



DELGADO NAMED TO 2008 PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

The Corporation for National and Community Service has honored Delgado Community College with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

In the summer of 2006, Delgado Community College began a Service Learning initiative with a task force and grant funding from the Community College National Center for Community Engagement. Service Learning projects were offered in courses across a variety of disciplines, with faculty partnering with Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, the New Orleans Public School System and many others that serve the Greater New Orleans region, to design projects specific to their course learning objectives.

As of spring 2008, 278 students, 48 community partners and 28 faculty members had participated in Delgado Service Learning projects. Delgado held its first "Community Partners Fair" in fall 2007, where several local agencies set up displays and spoke with faculty who were interested in establishing a partnership. On May 5, 2008, Delgado hosted the Partners in Education Service Learning Conference for area high school faculty and administrators, to assist them in researching, developing and implementing Service Learning programs at their institutions.

"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. "We salute Delgado for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others."

Overall, the Corporation honored six schools with Presidential Awards. In addition, 83 were named as Honor Roll With Distinction members and 546 schools as Honor Roll members. In total, 635 schools were recognized. A full list is available at www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service-learning and volunteering to college students. In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to the Corporation's Volunteering in America 2007 study. Expanding campus incentives for service is part of a larger initiative to spur higher levels of volunteering by America's college students. The Corporation is working with a coalition of federal agencies, higher education and student associations, and nonprofit organizations to achieve this goal.

Examples of Delgado's numerous Service Learning projects include the following:

- Television Production students wrote, filmed and produced public service videos on emergency preparedness in partnership with the local Council on Aging.
- The Plant Propagation class partnered with the LSU AgCenter and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to grow wetland grasses for coastal restoration.
- Students in Machine Transcription transcribed recorded interviews of area storm victims and compiled an oral history for the Friends of the Cabildo's permanent Hurricane Katrina museum exhibit.
- Several Horticulture classes have been involved in beautification projects with Habitat for Humanity, such as landscaping in the Musician's Village and hosting clean-up days in neighborhoods around town.
- English Composition students wrote argumentative proposals addressing the need for environmental preservation and ecotourism to state and local officials, and created a brochure that is being adopted by the Audubon Society to create awareness about protecting bird habitats in Louisiana.
- The Dietetic Technician students conducted a Nutrition Expo for Women in Delgado's Student Life Center, which included women's health exhibits, presentations and a cooking demo by Chef Marilyn Doucette of Meals from the Heart, L.L.C.
- At the Slidell Learning Center, Math students are tutoring students in developmental classes and Biology students performed lab work for a local clinic.
- Architecture students designed animal shelters, some incorporating "green" concepts, in conjunction with Animal Rescue of New Orleans and Louisiana SPCA.
- Dietetic Technician students prepared and served meals to the homeless at the ReBuild Center.
- A Marketing class developed advertising materials for a local community radio station, WWOZ FM.
- During Financial Literacy Month, Accounting students taught second through fifth graders at Fischer Elementary Charter School about free enterprise, business and economics.
- Architectural students participated for the third year in CANstruction, a design competition and fundraiser sponsored by the American Institute of Architects New Orleans Chapter and the Second Harvest Food Bank.
- The Legal Office Procedures class participated in the "Leave a Legacy of Love" initiative adopted by Louisiana Legal Secretaries Inc. by soliciting donations of stuffed animals for regional law enforcement officers to use in comforting children that are victims of domestic abuse or present at accident sites.

Other new projects include Television Production students who plan to work with school children to develop a music video about emergency preparedness, and a sociology class last summer that planned and distributed "survival kits" for kids in case of a hurricane evacuation. The Horticulture students are presently involved in several environmental preservation initiatives and numerous beautification and landscaping projects at local schools, public areas and charity and community service organizations.

The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is presented during the annual conference of the American Council on Education.

"I offer heartfelt congratulations to those institutions named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. College and university students across the country are making a difference in the lives of others every day – as are the institutions that encourage their students to serve others," said American Council on Education President Molly Corbett Broad.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation administers Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, a program that supports service-learning in schools, institutions of higher education and community-based organizations. For more information, go to www.nationalservice.gov.



Cabildo transcription project



2008 CANstruction project



Early Childcare EXPO project



Katrina houses project



Green dog house project



Musician's Village project



Nutrition fair project



Nutrition fair project



Horticulture project



NOPD Stuffed animal donation project