

# MIDWEST CONSORTIUM FOR SERVICE LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

*Extending learning and enriching lives*

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2004 200 Nebraska Union Lincoln NE 68588-0453

## Special Points of Interest:

- Institutional Sub-Grants due April 15th, 2004.
- Spring is the time to call the Consortium office to schedule a workshop on Service Learning for your institution.
- Many of our institutions are hosting events so check your calendar and visit your fellow members' websites!

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** ★★ ★

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

## Faculty Sub-grants are In!

*All of the faculty sub-grant proposals have been received for this round of granting in year one of the Consortium's funding period. Thanks to all of you who sent in proposals! The Faculty sub-grant committee is currently reviewing the proposals.*

## Alternative Spring Break Trips Conclude

The Alternative Spring Break trips sponsored in part by sub-grants from the Consortium have been completed! We had successful student service learning projects completed by Midland Lutheran College, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska-

Kearney, Wayne State College, and the University of South Dakota.

Several hundred hours of service were completed by nearly 200 Nebraska and South Dakota students across the United States this Spring Break period. Students worked in a variety of

locations on a variety of projects. You may read their accounts inside this issue.

Congratulations to all of the students, their chaperones and all of the others who worked hard to make these trips happen. Thank you all for your efforts and we wish you continued success!

## Service by the University of South Dakota



*USD Consortium Rep Jacquie Lonning a student construct a tub during a recent service learning experience.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Alternative Spring Break Trips

University of S Dakota	2
Wayne State College	2
Midland Lutheran	3
UN-Lincoln/UN-Kearney	4
UN-Omaha	4
Calendar of Events	4

[www.si.unl.edu/  
midwestconsortium](http://www.si.unl.edu/midwestconsortium)

## Alternative Spring Break Trips 2004

### The University of South Dakota

Nine students from the University of South Dakota traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for their spring break to volunteer with three different organizations. The group stayed at the Frances Willard Home for Girls, a long-term care facility for troubled teenage girls. The students built a deck and did various other projects on the campus. The group also had the opportunity to spend time with the girls who lived at the camp. At the Laura Dester Shelter, a temporary housing facility for children in state custody, the group painted and interacted with the children. The students met young kids whose parents had been abusive or neglective. The kids grew quickly attached to the group in the short amount of time they were there. The group sorted and packed nearly 8,000 pounds of food at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The food bank was in the middle of their largest food drive of the year, so there was quite a bit of goods to process. The nine students



also took a trip to Oklahoma City to view the bombing memorial.



### Wayne State College

Mountain T.O.P. Tennessee was the destination for a group of three Wayne State College students on a service-learning spring break trip sponsored by the CrossPoint Campus Ministry and funded by a MCSLHE sub grant and First United Methodist Church Foundation. Mountain T.O.P. is an interdenominational Christian mission affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist church and is dedicated to rural life ministry in the Cumberland Mountains. The WSC students along with college students from Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida participated in outreach to people of Grundy County, Tennessee. The students spent time at three sites ( a church camp where students repaired buildings, the Grundy County Historical Society where students helped construct a groundskeeper house for a needy family, and an elementary school where they helped build a sand volleyball court. The students gave a total of approximately 120 service hours between the three of them.

Student reflection essays conveyed the themes of the value of service, a broader exposure to the “real world” of poverty and need, meeting others from diverse backgrounds, and developing a variety of skills for repairing leaking roofs, dry walls, etc.

Group sponsor, Ilene Nichols, said the trip was a wonderful success stating, “We had opportunities to learn about a history and culture different from our own, experience worship different from our own, learn some carpentry skills, and realized how much more you receive than you give up when you do for others. ... The phrase, ‘serving to learn and learning to serve’ had a more tangible meaning as the group left Mountain T.O. P., Tennessee.”



## Midland Lutheran College

On Friday, March 12, 11 students from Midland Lutheran College and one student from Nebraska Wesleyan University and two sponsors from Midland Lutheran College set out for a week of Service Learning at the Flint River Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Albany, GA. We traveled to Altoona, Iowa where we met up with a group of 11 students and 3 sponsors from Iowa State University and then on to Iowa City, Iowa where we met up with three students from the University of Iowa.

We spent all day Friday traveling and spent the evening at a church in Danville, IL. On Saturday we continued our travel to Americus, GA. This was an adventure in itself because Midland Lutheran College's 15 passenger van lost its transmission just south of Indianapolis so we spent the next 5 hours trying to find someone to fix it and then in the end trying to find a rental vehicle to replace it. We arrived in Americus, GA at 2:45AM on Saturday morning, March 15 and stayed with an Iowa State Alumni who works for Habitat for Humanity and at the Habitat Hospitality House.

On Sunday we worshiped at a local church in the morning and spent the afternoon touring the Habitat for Humanity Global Village and Museum. We then traveled down to Albany, GA and arrived at the camp we were staying at for the week where we settled in and prepared for our evening orientation on the upcoming week.

On Monday we arrived at the worksite at 7:45AM and prepared for our worksite orientation. At the site a group of students from the University of Wisconsin Madison and a group for a community college in Pennsylvania joined us. Our task for the week was to gut a house that was built in the 1920s that had been remodeled into a boarding house for released inmates. The owners had recently donated the house to the Flint River Habitat for Humanity and they were going to remodel the house into office space and boarding rooms. We spent the day tearing off siding, knocking down walls and tearing down plaster. We ended the day at 4:30PM. There was a lot of press around during the day and they interviewed a number of students in our group. We went back to the camp after dinner and we washed up and prepared for our evening devotions led by a group of our students.

Tuesday we were once again at the same site and we worked from 8-4:30PM. We continued with the tasks

that we had worked on the day before and began to do some construction work as a couple of groups were now working on replacing floor joists. Some volunteers from the Habitat for Humanity headquarters in Americus, GA joined us for the day. The exciting news for the day was that our group made the front page of the Albany Herald. The site manager told them that we were getting down in a week what she thought would take over four months to do because we were putting our hearts into the project and loving every minute of it. Tuesday evening we went to dinner that was prepared by the Knights of Columbus and then returned to camp to clean up and then we spent the evening at a fun park.

Wednesday we worked from 8-4:30PM on the site continuing the tasks of the day before. For supper we ate at the Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, GA and then we returned to camp to clean up and have devotions by a campfire, which was once again student led.

Thursday we worked from 8-4:30PM on the site finishing up the clean up process of all the plaster and drywall. We also began cutting and laying floorboards in a number of the rooms. Thursday evening we had supper at the United Methodist Church and then a number of the students in the group went to Albany State University where the University students had a sponsored night of activities for our group.

Friday morning we cleaned up the camp and headed back to Louisville, KY where we stayed for the evening. On Saturday we headed back to Columbus, IN where we picked up our 15-passenger van and returned our rental car and then headed home again.

We arrived at Midland Lutheran College on Saturday evening about 11:30PM. The groups had a great time working for Habitat for Humanity and are planning to join the Fremont Habitat Affiliate on April 17 for their opening day build. The group is also currently researching the possibility of becoming an official Collegiate Chapter. We did 32 hours of active service learning for the week. The students had a great time and are already thinking of things they will do for next year's spring break trip. They are also looking into the possibility of a fall break trip to a closer affiliate.

*"The students had a great time and are already thinking of things they will do for next year's spring break trip."*

---

## University of Nebraska-Lincoln/University of Nebraska-Kearney

The 2004 UNL-UNK Alternative Spring Break trips made a memorable impact on twenty-six students and the communities they served. Drawn together by their interest in service, UNK and UNL students headed to three different destinations across the country to make a difference during a portion of their spring break. They worked with Habitat for Humanity and Denver Parks and Recreation in Denver, Colorado, the Cathedral Shelter of Chicago and AIDS Care in Chicago, Illinois, and the Boys and Girls Club in Arlington, Texas. Students enjoyed getting to know one another while having a great experience as well. Students said, “it was wonderful meeting new people, traveling and helping all at the same time” and “I thought it was a great learning experience and I didn’t want to leave.” The students tackled a variety of projects including working with kids, cleaning and painting office space, tearing out carpet, sorting and organizing food, and wrapping tree trucks to protect them from beavers.

When asked what the most important thing they learned from the experience was, responses included “A little hard work goes a long way...” “The experience opened my eyes to inner city living...” “ I learned to see things from a completely different perspective...”

The three groups provided a combined 495 hours of service for five different agencies!

The UNK Office of Service Learning, UNK Residential and Greek Life, UNL Student Life and Student Involvement sponsored “working” spring breaks spent in Arlington, Texas; Chicago, Ill; and Denver, Colo.

In Arlington, Sarah Mills of Arnold, Regina Zaruba of Bennington, and Misty Dvorak and Traci Sheel, both of Grand Island, worked with youth, ages 6-18, through the Boys and Girls Club. The club focuses on five program areas— Education and Career Development; Character and Leadership Development; Health and Life Skills; Sports, Fitness and Recreation; and the Arts.

In Chicago, Breann Horn of Holdrege, Nohad Maloley of Lexington and Annie Bierbower of Wakefield worked with underprivileged children, seniors and the disabled in an urban setting. The volunteer opportunities include working in food kitchens and food banks as well as working with other community organizations and shelters such as Cathedral Shelter of Chicago and AIDS CARE of Chicago.

In Denver, Lindsey Peters of Loup City, Coraline Pelloquin Lyon of France, and Annetie Ouko of Kenya worked with several groups that needed a helping hand, including parks and recreation programs, Habitat for Humanity and other environmental agencies in the Front Range area.

---

## University of Nebraska-Omaha

Between March 13 and March 20, while many college students were basking in the sun in a warm climate, 163 UNO students spent one or more days of their spring break to paint, clean and rehab homes for the Omaha Crown Program, a part of Family Housing Advisory Services. The Omaha Crown Program rents homes to low-income families (many of them immigrant families) through a program that allows these families to establish improve their credit, accumulate some savings and prepare for eventual home ownership. They can participate in classes that teach them about home financing and home maintenance.

**Seven Days of Service: Home is Heart of the Community**, as the project was called, was planned in collaboration with students of UNO Instructor Paul Sather’s graduate Social Work course, with the Special Project Coordinator, Kathy Oleson, from Family Housing Advisory Services (FHAS) and with Carlynn Hartman-Kurtz and the staff of the UNO Service-Learning Academy. Each morning students would meet at a centrally located house, sign-in, have an orientation to the day’s work and to the program being served, then break into several groups to work on various projects. Despite two days of snow and two more days of

drizzle, they cleaned, rehabbed and painted the inside of five homes, raked and cleaned 12 yards, and filled four dumpsters! During lunch each day, a speaker came from Family Housing Advisory Services to discuss the impact this project would have on the families it serves and to inform the students about all the programs that FHAS offers. At the end of the day, the students were asked to evaluate their experience with a written evaluation and were also led in a discussion about what they felt they had learned and gained by participating. Of the 126 evaluations tabulated, 115 responded that they would like to participate in this type of project again! The week culminated in a celebration and pizza party with all who could come. These students contributed a total of nearly 1000 hours of service!!!

### Consortium Calendar

#### April-June

April 15

Institutional SG Due

June 14

Consortium Meeting TBA