



# TEACH, SERVE, AND LEARN

the newsletter for Service Learning  
at Nassau Community College

FALL 2012

## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS THE LONG ISLAND SERVICE LEARNING EXPO

LEARNING EXPO was held on April 26, 2012. Students and staff who attended the Expo enjoyed an informative experience that recognized their service learning activities for the year and enabled them to see what other schools are doing in this important subject area.

The Expo was an interactive “SHARE-FAIR”, consisting of booths set up by the students of each participating school. All of the students had time to visit other booths, exchange information and be invited to replicate programs to which they were attracted.

The annual Expo is intended to encourage and recognize service learning activities throughout Long Island. Participating schools are encouraged to develop or maintain service learning activities.

The research clearly indicates that students involved in Service Learning achieve at higher levels and have significant character developmental outcomes as well. These schools applied to participate in the Service Learning Expo by requesting an application from Mr. Kevin Mann, Chair of the Long Island Service Learning Network. Applications were screened and evaluated by a Blue



Ribbon panel of judges and were categorized into four levels of participation: Elementary School Level; Junior High School Level; Senior High School Level; and College Level.

The collegiate competition had excellent entries and was quite difficult for the judges to pick just one winner. The prize went to the special Prom Boutique led by Prof. Lupino and Prof. Bloom. This project unloaded some 3,000 dresses/gowns for the most recent big Prom Boutique.

NCC’s other participants included: Prof. Cheryl McBride (Anti choking poster for Nassau County Board of Health) – Art, Dr. Valerie Lagakis (The Achilles Project) - Reading and Basic Ed, Dr. Birgit Woelker (Benefits of Sustainable Agriculture) – Biology, Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar (Produce in the Projects: The D.U.Y.L. Project – NCC Edition) – Biology, Prof. Joan Buckley (Healthy Family Living) – Nursing, Prof. Mary Ann Snow (Health Family Living) – Nursing, and Dr. Diana Milillo – (A Theoretically-Driven Model of Social Action in a Women’s Class) – Psychology



Congratulations and thank you to these professors and their students for helping to make the EXPO such a success. The EXPO surely celebrated the extraordinary value of Service Learning. They all were WINNERS!

Other project presenters were Dr. Diana Feige’s “Literacy Across the Sea” from Adelphi University; Dr. Catherine Lipnick’s “Writing to Change the World” from Suffolk Community College and Dr. Maureen Capone’s “Community Interaction Project” from Farmingdale State University.

The winning school in the Elementary division was the impressive array of programs from the Sunrise Drive Elementary School in Sayville, Long Island. Not only did they win their

division, but they also won the Joan Imhoff Memorial Award, named for the originator of Newsday's Future Corp program and the L.I. Volunteer Center. The winning high school was Shoreham-Wading River High School for its program with the Hope Children's Fund in Meru, Kenya, which sustains the lives of some 80 children, most of whom have been orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic. Outstanding!

The EXPO was a huge success and received high reviews from all participant schools. The LIRSLN is an organization funded by the New York State Education Department with the express purpose of providing ALL Long Island schools with assistance in developing service learning activities.



## NURSING STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE SMALL FARM SUMMIT



### NURSING *Professor Eileen Gallagher*

Proper nutrition has an enormous impact on the health of the people who reside in our communities. NUR 105 students study heart disease, diabetes and cancer and learn how a balanced diet that emphasizes plant based foods can have a significant impact on the prevention of these diseases. A day of education occurred for all at Hofstra University on Saturday April 14, 2012. The students gained personal insight about proper nutrition as they increased awareness of healthy food choices among the members of the community. Creative poster presentations were discussed, brochures with healthy recipes were distributed and interactive learning was visible. Participants guessed correct portion sizes, visualized varying amounts of salt we consume, took a quiz about sugar in beverages and stepped on a scale to determine percentage of body fat. Students explained the slogans "Dense makes Sense and "ANDI not Candy" worn on buttons that refer to the importance of choosing nutrient dense foods like kale! The waist circumference challenge was a huge success. Your risk of developing heart disease and diabetes increases if your waist is greater than 35 inches for women and 40 inches for men. Know your waist size and take action.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to dialogue with many individuals who presented at the Summit and witness their commitment to proper nutrition. Through integrative learning the nursing students had an opportunity to internalize the benefit of working in the local communities we serve.

## SERVICE LEARNING AGENCY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Copies of the Service Learning Agency Guide are available at the Center for Service Learning for students, staff, and faculty. This guide will assist anybody who wishes to engage in Service Learning. After the agency names are brief descriptions of the tasks required and the names of individuals in charge of recruitment. We acknowledge the Long Island Volunteer Center for

providing the Center for Service Learning with additional agencies and organizations. The categories in the Guide are: Animals, Children and Youth, Education, Finance, Health, Museum and Cultural Organizations, Nature, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities, and Social Services.

# FORMATION OF LONG ISLAND CONSORTIUM OF SERVICE LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Long Island Regional Service Learning Network (LIRSLN), a 20 year-old organization funded by the New York State Education Department, organized a brand new Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education in the Fall of 2011. Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Dean for Service Learning, spearheaded the organization of this Consortium with the assistance of Dr. Diana Feige of Adelphi University and Dr. Catherine Lipnick of Suffolk Community College. Meetings have been hosted by Suffolk Community College, Farmingdale State University, Hofstra University, and Adelphi University.

Letters were sent to the Presidents of all of the colleges on Long Island, encouraging them to become members of the Long Island Consortium of Service Learning in Higher Education. The Consortium currently has 30 members representing faculty,

administrators and staff from institutions of higher education who participate in Service Learning. The objectives of the Consortium are: (1) to host faculty workshops and share best practices; (2) to use Service Learning in curricular areas in order to realize its extraordinary benefits for both students and faculty; and (3) to learn from each other about the successful uses of Service Learning that can be replicated by colleagues among participating institutions.

Service Learning is a form of experiential learning that builds and strengthens communities while bringing the curriculum to life. It is a pedagogical practice that dramatically connects classroom theory with real world issues. Service Learning promotes greater student engagement by providing meaningful service and advocacy to the community and therefore benefits the college student personally, professionally, and academically.

## GROW WITH US

### NCC HAS STARTED OUR VERY OWN ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN!

#### BIOLOGY

*Professor Elizabeth Gaudino-Goering and  
Professor Birgit Woelker*

In the Spring of 2012, the campus community joined together to cultivate not just vegetables, but better health, better nutrition and a better environment for all. A generous donation from the Timothy O'Loughlin Scholarship fund and a grant from Whole Foods allowed us to break ground on our new garden. The garden is located between South Hall and the Music Building, next to the playground of the Children's Greenhouse Child Care Center. As educators, we plan to use this garden to generate and enhance lessons, develop Service Learning projects, provide real-life, hands-on experiences, promote nutritional, political, and governmental awareness, inspire literature and art, and Provide healthy,

organic, free produce to needy families RIGHT HERE AT NCC and through local food pantries. And we can breathe some much-needed fresh air while we are at it!

So far, the Children's Greenhouse, the Moms Club, the Biology department, NCCFT, LINCC, the Payroll department, Engineering/Physics/Technology department, ITS, and Public Safety have cultivated plots throughout the summer. The garden is literally bursting at the seams!

We will have an official naming and dedication on October 17th, 2012 during our Fall Harvest and Day of Service. Questions? Want to adopt a plot for your class, club, or office? Please e-mail Birgit Woelker or Elizabeth Gaudino-Goering if you want to get involved.



## HEALTH FAIR REFLECTIONS FROM STUDENTS

### *Michele Hammond*

I really enjoyed the health fair. To be honest, initially I planned to attend just because Professor Buckley asked us to attend, but now after the experience I am looking forward to next year's health fair. I felt proud, and important to represent our college. The bike safety was very well received by the children, and their parents, and if just one child who does not have a helmet asks their parent to buy them one before the summer comes, then it was very well worth my Sunday afternoon. I believe all of our teachings made a difference.

### *Joanne Dias*

The health fair was a great success! The bike safety booth was a big hit! I enjoyed watching the children's reactions during the egg demonstration and the helmet giveaways. I also enjoyed teaching the kids how important wearing a helmet is. All the booths were interesting and each equally an important part of the health fair. The health fair is an important event to our community and I'm glad I was a part of it. I think our class and professors did a great job, and I'm looking forward to next years event!

## STUDENTS PACK MEALS READY TO EAT FOR VICTIMS OF TYPHOON WASHI IN THE PHILIPPINES

*Six thousand six hundred twenty four (6,624)  
"Meals Ready to Eat" packed for victims of  
Typhoon Sendong in the Philippines by NCC  
Military Students and Dean Evangeline Manjares.*



## DAY OF SERVICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

### *Professors Richard Conway and Stella Fox First-Year Experience Committee*

Assisting students in their transition to college has long been a mission of Nassau Community College. NCC's First-Year Experience (FYE) program, which begins this fall, represents an expansion of the College's efforts to welcome new students to our campus and to help students have a successful college experience.

The First-Year Experience program includes a campus-wide Day of Service on Wednesday, October 17. The Day of Service invites students, faculty, administrators, and staff to participate in fundraising, community outreach, and other charitable activities. Our goal is to give students an opportunity to engage in projects and activities outside of the classroom that will benefit others—and to build a sense of community through volunteerism and service. Some of the planned activities during the Day of Service include a campus-wide school supplies drive, a health fair in the CCB, a campus beautification project, a food drive, a student-created library exhibit on Enrique's Journey (this year's common reading), cell phone recycling, computer instruction for seniors, Hempstead-Plains environmental cleanup, T-shirts, scarves and dolls for a cause

fundraisers, CCB garage sale, CDs for seniors, volunteer readers at the Children's Greenhouse, a letter-writing campaign to support gun control, a Random Acts of Kindness marathon, and more.

A complete list of service projects and a schedule for the Day of Service will be posted around campus in advance of the event. We hope that all members of the campus community will actively support this initiative. Faculty can encourage their students to get involved by integrating an FYE service project into their curriculum, either as an extra credit project or as an option for a class assignment.

The Day of Service is sponsored by the First-Year Experience program and the Center for Service Learning. First-year experience programs are a regular part of many two- and four-year colleges. While the specifics of such programs vary somewhat from campus to campus, virtually all FYE programs share common educational ground—namely, a recognition of the importance of the first year of college to students' academic and social development and a commitment to giving students the information, skills, encouragement, and support necessary for them to succeed.

For more information about the Day of Service, contact: Stella Fox (572-8065), Genette Alvarez-Ortiz (572-7506), or Vangie Manjares (572-9775).

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