From the desk of: Dr. Janice Harper, Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach, Special and External Programs

The Academic Community Service Learning Program (ACSLP) in collaboration with students, faculty, staff, administration and our community partners completed another successful academic year. We extend a special “thank you” to each of the dedicated groups of individuals listed above for your commitment to community service. Our Motto of “Truth and Service” is the foundation of the University’s legacy of engagement in the community. We continue to promote the development of high quality service learning across the curriculum and the importance of faculty research focused on addressing community issues and concerns. As a result of the efforts of many we are proud to highlight a few of the major accomplishments during this academic year and pause to recognize the importance of celebrating our successes.

The impact of the service learning courses and engaged research on the lives of the members of the community and the lives of our students is inspiring. The reflections written by students capture their excitement and passion they have developed for making a difference in the lives of others. This is the very essence of the university’s motto of “Truth and Service”.

It has been my pleasure to work very closely with ACSLP staff, students, faculty and staff for more than eleven years on this wonderful journey devoted to service. As we continue to promote Eagle Excellence we must embrace innovative strategies that will open up new opportunities to bring about positive change in our community. There is a feeling of joy and pride in knowing that through service we have and will continue to touch the lives of many.

Marian Wright Edelman said it best with this quote “Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.”

In “Truth and Service”,

Dr. Janice Harper
MLK, JR Day of Service: Partnering with United Way

In partnership with the United Way of the Triangle, NCCU students, faculty and staff supported the signature project for United Way at the MLK Day of Service event on Saturday, January 19, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Leroy Walker Complex gymnasium. The participants supported the signature project by packaging beans and rice bags for local non-NCCU food pantries, created literacy flashcards for children K-5 and made fleece blankets to donate to veteran patients at the VA Hospital and infants in the neo-natal intensive care unit of a local hospital.

There were more than 480 NCCU students participated in the event. Students donated over $500.00 for NCCU’s Food Pantry that currently supports students faced with food insecurity. Blue Cross Blue Shield, Durham Technical College and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics High School also participated in the event, totaling 262 participants.

Ms. Natasha Wayne, Community Engagement & Special Events Manager of United Way provided t-shirts to all of the volunteers for the event. United Christian Campus Ministry under the guidance of Rev. Michael Page, donated water for event as well.

The speakers who supported the MLK Day of Service event were Dr. Johnson Akinleye, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Mr. Mack Koonce, CEO of United Way of the Triangle and returning again this year, Ms. Debra Morgan, WRAL News Anchor.

"As a dietician, we know the effects that hunger has on infants and children and adolescent learning ability. Just as profound, is the effect on college students with the additional stresses. How can we expect students to succeed with food insecurity?"

Jason O’Briant
Director
Didactic Program in Dietetics

NCCU students working on the literacy cards used to aid young students with reaching their reading goals with their tutors.
5th Eagle Habitat House Build

The home dedication for the Bostic family was held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the new home location on Spruce Street. Joining in the celebration with the family representing NCCU was Chancellor Saunders-White, who shared remarks from the university, Dr. Janice Harper, who led the group assembled in the Litany of Life. The Homebuyer was introduced by Habitat staff member and NCCU alumnus, Lesley Thomas (Class of 2007).

NCCU has partnered with Durham Habitat for Humanity to build or rehabilitate six homes in the Durham, North Carolina community.

The Bostic children were each treated to a custom-built bookcase and a donation of books by the Book Harvest organization.

Students at the Height of Service ...

We would like to congratulate our newest recipients of the Student Service Impact Award for obtaining a minimum of 240 hours of service and documenting the impact of their service.

Graduate students who earned the award are: Stormi Burns, Master of Public Administration; Angelis Rodriguez, Master of Social Work; Jamina Nogo, Juris Doctor; Jeremy Rigsbee, Juris Doctor; Shana Wynn, Juris Doctor; and Jarrod Summey, Juris Doctor.

Undergraduate students who earned the award are: Whitney Gibbs; Melissa Headen; Kimberly Guidry; Nia Sutto; Galeisa Williams; Michael Johnson; Ebony Wilson; Brianne Gill; Maryssa Sadler; Jacquain Middleton; Tierra Burkett; Keisha Washington; Tamika Gilchrist; Daniel Charles; Kiana Redd; Brittany Witherspoon; Michelle Smith; Sterling Smarr; Keshante Cavin; Zakia Knight; Tyshawn Johnson; Shanta Person; Karian Williams; Christopher Umstead; Latasha Adams; Shaterra Williams; Warren Clayton.

Congratulations to all! Thank you for your service to the university and the surrounding community!

Interested in a Service-Learning Collaboration?

If you have an interest in a partnering with faculty on a project, or with a service-learning course, the office staff will work through the steps with you. It can be rewarding and challenging. If you need further assistance, please call: Ms. Ruby Messick at 919.530.5384
5th Annual America Reads Read-A-Thon

Have You Seen Us Read?

Many people ask the question: “Why read?” “What power does one gain?” “Why write?” Perhaps the only sensible answer to this question is, “why not?” – Throughout the entire nation, our National Literacy Awareness Week, promoted by President Obama in 2009, celebrates the critical importance of literacy and creative welfare amongst the American people. In the spirit of this, On March 25th, along with many other colleges and universities alike, North Carolina Central hosted our 5th annual “America Reads read-a-thon” in the Alfonso Elder Student Union.

Students, faculty and staff eagerly prepared for the arrival of the 3rd grade English Class of C.C Spaulding Elementary, Fayetteville Street Elementary, WG Pearson Elementary, Burton Magnet School, R. N. Harris Elementary, and Eastway Elementary.

The morning was filled with volunteers and faculty decorating the student union with donated books and prizes, chairs for the coming-bookworms, and a tray of lunch to be served in the afternoon for hungry hands. Each volunteer amongst our student body was asked to participate by advocating and transforming the literary experience through oration.

Students and volunteers kicked off the event by sharing a story, a narration, a book and/or way of thinking about words and novels to the younger class. “Words are like magic…” One student reported. “I remember reading Junie B. Jones in elementary, it changed my way of thinking…” Another reflected. The overall experience was empowering and by the time 4pm arrived, 35 or so 3rd grade students walked away with a much more broadened level of leadership and critical thinking skills - and of course a book! Though many students of the 3rd grade class brought along their favorite copy of “The Diary of Wimpy Kid” or “Harry Potter”; their palms gripped the edges of the Union seats as the student body took turns orating a selected book. Within the eyes of our future, you could tell that the power of words jumpstarted their own personal literacy journey; you could tell that each boy and girl soaked up the entire day and will forever be involved in the strength of expression throughout their life careers.

NCCU student reading one of his favorite childhood books to the elementary school students during the Read-A-Thon.
To Let You Know...

President’s Honor Roll –

North Carolina Central University was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for General Community Service. This is the second consecutive year that the university received the designation “With Distinction”.

Carnegie Classification –

North Carolina Central University was selected to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Re-classification. NCCU is one of 361 institutions that now hold the Community Engagement Classification.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected NCCU for the first time in 2008. The Carnegie Foundation is committed to developing networks of ideas, individuals, and institutions to advance teaching and learning.

To know more about North Carolina Central University’s community engagement initiatives, please visit the university’s website or contact relevant departments.

Save the Date!

Deadline for Annual Partner Register
Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Link to Registration Form: https://www.nccu.edu/formsdocs/files/webforms/acslp04.cfm
Your Donation to NCCU Habitat Build Is Greatly Appreciated

NCCU’s 5th Habitat for Humanity build was completed in Durham, NC thanks to the support of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community volunteers and donors.

But, it does not stop there. The family is barely settled in and NCCU is preparing for the next home build in the community. Yes, the 6th Habitat partnership build fundraising is underway.

The builds are supported by donations from organizations, local business and individuals who share a passion for “decent, affordable and sustainable housing made available to all”.

Your tax deductible donation of any amount can make a difference.

Send your check or money orders payable to:

NCCU Foundation
P O Box 52466
Durham, NC 27717

Please note Habitat in the Memo field. If you are interested in donating time, talents, or food to the build effort, please call:

Ms. Ruby Messick - 919.530.5384

Academic Community Service Learning Staff

Interim Director  Calleen Herbert
919-530-6143

Assistant Director  Ruby Messick
919-530-5384

Student Coordinator  Tannya Artis
919-530-7076