

Department of Public Instruction
Learn and Serve America

March 27, 2009

To: Learn and Serve 2008-2009 Grantees
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DPI Service-Learning Website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fscp/slhmpage.html>

WELCOME TO THE DPI LSA E-BRIEF

This communication is distributed monthly to our LSA districts and feature online resources, funding opportunities as well as service-learning project ideas. With ANY feedback or comments please contact Betsy. This is YOUR e-brief. What would benefit you? What would you like to see each month? What would help you strengthen and deepen your work? Please feel free to forward this message to others in your building or district.

UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- MARCH 31, 2009: SERVICE-LEARNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUY-IN WEBINAR, 3PM-4PM
REGISTER BY EMAILING betsy.prueter@dpi.wi.gov
- APRIL 15, 2009: REQUESTS FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS DUE
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FORM ATTACHED
- APRIL 23-25, 2009: PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE-LEARNING TRAINING, OSTHOFF RESORT, ELKHART LAKE
REGISTER HERE: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fscp/slhmpage.html>

SERVICE-LEARNING STORIES

Each month we will feature outstanding stories of service-learning from across the state and across the country. These are meant to inspire and motivate you all to continue to do good work in your classrooms. This month's story comes from McKinley Elementary School in San Francisco, CA. Have a story to share? Submit the attached "Curriculum Infusion Guide" to Betsy.

McKinley Elementary School resides on the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area. Following a teacher-led discussion on community civic participation, fourth-grade students decided they wanted to make a positive contribution in their community. Students wrote a reflective journal entry on places or people within their community, which they thought needed assistance. In a class discussion, the students shared their journal entries and created a list of the places or people they could help and why that assistance would be beneficial. The Children's Hospital won the popular vote. They then contacted the Volunteer Department at the Children's Hospital and learned the hospital needed age appropriate activity packets for the children residing in the Children's Hospital for an extended period of time.

The project began with a letter writing campaign to solicit local businesses for donations. The students also wrote press releases to local newspapers, and articles for the school newsletter. The students designed and distributed posters on the school grounds and presented regular announcements on their school intercom system. Once the donations streamed in, the materials were separated into age-appropriate groups and assembled into the activity bags. Students then collaborated with the local troop of the Boy Scouts of America to deliver the bags to the Children's Hospital.

The students addressed the English-Language Arts Content Standards throughout this service-learning activity. The students developed a list of items needed for their activity bags and formulated methods to acquire the items on their list. The students worked in small groups that focused on different methods to solicit donations. The student groups participated in a wide range of facets to fulfill the project. They referenced the phone book and the local newspaper to help identify businesses as potential donors. They wrote letters to businesses, e-mailed information to television stations, and wrote an article in the school newsletter. There was also a lot of footwork involved. Informational flyers were put up in the school hallways. Additionally, students went class-to-class to give short informative speeches.

Extra Credit: Which K-12 Service-Learning Standards for High-Quality Practice are missing (or weak) in this project? Be the first to email Betsy with your answer and receive a free book!

FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCE: SLICE (SERVICE LEARNING IDEAS AND CURRICULAR EXAMPLES)

Seek out inspiration and ideas using this online database. Educators can search by grade level, subject area, area of service, and state.

<http://www.servicelearning.org/slice/index.php>

Remember, while these stories can help create excitement about service-learning, the richer, more meaningful experience will be generated in **YOUR** classroom by **YOUR** students!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

State Farm® and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Good Decision Service-Learning Grant

Public Affairs strives to create a healthy business environment through partnerships that build safer, stronger, better educated communities. Since 2005, we have partnered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to address impaired driving among young people. Our partnership with MADD focuses on keeping our roadways safe and educating communities on the impact of impaired driving.

State Farm® and MADD are pleased to offer fifteen Good Decision Service-Learning Grants. These \$1,000 grants can be used to develop local service-learning projects for the 2009-2010 school year. The projects must address one of the following topics:

- Underage alcohol-use prevention
- Vehicle safety

Applicants must be a school-based or community-based organization working with youth ages 5-25. Projects must meet [State Farm's service-learning criteria](#).

The deadline for grant applications is **April 20, 2009**. Grant winners and non-selected applicants will be notified in early May and impacted zones will receive a list of recipients.

Beginning March 17, the grant application will be available on the Communicator's Hub (http://intranet.opr.statefarm.org/pahub/whatsnew/sf_madd/sf_madd.htm) for your use and distribution to agents, associates and community partners.

For more information regarding State Farm's relationship with MADD or the Good Decision Grant program, please contact [Stephanie Dagley](mailto:Stephanie.Dagley@statefarm.com) or visit www.madd.org and www.pypm.org.

RESEARCH BRIEF: SERVICE-LEARNING AND STUDENT PROBLEM SOLVING

Three studies conducted by RMC Research in Philadelphia, Denver, and Waianae, Hawaii examined the impact of service-learning on students' problem-solving abilities and cognitive complexities.

-After engaging in service-learning, students were much more apt to view social or community problems as systemic rather than personal, become more action oriented in their solutions, pose more solutions, and advance more realistic solutions.

-In the Hawaiian study, students also were more likely to become more empathetic and take a deeper, more analytic approach to the problems.

Conclusion: Students who participated in service-learning: 1) scored higher than nonparticipating students in several studies, particularly in social studies, writing, and English/language arts, 2) were more cognitively engaged and 3) more motivated to learn.

Studies of students' problem-solving abilities show strong increases in cognitive complexity and other related aspects of problem solving. Service-learning, then, does appear to have a positive impact on students by helping them to engage cognitively in school and score higher in certain content areas on state tests. *Some of these outcomes are mediated by the quality of the program.*

RMC Research Corporation, December 2002. Updated May 2007.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: SERVICE LEARNING TALKING POINTS

See attached "Talking Points" document for some suggestions and strategies in addressing the following with your fellow teachers and administrators!

1. Why Service-Learning?
2. What's in it for students?
3. What's in it for teachers?
4. What's in it for school administrators?

5. What can Principals do?

6. What can District Administrators do?

The DPI LSA E-Brief is distributed once a month. It is intended to:

1. Offer relevant and timely information to support you in your efforts to build and develop programs of service-learning;

2. Update you on available research, tools, materials, services, and training opportunities from DPI and other national sources; and

3. Provide you with a vehicle to exchange ideas with, ask questions of, and share resources with other LSA grantees, service-learning practitioners, and DPI staff.

To respond to DPI about this E-Brief, click “Reply” and you will send your e-mail only to me, Betsy Prueter. To share your response with the entire e-mail list, click “Reply to All.”

To subscribe to this monthly e-brief please email Betsy at betsy.prueter@dpi.wi.gov