NCCU AND COMMUNITY TEAM UP TO “MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

More than 1200 volunteers—consisting of NCCU students, faculty, and staff; community members; and agencies—gathered at McDougald-McLendon Gymnasium bright and early on Saturday, September 12, 2009, for the first annual Make a Difference Day (MDD)! Volunteers dispersed into five distinct zones, covering areas in and around campus.

MDD was truly a collaborative effort between NCCU and the Durham community, as Keep Durham Beautiful and the City of Durham provided supplies along with two recycling trucks. Government officials who attended, including Mayor William “Bill” Bell, N.C. Representative Larry Hall, and Senator Bob Atwater, City Council members, county commissioners and school board members provided even more support. Keeping with NCCU’s motto of Truth and Service, ACSLP’s mission to provide students with significant service opportunities. Student participants completed a mandatory written reflection. The reflection served as a way to support student learning and engagement, while prompting students to begin to think about issues, ideas, solutions, and concepts that can be used to address community needs.

“Our evaluations tell us that this event means more to students than just a way to fulfill the NCCU service requirement,” said Deborah Bailey, director of Academic Community Service Learning Program (ACSLP). “Students enjoyed the day, the camaraderie, knowing that something they did made a significant difference to those living around them.” Latia Best, a first-year student majoring in biology, said this about community service, “Sharing is caring; and if we all stand together, we can accomplish anything.”

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DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of Partnering Together: The Community Engagement Newsletter of NCCU. We hope to capture the variety and vitality of community volunteerism and partnerships that exist across the entire NCCU campus.

NCCU has a rich history of outreach to the community that has resulted in making Durham, the Research Triangle, and communities throughout N.C. better places to live.

This newsletter will capture those unique partnerships, the research that evolves from our community work, and stories about the students, faculty, staff, and community that impact lives beyond the classroom.

If you are a faculty member developing a service learning project that uniquely impacts Durham—we want to make the NCCU community aware of your efforts. If you are a student, making a difference through volunteer tutoring, mentoring or helping change lives for the better on campus or in our community, we’d like to see your work highlighted in our newsletter.

If you are a staff unit on campus taking the time to serve the community every year—we think your work could be the spark to encourage others to get involved.

Welcome to our world of service! Contact me at dbailey@nccu.edu with your good news about volunteerism and service at NCCU!

Deborah Bailey, Ph.D.
Director, ACSLP

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SERVICE: SERVICE UPDATES

University Million Meals, 8/29/09: 52 students sorted, bagged, and distributing meal packs to be sent to people suffering from hunger in underdeveloped countries.

Urban Garden, 8/29/09: A total of 13 students participated in this service project. Students worked to beautify a community urban garden.

Community Awareness Day, 9/1/09: This program was sponsored by ACLSP to provide an opportunity for 19 agency partners to describe their services to students and recruit student volunteers. Ninety-one students were in attendance!

Elementary School Book Bag Drive, 9/3/09: More than 300 students donated book bags as well as other school supplies to area elementary schools.

Eagle Pride Blood Drive, 9/15-9/17/09: Coordinated by the Eagle Pride Blood Drive Committee, 574 NCCU students donated blood to assist the American Red Cross with increasing its blood supply to save more lives.

Constitution Day, 9/16/09: In observance of Constitution Day, NCCU held a panel discussion titled The U.S. Constitution in the Age of Obama: A Conversation Across Generations. Through this program, 90 students were able to ponder important constitutional questions surrounding the election of the nation’s first African-American president. The event was sponsored by the Law School and the Institute for Civic and Social Change.

Tribute to Senator Kennedy, 9/17/09: Sponsored by NCCU’s Institute for Civic and Social Change, the tribute to the late Senator Edward Kennedy focused on his legacy of service and showed the 50 NCCU students in attendance the difference that a life deeply rooted in service can make.
SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SERVICE: SERVICE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Phi Beta Lambda Highway Clean-Up, 9/19/09; 10/10/09: Sponsored by professional business fraternity, 28 students participated in cleaning litter from a local highway.

W.D. Hill Community Day, 9/20/09: W.D. Hill Recreation Center of Durham hosted a community day and eight students assisted with set up and survey completion and served as greeters and servers.

Gridiron Classic Service Project, 9/26/09: A group of NCCU and Duke students volunteered their time to completing a service project at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Eighteen NCCU Students worked alongside Duke University students to sort, label, and package canned goods for the less fortunate in the community who are in need of food and/or food related services.

Non-Traditional Student Forum, 9/29/09: This student forum was targeted at non-traditional students and provided those students with the opportunity to discuss their needs, issues, and concerns as well as to network. Eight students participated in this event.

Durham C.A.N. Event, 10/2/09: This event enabled students to learn about community organization and the role of banks in the current economic crisis as well as the concerns of working class communities. Sixteen students participated.

Alliance for Lupus Research Walk, 10/3/09: In an effort to raise awareness of lupus and funds for medical research for lupus, 10 students made donations to fund lupus research in addition to participating in the 5K walk.

Sisters Gift for Life Block Walk, 10/10/09: Eighteen NCCU students and members of the Sisters Network, an African American breast cancer survivor organization teamed up to participate in a Breast Cancer Benefit Block Walk.

Shepard Society Phonathan, 10/12/09: Twelve students took part in the Shepard Society’s Phonathan fundraiser in an effort to raise funds for the University by reaching out to the NCCU community of alumni and friends. The Shepard Society is a group of NCCU’s most loyal Annual Fund donors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 18-19, 2009
NCCU Staff Senate Food Drive

November 20, 2009
SGA Interfaith Food Shuttle Turkey Takeout

November 21, 2009
Operation Warmth

December 3 and 4, 2009
Eagle Village and McDougald Terrace Gift Drive

December 6, 2009
SAB Children’s Christmas Party

December 6, 2009
SGA & ACSLP Harvest Feast

December 6, 2009
Share Your Christmas

January 2010 (DATE TBA)
NCCU Habitat for Humanity Group Breaking Ceremony

January 18, 2010
Martin Luther King Day Service Program
SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SERVICE: NC-ACTS! & AMERICA READS

ACSLP participates in two AmeriCorps/ North Carolina Campus Compact programs, North Carolina-Activating Citizenship through Service (NC-ACTS!) and America Reads. Both programs are coordinated and implemented by AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTAs) program associates, Swetha Kumar and Marquita Jones.

NC-ACTS! is a civic-engagement service program coordinated by Marquita Jones with the goal of engaging students in direct service to the community. NC-ACTS! members serve in partnership with schools and community-based agencies in three primary areas: education, human needs/services, and volunteer recruitment/capacity building.

America Reads is a national service initiative that challenges all Americans to promote reading literacy among children in grades K-3. The America Reads program, coordinated by Swetha Kumar, allows work study students to work as reading tutors in public schools or community programs. Currently, there are 44 (and counting!) NCCU students serving as America Reads tutors in Durham County Public Schools and Operation Breakthrough's Headstart program.

MEET THE STAFF OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

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