to each participant 2 weeks prior to the Orientation.

5. Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act - Calling Americans to Serve at a Critical Time

President Obama has called on Congress to create new service and volunteer opportunities for Americans that will help to build a stronger country. This legislation answers his call. It will launch a new era of service that will give Americans of all ages the opportunity to help our nation recover and make progress on education, health care, energy and other key goals by volunteering, whether it is helping students achieve in school, weatherizing homes and greening communities, rebuilding cities in times of disaster, feeding the hungry, helping seniors live independently, and much more.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (H.R. 1388), which received final passage by the House on March 31 by a vote of 275-149, includes new changes (highlighted in red below) from the previous version of the bill, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act. The bill authorizes nearly \$6 billion over five years – FY 2010 through FY 2014.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (H.R. 1388): includes information on the following topics:

- Creates 175,000 New Service Opportunities and Rewards Americans for Commitment
- Creates New Service Corps to Meet Key Needs in Low-Income Communities
- Provides Incentives for Middle and High School Students to Engage in Service
- Makes High School Students Part of Solution to Challenges in their Communities
- Boosts Opportunities for Disadvantaged and Foster Youth and Native Americans
- Strengthens Disaster Relief Service Efforts
- Establishes an Alumni Reserve to Respond in Emergencies
- Bolsters America's Competitiveness
- Expands Service Opportunities for Older Americans and Public-Private Partnerships
- Creates a nationwide community-based infrastructure to leverage investments in service
- Encourages Highly Skilled Professionals to Help Improve Global Health
- Establishes Call to Service Campaigns
- Recognizes and supports Colleges and Universities Engaged in Service