



Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

DPI VISTA Monthly

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“I avoid grandiose plans. I start with a small piece that I can do. I go to the root of the problem and then work around it. It’s building brick by brick.”

–Muhammad Yunus,
Visionaries by Utne Reader

Jane Grinde
Project Director
Betsy Prueter
Project Coordinator
Ruth Anne Landsverk
Family Education Coordinator
Casey Gauthier
VISTA Leader

Top 5 Techniques to Tackle Stress

By: Michelle Traxel

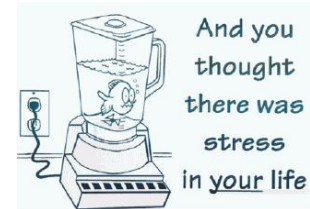
So, you agreed to serve your country for one year in VISTA. Your feet have hit the ground running and you have turned into the “go-to” person because...well, you are reliable, dependable, and everywhere at once! Because you wear so many hats, there are a billion things to get finished! It’s 3 pm and you have a grant due tomorrow at 10 am.

There’s an Action Team meeting at 5 tonight and that agenda is not writing itself. You just broke up with you significant other and your car won’t start. There are only two words that sum up how you’re feeling...

STRESSED OUT!

Yes, the words we all dread. But let’s not jump to conclusions and assume that stress is always a bad thing. Stress is your body’s response to changes in your life. Because life

involves constant change, there is no avoiding stress. This is why our goal shouldn’t be to eliminate *all* stress, but instead to eliminate *unnecessary* stress. So how exactly do you do that? Read below for five strategies to effectively manage stress.



1.) It’s okay to say, “No!”

- It’s easy as a VISTA to get involved in many different activities, join various committees, take on long-term projects, etc. To sum up, you don’t have to be a “people pleaser” all of the time! Of course it’s nice to do things for others, but keep in mind, we aren’t superheroes.
- Be sure to do a cost-benefit analysis to see the positives and negatives of making a commitment.

Pick and choose the things you think would benefit you and your service the most.

- Your well-being must always come first!
- If you take on too many things at once, you set yourself up for failure. Focus on one thing at a time, and you're more likely to succeed.

2.) LAUGH!

- Pop in a silly movie (but not at work, of course).
- Look at pictures of yourself from middle school (or I'll send you a few of mine).
- Watch N*Sync music videos and practice a dance routine.
- Wear a Burger King Crown while singing out loud in the car (Trust me, it's a hoot!).
- Do the things you love to do that make you happy!

3.) Prioritize, Prioritize, Prioritize!

- Map out your schedule and objectives at least one day in advance. You'll dive right in when you arrive at work, instead of wondering what you're supposed to do. Combine your personal and professional planners so you have fewer things to keep track of.
- Constantly ask yourself throughout the day: Am I doing my highest priority activity right now? If not, you might need to rethink things.
- Use post-it notes for things that need to be done, and throw them away as soon as

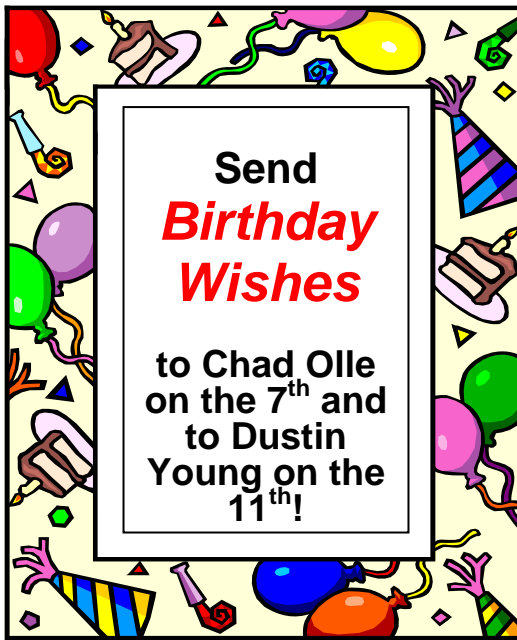
they're done. (You should see my desk!)

4.) Find that "Support Saint"

- Whether it's your supervisor, another staff member, a best friend, a former VISTA, or the school janitor, find a positive support person who will listen!
- If you're excited about an accomplishment, share it! After all, you deserve it.
- So your positive support person isn't there when you could use them the most... support yourself. Journaling is a perfect example of how you can support yourself by getting out those emotions on paper. Write poems, draw pictures, or just write down whatever comes to mind... these are all great coping tools! (And cheap!).

5.) Take time for yourself!

- Be sure to take time to slow down and smell the roses!
- You've heard this a hundred times, but it's important to eat a balanced diet (Bless those food stamps!) and drink plenty of water.
- Try to get as much sleep as you can. We know that getting 7 to 9 hours of sleep a night sometimes isn't realistic, but it's a good goal.
- You are amazing. You **deserve** to take time out for yourself. You're a VISTA, for Pete's sake! Go ahead, be selfish! I just gave you permission. ☺



*Wisconsin's Award-Winning Partnership Schools:
How'd They Do That??*

By Ruth Anne Landsverk

Three Wisconsin schools have been named Partnership School Award Winners by the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) since 2005. The schools include two-time winners **Webster Stanley Elementary**, Oshkosh; and **Grant Elementary**, Wausau; as well as **Spooner Elementary**, Spooner School District. Only a handful of schools nationally receive this recognition from NNPS each year for their outstanding partnership efforts.

What partnership practices do these Wisconsin schools have in common? Following, is a glimpse into 10 things award winners "do right." Wisconsin NNPS award-winning schools:

1. **Have Action Teams for Partnerships (ATP)** to organize and conduct partnership activities. Both Webster Stanley and Grant

- call their ATPs the site council.
2. **Prepare ATP members** for their roles. Webster Stanley gives its ATP a notebook full of information about the school's partnerships. Grant conducts its first ATP meeting as a potluck dinner with the PTO, sharing the school's mission and partnership goals.
3. **Include parents, teachers, and community members** on the ATPs. Webster Stanley includes two students, as well as members who represent other school improvement efforts.
4. **Encourage the ATP to cooperate with other school and community groups.** Spooner's ATP collaborated with the Title I Resource Team to plan the third annual Family Math Day. Grant invites the whole neighborhood to school events to build positive community relationships.
5. **Communicate among ATP members between meetings.** Grant e-mails a tentative agenda and meeting notes, inviting members to comment and to bring their ideas.
6. **Connect ATP efforts to school goals.** Spooner serves children and families in 21 townships spread over 540 miles. All partnership activities are designed to build relationships among families, school staff, and community members in addition to

strengthening academic achievement.

7. **Have school principals who strongly support the ATP.**

The principal is an ATP member in all three schools and acts to bring school staff and families together.

8. **Have school policy that supports the ATP.**

The Oshkosh School Board's family involvement policy uses the NNPS framework as its model for partnerships in all district schools. The district hosted a partnership retreat for all school site councils to share goals, celebrate successes, and discuss ways to improve partnerships.

9. **Take time for the ATP to evaluate its work.**

Grant students increased their test scores because of partnership efforts, leading to more involvement from parents and community members.

Webster Stanley bases each One Year Action Plan on data

collected from surveys, including focus groups, DPI Characteristics of Successful Schools Surveys at

<http://goal.learningpt.org/wins/sample.htm>, and NNPS evaluation forms.

10. **Celebrate partnership successes**

with end-of-the year recognition gatherings, kudos in the school newsletter, and recognition by the school board.

Which practices does *your* school ATP carry out? You'll be receiving NNPS 2009 Partnership Award applications in the mail this month. **Consider submitting your ATP's efforts for special recognition by NNPS and earn a \$500 prize!** To learn more about NNPS partnership awards and winners, go to www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/awards/index.htm. Let's spotlight some of the wonderful efforts of VISTAs and continue Wisconsin's proud history as a partnership leader!

Save the Dates

April 3

April 15

April 29



VISTA Monthly Check-In

Quarterly Reports due

Parent Leadership Conference

Supervisor Segment: Strategies for Effective Supervising

VISTA supervisors are asked to wear many hats--communicator, evaluator, planner, team builder, coach, mentor, and community partnership builder, to name a few. Because of this combination of roles, supervisors form an important communication link among members, program coordinators and directors, community partners, and grantors.

Since strong site supervision is the key to successful programs, serving as a VISTA supervisor presents a unique set of challenges and responsibilities that directly impact the success of a program. The following is a summary of challenges and strategies gleaned over the years by National Crime Prevention Council discussions and workshops with supervisors. More in next month's newsletter!

Challenge: *Achieving a balance between holding members accountable for outcomes, and, at the same time, encouraging them to learn and grow as individuals.*

Suggested Strategies:

- Set clear goals and objectives with each member at the beginning of the service year. Discussions should focus on establishing realistic member development objectives that are clearly linked to the overall project objectives. In other words,

what skills will the member develop as they work to get things done?

- Establish regular time for structured reflection. After a significant period of work time or after a specific service activity, allow members the time to reflect on questions such as: How did my service help to meet the objectives of the program? In what ways did I improve? What skills did I learn or develop?
- After members have had time to reflect, provide feedback on their performance. Remember to praise good performance.

Challenge: *Difficulty keeping member motivation high throughout the year.*

Suggested Strategies:

- Afford members opportunities to help develop their roles in project activities. Ownership builds commitment.
- Get to know members individually by having them complete a survey or hold a discussion on such topics as what motivates members. Focus the discussion on issues of self-esteem, social interaction, need for personal recognition, and team affiliation.
- Once members clarify what they want to get out of service, assign them work that they regard as valuable and that will help them achieve their personal goals.

<http://nationalserviceresources.org/efective-supervising>

“Hey! That’s a Good Idea!” Corner

Robyn Krimke, working with U.S. Grant Elementary School in Milwaukee, is collaborating with local businesses to help sponsor the school’s first ever family field trip.
COLLABORATING

Kelly Karls recently distributed a survey to Action Team members at the Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center, to evaluate their current progress and plan for the summer and next school year. Survey questions addressed leadership, productivity, and level of interest in summer programming.
DECISION MAKING

Chris Briggs, serving with the Wausau Early Childhood Program, has been continuing to plan active Parents Night Out events that include a social, networking component. Recent gatherings featured eggroll making and ballroom dancing! These are wonderful opportunities for parents to share their own gifts and talents.
PARENTING

Matt Dolezal has been hard at work filming and editing for the DPI VISTA Project DVD. He has been visiting sites to interview VISTAs and supervisors. His visit with Olga Brener Elementary School in Shawano is being featured on DPI’s YouTube site! Check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/user/WisconsinDPI>
COMMUNICATING

Casey Gauthier and her Pelican Elementary School Action Team in Rhinelander are gathering feedback

on their One-Year Action Plan. They intend to ask the entire staff and school families to provide input on their activities, dates, and point people. Remember, this plan affects the entire school community so it’s important to include that community in the process! **DECISION MAKING**

Recipe of the Month



Seafoam Salad

This month, Brendan shares a delicious family recipe from his grandma.

Ingredients:

- 29 oz. can of pears
- 3 oz. package of lime jello (NOT sugar free!)
- 6 oz. package of cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons of cream or milk
- 1 cup of whipped cream

Directions:

- Drain the pears, being careful to reserve the juice. Dice the pears.
- Dissolve the package of lime jello in 1 cup of heated pear juice on the stove.
- Mash the cream cheese with the 2 tablespoons of cream or milk. Blend it with the still-hot juice/jello mixture.
- Take the mixture off the heat, let it cool, and add the diced pears.
- Let the mixture congeal and add the whipped cream. Blend well.

Note: The mixture should not be too firm, just firm enough that you can blend in the whipped cream. Serves 6-8 people.

A VISTA Book List

Get inspired! Get motivated! Get reading!



By Betsy Prueter

I know, the last thing you have time for is reading for fun, but given the hard work you're all doing, the long hours, the busy nights and weekends, and commitment you're showing at your sites, it might be time to step *out* of your world, and *into* one of these. These come highly recommended (*ok, just from me*) and will make you think, challenge your beliefs, tug at your heart, and hopefully, re-energize your service!

WHATEVER IT TAKES: GEOFFREY CANADA'S QUEST TO CHANGE HARLEM AND AMERICA
by Paul Tough

As luck would have it, Geoffrey Canada will be keynoting the 2010 New Wisconsin Promise Conference to share his experiences in founding the Harlem Children's Zone. This story looks at creating change that could be replicated across the country to improve the lives of poor children. It's controversial, provocative, and timely.

THE MILAGRO BEANFIELD WAR
by John Nichols

In the predominantly Hispanic and Catholic small rural town of Milagro, one man fights big business and

New Mexico political interests to save his bean field, and his livelihood. The message here is truly about the power of community!

THREE CUPS OF TEA
by Greg Mortenson

Mortenson's story is most of all, about the importance of education- not just how it can improve the lives of children, but how it can transform a society.

WALKING THE GOBI
by Helen Thayer

Perseverance, determination and spirit epitomize this story of Helen Thayer, age 63 and her 1,600 mile, 80 day journey through the Gobi desert with her husband, Bill.

DREAMS FROM MY FATHER: A STORY OF RACE AND INHERITANCE
by Barack Obama

President Obama's story might be familiar to us now; but this autobiography describes the often painful, but ultimately inspiring journey to racial identify for our country's first black president.

OUTLIERS: THE STORY OF SUCCESS
by Malcolm Gladwell

This book will push some buttons as Gladwell asks, "Why do some people succeed, living remarkably productive and impactful lives, while so many more never reach their potential?" His conclusions might ruffle some feathers, but his argument is fascinating...and convincing!

MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS
by Tracy Kidder

Paul Farmer has one goal: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring tools of modern medicine to those who need them the most. At the core of his philosophy- sustainability! How are we to create lasting change if we don't engage those we are serving?

Did you know? April is National Poetry Month!



Let us smile together
By Nicole Stachurski

Look around...
E Pluribus Unum, right?
We ALL suffer, struggle, and are
challenged...
What does it matter?
I have nothing to share; I barely have
enough for me.
You are like me. I am like you.
I want to smile.
When I smile- colors become
brighter, burdens becomes lighter.
I have noticed YOU need to smile,
too.
You deserve to smile.
I should do my part, I have been
given so much-
The air in my lungs, hands to do, feet
to go...
Let me wash YOUR feet.
I offer myself.

Nicole's service as a VISTA, she has helped her realize how each of us has a wealth of resources to contribute to one another.

VISTA Interviews

**Stephanie answers
Chad's questions**



Stephanie is serving at Parents Plus with Business and Economics Academy of Milwaukee (BEAM) and School for Urban Planning and Architecture (SUPAR).

Chad: Why did you choose VISTA? Why Milwaukee?

Stephanie: I wanted to do a year of service to learn through my experiences if I really wanted to go into Social Work. I thought it was important to take a year off between undergrad and grad school to learn where my heart is and to go into more schooling understanding what I really want to do. Milwaukee worked out because I have family and friends near Milwaukee and I am still close enough to stay connected to Madison.

Chad: What was your greatest success so far this year?

Stephanie: I think my greatest success was making the connection between Menomonee Falls School District, where I went to school, and BEAM. Through this partnership, what I have called the “Sister School Program,” we received donations for holiday baskets for our families. Other than that there have been some big events at both schools and BEAM’s ATP is becoming more and more sustainable.

Chad: What was one thing you were not prepared for?

Stephanie: I was not prepared for how different working in a high school would be. Getting parent participation at BEAM is a breeze compared to how much effort can be put in with little return at SUPAR. It really proves to me how important parent engagement is when students are younger. Hopefully this is what will lead to more engagement at the high school level.

Chad: What skill does someone need in order to succeed as a VISTA? Why?

Stephanie: Flexibility, persistence and self-motivation, because things don’t always go as planned. Things might not go as planned even after months of trying, and sometimes it’s up to you to brainstorm and come up with the solutions that will bring the positive change that is necessary.

Chad: What occupies your time when you're not working with your schools? What are your interests?

Stephanie: When I do get free time and don’t feeling like crashing when I get home, I like to cook, bike (when it is nice out), and hang out with friends. My most recent endeavor

has been a belly dancing class at the YMCA, something fun and new.

Chad: If someone else paid for you to go anywhere on vacation, where would you go and who would you take with you?

Stephanie: I would go to the highlands of the Andes. I would take my boyfriend, Bill, so that he could experience all the things I overwhelmed him with when I spent a few semesters writing papers about Globalization in Peru and the people and cultures of the Andes. It would also give me a chance to see first hand all the things I love to study but can’t afford to be part of.



Chad: If you won the lottery and chose to donate a chunk of it, what cause would you choose and why?

Stephanie: I think it would be to create more green spaces. I would love to help start more community gardens, whether in abandoned lots, rooftops or in the streets. Access to nutritious food is something that really needs to be addressed. I can’t think of a better way to address this problem than to give communities land, seed and the knowledge to sustain them, as well as strengthen their communities.

Chad: I know that you're an avid gardener. So if you were a plant, what would you be and why? Or is there a plant that is most like you; for what reasons?

Stephanie: I would say I am like a Willow. I like to be by lakes and sit in the breeze. Coincidentally White Willow bark is also medicinal as a pain reliever (aspirin) I like to think of myself as a giving person, so maybe I might help people lessen pain and provide support, like the shade the willow offers. I love stretching these sorts of questions.

Chad: Favorite book, favorite movie, favorite band, favorite song, and any other favorites you want to throw in...

Stephanie: I am bad with favorites, can never choose one, so here I go... I too am a nonfiction reader, anthropology, politics, and environmental books mostly. As for fiction, I like Charles Dickens. *Les Miserables* is my all time favorite and I just finished *The Women's Room*. My favorite movie is *Don't Look Back* a documentary about Bob Dylan and *Moulin Rouge*. My favorite bands are the Beatles, Dylan, Pearl Jam, Radiohead and Nickel Creek.

Chad: Imagine that the world were already perfect and there was no pain or suffering. With the world already saved, if you could have any super power, what would it be and how, specifically, would you use it?

Stephanie: That is a tough one, since most of the powers I would wish stem from the problems with the world. I guess the super power I would wish for would be ultimate endurance so I could run, swim, and bike indefinitely. That way I could travel all over the world using no energy but my own.

Chad answers Stephanie's questions



Chad is serving at Parents Plus with Dottke Alternative High School and West Allis-West Milwaukee School District.

Stephanie: Why did you choose VISTA? Why Milwaukee?

Chad: I chose VISTA because of its emphasis on poverty and I chose Milwaukee because I felt like there was no need to leave my own background if it needed help as much as anywhere else.

Stephanie: What was your greatest success so far this year?

Chad: I wouldn't call it MY success but the parents on my Action Team are really excited to be involved and are looking forward to keeping this thing going.

Stephanie: What was one thing you were not prepared for?

Chad: The barriers associated with staff involvement.

Stephanie: What skill does someone need in order to succeed as a VISTA? Why?

Chad: You have to be a self-starter. There are going to be some weeks that are just a lot busier than others. During the slower weeks, it's important to be able to manage your time effectively and take the initiative to start worthwhile projects and keep up with everything else.

Stephanie: What moment/event in your year has made the biggest impact or taught you the most?

Chad: I've had several parents from Dottke approach me to thank me for starting an Action Team at their school because they've either had bad experiences with PTAs or were too intimidated to get involved in the past. Sometimes it's hard to measure success with what we do, but a couple of affirmations from parents have kept me going.

Stephanie: What's your favorite thing to do in the summer? What are you most looking forward to this summer?



Chad: I love summer because summer means Brewer's games. My roommate has season tickets and he feels bad for me because I'm poor.

This summer I look forward to more of that and also hitting the beach quite a bit.

Stephanie: Ernest Hemingway's colleagues bet him that he couldn't write a complete story in just six words. His response was, "For sale: Baby shoes, Never worn."

Hemingway is said to have considered it his greatest work. What is your six word story?

Chad: First of all, that is incredible. I'll do an autobiography in five words: "English Major: Seeking gainful employment." That doesn't say nearly as much as Hemingway, but it says more than you think.

Stephanie: If they made a movie of your life, what would it be about, what genre would it be and which actor would you want to play you?

Chad: It would probably be a dramedy about male camaraderie. Every actor I respect is too good looking and manly to play me so Elijah Wood would probably get cast. Worst-case scenario is they cast Michael Cera or Haley Joel Osment. I would love an edgy performance by Leo circa "Basketball Diaries" without the drug use.

Stephanie: Favorite book, favorite movie, favorite band, favorite song, and any other favorites you want to throw in...

Chad: I could ramble all day about this one. Most of my favorite books are nonfiction; politics, philosophy, and Black Studies. I can't be expected to name my favorite movie because I take that very seriously and...I just can't do it. This year I thought the three best movies were "Synecdoche, New York," "Milk," and "Rachel Getting Married" in that order. Favorite music: John Mayer, Radiohead, Decemberists, Black Keys, and good hip-hop, i.e. not "Lil Weezy."

Stephanie: Finish this sentence: "When I dance, I look like...?"

Chad: Drinks are involved even though most of the time they're not.

Summer Reading and Rocking

By Casey Gauthier

How do we get children to *continue* reading during the very warm months of summer? What encouragement can parents and caregivers provide? Can we legitimately expect children to *want* to read when they are dozens of outdoor activities going on that their friends are participating in?

It can be quite a chore. After months of compulsory reading during the school year, children often rebel against being asked to read during their three months of freedom. It's important to know, however, that summertime reading is incredibly vital to a child's education.

Making reading fun for children shouldn't be too hard, with the right tools:

- 1) Use the buddy system- partner older children with younger ones for story time.
- 2) Offer an ice cream incentive for a certain number of books read or number of reading minutes achieved.
- 3) Read outdoors, so they children don't feel like they are missing out on summer.
- 4) Read seasonal books. Get in the summer spirit!

For the second summer in a row in Rhinelander, we're offering a Summer Story time in the Park program to all area families. On Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons in July, families are

invited to hear volunteers read stories for a half hour in park pavilions, under the shade of large trees and next to lakes with refreshing breezes. Parent resources, Kindergarten Kits, reading DVDs and free books will be available for families and children. This is a simple, low-cost event that went wonderfully last summer. All we really need for this event are blankets, books and people. Except for the Kindergarten Kits that we're putting together this summer and the DVDs, no additional money is needed, as we rely on some wonderful volunteers from Nicolet College Early Childhood Program and district staff members.

For one event, I use a contact with a local DJ to Rock Out in the Park with families. As the DJ has a daughter in the Rhinelander School District, he has plenty of family-friendly music and really knows how to get everyone involved. This DJ has offered his services at a great discount, as we have worked together previously and he truly believes in the work that we're doing.

Outside of the month of July, I am collaborating with Camp Fire USA and the Rhinelander District Library on activities that they are planning. I also want to see what our local family resource center is offering this summer, as well as look into what I can contribute to the four weeks of summer school.

If you're looking to create a unique summer reading experience for children and families in your community, think simply but think outside the box.

- 1) Remember, people love free things; offer books and food.
- 2) Join forces with what already exists in the community!
- 3) Make activities fun and stimulating, and don't leave out the older or younger siblings or any other family members who show up.

Summer is an incredible opportunity to create and build relationships. For example, last summer one mother and I stood around talking for nearly an hour after a story time while her children played. Also, the Assistant District Superintendent volunteered for a few story times, giving families a chance to see him as a real person who cares about children.

Grant Opportunities



Libri Foundation: Books for Children

The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural, public libraries across the country.

Deadline: April 15, 2009
<http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>

AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize

Help spread the word about an outstanding science teacher in your school or district. The American

Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is now accepting nominations for the 2009 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers. The \$1,000 prize honors a high school science teacher who has contributed to the AAAS goal of advancing science education by developing an innovative and effective strategy, activity, or program.

Deadline: April 24, 2009.
http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership

Driver's Edge: Driving Instruction for Teens

Driver's Edge empowers young drivers through a combination of classroom discussions and behind-the-wheel defensive driving instruction to erase the "Fast and the Furious" and video-game mentality that many of today's young drivers have, contributing to soaring numbers of automobile fatalities. The program is free.

Deadline: see tour schedule for relevant dates.
<http://www.driversedge.org/>

Youth Award for Outstanding Activism in Environmental and Social Justice

The Earth Island Institute Brower Youth Award recognizes young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy.

Deadline: May 15, 2009.
<http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=12>

***American Honda Foundation:
Grants for Youth and Scientific
Education***

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused non-profit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education.

Deadline: May 1, 2009.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

***Project Learning Tree:
Green Works!***

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! gives grants for community action and service-learning projects. GreenWorks! projects should address an environmental issue, and can involve students from preschool to high school in hands-on community action.

Deadline: April 30, 2009.

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html

***NEA Foundation: Learning &
Leadership Grants***

NEA Foundation Learning & Leadership Grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education. Grants serve one of two purposes: fund participation of individuals in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research. Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

Deadline: June 1, 2009.

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

***The National Association of
Independent Schools:
Challenge 20/20 Partnership***

Challenge 20/20 brings together two schools: one from the United States and one from outside of the United States. Teacher-student teams from both schools work together throughout the fall 2009 school semester to come up with a solution to a global problem.

Deadline: August 17, 2009.

<http://www.nais.org/resources/index.cfm?ItemNumber=147262>

***PTO Today: Parent Group of the
Year***

PTO Today's Parent Group of the Year Contest is an opportunity to showcase hard work while giving schools the chance to win cash and prizes. Maximum award: \$5,000; plus a free DIRECTV system for the school, installed in up to eight rooms; a 27-inch television; and a DIRECTV system to use as a fundraiser (for example, as an auction item).

Deadline: June 1, 2009.

<http://www.ptotoday.com/pgy/>