

Carrying the Torch

Spring 2009



Louisiana Campus Compact

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Louisiana Students Submit Proposals to Support Their Community Partners

This year Louisiana Campus Compact has been selected to present five \$1,000 grants from the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation to the community partners of students whose applications indicate the most innovative and promising ways to establish or further partnerships between each student's school and a community non-profit organization. These grants are sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which seeks to foster academic service-learning at American colleges and universities. Selection is based upon the degree to which the proposed use of the funds is likely to produce or enhance impact, partnerships, and academic service-learning.

The following students have been awarded 2008-09 CASE Awards through LaCC:

Patricia Alexander, Early Childhood Education, Northwestern State University

Todd Borne, Computer Science, River Parishes Community College

Elise Hotard, Design, Nicholls State University

Sidney Denise Moore, Art, Northwestern State University

Jennifer Craig, Xinmei Guo, Lekeith Terrell, Biological Engineering, Louisiana State University

Candice Gianelloni, a candidate for a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Southeastern Louisiana University, was the first recipient of a 2007-08 CASE Grant. Advised by Dr. Wendy Siegel, Gianelloni's community partner is the New Orleans Dream Center. Gianelloni was serving as a volunteer tutor, developing and implementing lessons to increase the phonics, reading, and writing abilities of adult learners, when she saw a way to make the adult learning center even more effective in meeting its mission and overcoming several challenges. For example, due to Hurricane Katrina the homeless population in the city had increased dramatically; there was a simultaneous increase in population to be served and a decrease in the overall community resources available. Moreover, many center volunteers are not trained teachers and were sometimes unequipped to meet the unique needs of adult learners. With her CASE Grant, Gianelloni has worked to build a curriculum for those volunteer tutors and has used the grant to obtain materials, supplies, and curriculum aids for the program.

The second grant given by LaCC last year was used by LSU students Jennifer Craig, Katie Rousseau, and Matthew Gravens to build a school playground for Villa del Rey. The LSU students met with Villa del Rey school officials, raised funds, designed the playground, and gained community support through volunteerism. During meetings with faculty members and students, Craig, Rousseau, and Gravens were able to gain insight for the playground design as well as gain information that helped raise capital. The students leveraged their CASE funding with proceeds from a grant from AT&T, a cookie dough sale, and a donation from a local Lions Club. In their final project report the students commented that they noticed that the more they assisted in the process and became more engaged with groups such as LaCC, the easier it was to reach their goal. Craig said, "This project increased our awareness of the disadvantage that public school students without a playground experience due to the inability to optimize social skills, teamwork, and physical strength." Working with Villa del Rey helped the LSU students realize that correcting inappropriate play structures in local schools is not impossible.

Save the Dates:

CERT Rodeo

June 27-28
Carville

Service-Learning

Train-the-Trainer Workshop

August 4-6
Baton Rouge



LaCC Welcomes Several New VISTAs!

This spring Louisiana Campus Compact has made significant strides in launching its own AmeriCorps*VISTA Project, as part of the national service program designed to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more.

LaCC's AmeriCorps*VISTA Project has been developed specifically to address statewide poverty by promoting the building of sustainable service-learning projects that center around working with community partners who serve the many needs of low-income citizens. LaCC AmeriCorps*VISTA members have demonstrated interest and experience in community service and/or service-learning and are committed to local campus projects that provide a lasting impact on communities. Unlike other AmeriCorps programs that focus on direct service, the VISTAs work to build infrastructure, and thus capacity, for continuing future efforts at their sites even after their period of service ends.



Pictured from left: Karen Powell, LaCC VISTA Project Director; Morris Coats, Professor of Economics; Charlene Moore, VISTA; and Stephen T. Hulbert, President.

Nicholls State University welcomed the first LaCC-sponsored VISTA Member, **Charlene Moore** of Houma. Moore has 36 years of experience in social work and is very excited about her new role at Nicholls. As part of the LaCC VISTA Project, Moore will be working with professors to incorporate new service-learning projects into their curricula by pairing faculty members with community non-profit agencies that serve the needs of the impoverished members of our communities. Moore plans to host a fair on campus to bring together those community agencies and professors, to allow the professors to learn more about potential community partners' specific needs and how they can match those needs to the learning goals of their courses. Moore said she applied for and accepted the VISTA position because she loves working with people: "There are so

many facets of social services where you contribute yourself, time, energy, etc. Social Service is a true calling, and I feel I have been called."



Pictured from left: Karen Powell, LaCC VISTA Project Director; Julie Gill, Asst. Professor of Kinesiology; Robert McNamara, VISTA; David P. Manuel, Chancellor; and Thomas Armstrong, VC of Academic Affairs.

Louisiana State University at Alexandria's (LSUA's) new VISTA Member, **Robert McNamara**, is from Philadelphia, PA, and graduated from Villanova University with a degree in Philosophy, a minor in Sociology, and a concentration in Honors. McNamara said that ever since high school he knew he wanted to undertake an extended service experience after college: "The LSUA position appealed to me because the connection between service and learning, theory and praxis, was one of the most important and enjoyable aspects of my own education." The prospect of facilitating interaction between a university and its community through service-learning further excites McNamara. At LSUA, McNamara is working with Julie Gill, Coordinator of Service-Learning, on creating greater capacity for the office and promoting service-learning courses amongst the faculty through a forum and departmental-specific meetings.

Xavier University's new VISTA Member, **Sarah Hailey**, is from Maryville, Tennessee; Hailey graduated from Maryville College with a B.A. in Philosophy. Through the Bonner Scholarship Program, Hailey became involved in her own community, traveled to West Africa and Peru, and led trips to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Hailey's experiences ultimately led her to the AmeriCorps*VISTA position at Xavier, where she will facilitate student and faculty relationships with community organizations and service-learning opportunities on campus. Speaking of her interest in serving New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, Hailey says, "Whether in the public schools or in the non-profit sector or even on campuses, I have witnessed the fruits of compassion, creativity, and hard work, and I have already seen transformation."

Any LaCC member institution interested in hosting a VISTA on its campus to promote service-learning growth there should contact Karen Powell, LaCC Program Director, to learn more about the LaCC AmeriCorps*VISTA Project goals and requirements. The LaCC VISTA Project is supported with funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents.



Service-Learning Spotlights

Gina Causin, a Professor in the Department of Marketing and Hospitality at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, teaches HRTM 204, an undergraduate course that introduces students to the main components involved in the management and design of hospitality facilities, including cost control, purchasing systems, facility design, and maintenance for hospitality facilities. Last semester students in the class teamed with a small hospitality event company, The Manor, to provide them with the design for an efficient and effective expansion to their existing facility.

To increase the functionality and productivity of The Manor facility, the HRTM students proposed a renovation and expansion of the existing kitchen, to make it fit for an exclusive, in-house caterer. Team members consulted with the facility manager for her input.

Causin said the benefit of this type of project is that “the student will be equipped with all the required knowledge in hospitality facility management and design and will be ready to work in the real world. This will also show that they learned from the class and apply what they learned to the community. In addition, this will enhance their ability to work with students who have different traits, thus preparing them to be more competent, effective, and efficient with whatever they will do once they graduate.”

During this turbulent time of business and budget decline, these students were able to apply their course content and theory directly to assist one member of the small business community in Lafayette. There are similar projects planned in Causin’s classes for the future.

New Service-Learning Colleague at UNO

Aundrea Kloor has been appointed as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Extension of the Metropolitan College at the University of New Orleans. In this position she will also serve as the Service-Learning contact to LaCC.

Kloor notes that she accepted this role because she wants to highlight the Service-Learning and community engagement projects completed by the dedicated faculty at UNO. This position is a natural fit for Kloor because she has worked on community

engagement volunteer projects in the past. She will be working with the Chancellor’s and Provost’s offices in her effort to help the New Orleans community become aware of the different services UNO can provide.

Kloor received a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of New Orleans and a B.A. in Political Science. She has worked for the University for over six years as the former Director of Development and Community Relations, where she was responsible

for fundraising and development, promotional campaigns, and community outreach coordination for the College of Business Administration. Kloor is an active community member in such organizations as the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Rotary Club, and the Louisiana Technology Council.



A New Kind of Directing: Delgado's Collaborative TV Production

The “Emergency Preparedness Music Video for Children” is a project conceived by Lynn Robertson, Professor of Television Production at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, and Tim Weller, Music Teacher at St. Rose Elementary School in St. Rose. Pre-Katrina, Weller had written and produced several CDs of children’s music and had worked with Delgado students to produce a video for one of his songs (“Choose Your Attitude”); post-Katrina, he was looking for a new project that would inspire him. Robertson had become involved in Delgado’s Service-Learning Initiative and was looking to continue the TV Production Department’s series of videos on Emergency Preparedness. After brainstorming together, they decided that Robertson would take this new music video idea to her students and Weller would take the idea to his Principal. The result of their collaboration and their students’ efforts were two music videos: the first a hurricane preparedness rap song and the second a basic rock song about general “School Emergencies.”

The process that led to the creation of these music videos demonstrates the spirit of collaboration essential to an effective service-learning project. It required the assistance of the K-12 Principal, Assistant Principal, and teachers in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades, as well as the coordination of Weller, who, in addition to writing the song, also served as the liaison between the Delgado TV Production students and the students, teachers, and staff members at St. Rose Elementary. In addition, Weller invited his friend and fellow musician, Spool Stiegman, to participate as the recording engineer on the project. Each of the 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade classes practiced fire, tornado, and lockdown drills so that the Delgado students would be able to set up the necessary shots for the music video. Several local children from area schools were also invited to record the songs at Stiegman’s studio.

In order for the Delgado students to achieve the learning outcomes of TEVP 255 “Corporate and Organizational Television,” they are required to work together to create a video as a video production team. Delgado students in the TEVP 255 class thus served as producer, director, cinematographers, editors, visual effects, gaff-

ers, grips, and production assistants. Robertson served as their faculty *advisor*, so the project was student-driven from the students’ first meeting with Weller. The student producer also met with Weller and his Principal to discuss the class’ proposed filming activities, release forms, production dates, and distribution. The collaboration with the St. Rose Elementary team allowed the college students the opportunity to produce a professional-level video while working with multiple content experts to make sure that the target audience was addressed.

Both the experience and the end product have been very well received by all who have been involved in the project. The most rewarding part of the production was the shoot held at St. Rose Elementary: the grade-school children were prepared, the Delgado students were prepared, and the weather cooperated. Moreover, the college students quickly developed a rapport with the children in each of the classes and assisted them with their activities in between takes. Some of the Delgado students’ reflections mentioned the pride they felt in being prepared and on time and the positive response of the grade-school teachers to their cooperation. The thread that ran through the entire experience was the fun both the college and grade-school students had while creating something that will benefit the community-at-large.

Delgado received a grant to make 6,000 copies of the Children’s Emergency Preparedness DVD to be distributed in the Greater New Orleans Area. Delgado students have also kept detailed notes about their experience and are planning on publishing a “how-to” instructional manual on producing a music video, which they will present to other communities across the country so that the video may be replicated for each region’s specific disasters.

Some of the children who participated in the projects were interviewed about how they felt about being in the music video: the children expressed an excitement about being able to teach their peers about “learning to protect themselves.”



Service-Learning Train-the-Trainer Professional Development Program

This summer LaCC will again host a Train-the-Trainer workshop in conjunction with Kentucky Campus Compact. This workshop is a component of an LaCC and KyCC Learn & Serve America consortia grant project, supported with funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents, whose goals include

- Deepening and strengthening the service-learning infrastructure in higher education in Louisiana and Kentucky and
- Providing opportunities for students to engage in their communities.

Faculty and staff members from community colleges, 4-year public universities, and independent higher education institutions in Louisiana that are dues-paying members of Louisiana Campus Compact for 2008-2009 will be eligible to apply to attend the workshop. The training is tentatively scheduled for **August 4th-6th**, in Baton Rouge, and will prepare participants to be service-learning trainers in their respective states and communities. Participants will be expected to provide service-learning training in their state during the 2009-10 academic year, as a condition of being accepted to the workshop.

Some funding may be available to some participants, to be used for travel expenses or to purchase materials and supplies to be used in the training workshop attendees will offer in 2009-10.

Workshop participants will be expected to

- Attend the entire Service-Learning Train-the-Trainer workshop. The time commitment will be approximately 3 days of training plus time needed for travel.
- Conduct at least 2 training workshops on service-learning between September 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010. Workshops must be advertised to faculty from proximate institutions.
- Submit to Louisiana Campus Compact an agenda for all workshops conducted, copies of training materials, and a log of all faculty members in attendance.
- Submit a 2-page narrative describing the training offered.

Workshop applicants may be asked to describe their experience integrating service-learning into courses by describing service-learning projects, reflection activities, and student assessment methods. Applicants may also be asked to list any previous training received regarding the integration of service-learning into academic courses and to describe training and group facilitation experience with peer groups.

LaCC will confirm workshop dates and issue a call for workshop applications by the end of June. For more information about Train-the-Trainer, please contact the LaCC Directors.

Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award, given each year to only a handful of institutions, is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development.

Congratulations to the following institutions that were named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll:

Centenary College Delgado Community College Nicholls State University
Louisiana State University and A&M College Southern University and A&M College
Louisiana State University at Eunice Our Lady of the Lake College
River Parishes Community College and, with distinction, *Tulane University*



LA Tech Nursing Disaster Drill

On April 8th-9th, Louisiana Tech students in Ramona Guin's and Nancy Darland's Nursing 216 class conducted a training and drill, as a service-learning exercise in conjunction with their community partners, the Ruston Fire Department and the Northern Louisiana Medical Center. The collaboration assists the Fire Department and the Medical Center to meet the number of drills required for certification and accreditation, as well as helps each group's personnel to improve the quality of their response to disasters in the community.

On the first day of the project, students sat in on lectures about disaster nursing and preparation as well as an introduction to moulage training (the applying of mock injuries for the purpose of training emergency response teams and other medical and military personnel); the class conducted the actual simulation and drill on the second day of the project. Approximately 25 students acted as victims of a (fictional) suicide bombing attack and lay at the scene with multiple injuries, ranging from minor to severe, awaiting the EMS. In collaboration with the Fire Department, the Tech Nursing Department arranged that the responders simulate actual response time and the Incident Command System (ICS) that would take place upon response.

Six students also acted as monitors who circulated around the field scene, accompanied the "victims" by ambulance, and observed procedure at the hospital. At the full conclusion of the drill, all participants from the Fire Department and Louisiana Tech met back on campus for a debriefing of which response techniques did and did not work; the Fire Department will be reporting on that discussion and conducting a similar debriefing with the hospital personnel later. During the campus debriefing the Fire Marshal stressed that, just like in CERT deployment, the safety of the responder must come first.

The simulation met the needs of the community partners by serving as a working drill for the firefighters and hospital staff. One of the firefighters, who had forgotten to observe the procedures for a crime scene, allowed a student who appeared to be a "walking wounded" to approach him, only to discover that she was a second "suicide bomber." The newest EMS responders were able to practice triaging as well as safely moving victims in as prompt and orderly a manner as possible. The hospital staff members were able to practice being drawn away from their specialties and practicing the basics of emergency room nursing and doctoring in a situation where the regular ER staff would be overwhelmed by the volume of this scale of disaster.

This project met several major learning objectives of the course instructors. Foremost, students learned more about particular types of injuries by researching those assigned to them for the drill, replicating those injuries with moulage and their simulated behaviors, and by writing up nursing care plans for the injuries. Students also learned about the triage system, the role of Emergency Medical Services personnel, the command system represented by the color coding of responder uniforms, evidence preservation for investigations, and leadership management and delegation concepts. Moreover, secondarily, they learned a little about disaster psychology, as the "victim" students experienced a wholly different view of nursing and reported the "lack of control" they actually felt during the simulation and which patients are thus even more likely to feel in such a situation.

As campuses further organize and train their Ready Campus team members, they could conduct components of this type of drill. For more information on this and additional training ideas, or for assistance in developing a Ready Campus Team, contact the LaCC Directors.

2009 Gulf-South Summit Reaches New Heights!

The 2009 Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education was held March 25th-27th at the Hilton Capitol Center in Baton Rouge. This year's Summit brought together more than 400 service-learning faculty, administrators, community partners, and students from 4 countries, 37 states, and 114 institutions.

Jan Shoemaker, Host and Local Arrangements Chair, commented that "it has been a pleasure over the years to work with colleagues from around the South to provide a forum for dialogue about best practices in civic engagement and to see the ensuing growth in numbers and quality of partnerships between communities and higher education institutions. I believe the Summit enhances relationships among all stakeholders—community, students, faculty, and administrators—and also enhances rigorous teaching and learning." The three-day conference, featuring interactive workshops, exhibits, panel discussions, and nationally-recognized speakers, also includes discussions about conducting research, maintaining ethical practices, building sustainable programs, and creating a culture of engagement and public awareness.

The theme of the 2009 Summit was "Civic Engagement at the Crossroads: Rethinking Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities." As noted in the Summit call for proposals, the 21st century challenges us to take seriously such possibilities as students as teachers, faculty as learners, and new models for community partners. Thus many questions arise, including the following: Can we expand our stakeholder base to government and corporate partners? How can students take on teaching and leadership roles? How can community partners share the role of instructor? During the Summit participants representing all these stakeholder groups explored ways service-learning and civic engagement can be re-defined to meet the needs of the 21st century.

First-time Summit attendee, LaCC VISTA Member Robert McNamara, hosted at LSU, had high praise for this year's meeting: "Particularly as someone who has just begun to work on the administrative end of service-learning, attending the Gulf South Summit was a terrific experience for me, as I was able to witness the passion that so many educators, administrators, and community organizations have for service-learning. The Summit opened my eyes to the scope and complexity mature service-learning programs can undertake if they have been nurtured by thoughtful, invested partners."

During the Summit the Louisiana and Mississippi Campus Compact Directors presented a panel providing an overview of how they and the universities/colleges in their states collaborate together and with state and local agencies to address problems and needs that arise on campuses from a spectrum of common disasters. So many of the social issues addressed in service-learning projects, such as poverty and healthcare challenges, are exacerbated by disasters. The LaCC Directors shared examples of readiness and response modules being integrated into courses across the curriculum and described the Campus Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training initiatives statewide. The Mississippi Campus Compact (MsCC) Director shared emerging practices within her state and discussed ways in which the regional Compacts have learned from each other's efforts in past emergencies.

Karen Powell, Program Director for LaCC, also presented a poster session, providing examples of informal and formal, discipline-specific reflection exercises that are multimodal—written, spoken, visual, technological—and have been effective in supporting the discipline-specific learning goals in a range of curricula. She described free technological tools that faculty can incorporate into their classes in order both to help students learn from peers' reflections and connect what they are learning from the first year through graduation and beyond in higher education.

As McNamara further commented, "Coming back to LSU after the Summit, I now know what the possibilities for service-learning are and am even more motivated to reach them. Essentially the greatest thing I took away was learning how much can be done with a service-learning program if it is grown correctly."

Be sure to save the date for next year's Summit, which will be hosted by the University of Georgia, March 3rd-5th!



Faculty and Emergency Managers Statewide Discuss Ways to Make Campuses “Ready”

Louisiana Campus Compact hosted two Ready Campus workshops last November in North and Central Louisiana. Speakers included some of the originators of the Ready Campus concept and the Campus CERT Training, faculty members at LaCC member institutions who have incorporated Ready Campus principles into their courses, staff members at LaCC member institutions who lead and have participated in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Trainings on their campuses, and emergency preparedness managers from around the state.

The Ready Campus Program was created to ensure safety on campuses in the case of man-made or environmental disasters. Ready Campus seeks to educate those in positions of authority on a campus who can, in turn, educate students on the best way to respond in an emergency situation. The LaCC Ready Campus initiative was funded in 2008 by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Karen Powell, LaCC Program Director, noted how pleased she and Executive Director Stuart Stewart were with the workshop turnout and attendees’

interest: “As the Interim Executive Director of the Louisiana Serve Commission has said repeatedly, ‘an emergency is not the time to exchange business cards,’ nor the time to begin planning a response.”

David Yarbrough, the newly-appointed Dean of Community Service at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said that he attended the workshop as an opportunity to collect information and get a general introduction to Ready Campus. Yarbrough thinks the goals and objectives of Ready Campus will fit well with his campus and that the course integration components fit with the elements of service-learning that they try to integrate across their curricula. To incorporate Ready Campus at ULL, Yarbrough would like to make course integration grant materials available to course instructors.

For more information on LaCC Ready Campus materials or to set up consultations on how you might advance Ready Campus efforts at your campus, contact the LaCC Directors.



Colleges and Universities Build on Campus CERT Training to Add Realism to Disaster Warning and Protection Procedures

The Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, in concert with the National Weather Service Shreveport Offices, conducts bi-annual tornado drills for all academic institutions in the region based on the statistically high frequency of natural disasters occurring in the Northwest Louisiana Region. During these drills colleges like Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) and the Louisiana Technical College-Shreveport Bossier (LTC-SB) Campus conduct a full-scale alert and movement of students, faculty, and staff to assigned tornado "safe areas" at each facility.

This year, building on the success of the recently-conducted Campus CERT exercise at LTC-SB in December 2008, the LTC leadership invited local emergency managers to walk the facility during their latest tornado drill. The exercise reflected the success of the recently-improved LTC-SB campus-wide alert system and communications procedures while also reflecting the challenges of getting the "tornado warning notice" to students and faculty who were just arriving on campus.

Lieutenant Colonel Gene Barattini, a local emergency manager and Campus CERT instructor, observed a good interaction between the campus leadership, security coordinators, and parish deputies assigned to the facility as Campus Police. He noted, "It is evident that the recently-conducted Campus CERT Training event is paying off, as now the LTC-SB institution's leadership is acting in a more coordinated and unified command posture, with aggressive implementation of various disaster procedures. They are on a solid path to getting a 'Ready Campus,' and this drill is a major step forward."

State Citizen Corps Conference Provides Ideas for Ready Campus Implementation

The 2009 State Citizen Corps Annual Conference was held March 12th-13th in Lafayette. Topics ranged from coalition building, CERT Training practices, and strategies for sustaining CERTs and forming specialized CERTs to credentialing team members. Some of the organizations presenting at this conference included the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, FEMA, the Medical Reserve Corps, and Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

Shari Brand, the new Community Citizen Preparedness Coordinator for FEMA, pointed out that our region (which also includes New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas) has the second highest number of disasters in the country and that we therefore have an even greater need and responsibility to concentrate on preparedness. Brand described how the Department of Homeland Security created the Ready Campaign to stress this very point; the LaCC Ready Campus program falls within the same mission.

Janet Pace, Interim Executive Director of the Louisiana Serve Commission and member of the State VOAD Council, said that her organizations encourage members and other voluntary agencies statewide to share response efforts and communicate about needs. She stressed that a cooperative effort has proven to be the most effective way to work together during a crisis. These community agencies' awareness and interest in working collaboratively would make them ideal partners for service-learning projects addressing disaster preparedness or response issues.

Another conference speaker, Senator Mike Walsworth, Chair of the Louisiana Legislature's Homeland Security Committee, highlighted the problems inherent in the current evacuation plans of the state for elderly and high-risk patients. Students at LaCC institutions statewide could participate in service-learning opportunities to help develop more efficient evacuation plans for local facilities. The students might also be offered service-learning courses focusing on improving the design of such facilities; stronger buildings would allow high-risk patients to shelter-in-place during some emergencies.

When asked what concrete ideas for emergency preparedness from the conference that he might take back to his campus, Sergeant Chris Durham, SLU PD Training Coordinator, replied, "I have learned a lot more about Citizen Corps, specifically that it includes a lot more than just CERT Training. I now know how Citizen Corps, Campus Compact, Ready Campus, and CERT all work together, are linked, and are laid out. At the conference I also met a CERT Trainer from Jefferson Parish, with whom I am trading some training information, to hopefully help both of us improve our CERT Trainings. He has some more in-depth info on NIMS and ICS that I hope to inject into our classes."

Conference attendees also learned from Angela Jouett about the Citizen Corps Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program. As LaCC member campuses further develop plans for and utilize Ready Campus Teams, some might develop sub-teams to act as MRCs. These MRCs could be particularly useful for assisting on campus in a pandemic, helping to register people at campus shelters, performing triage in a campus disaster, and helping to evacuate special needs students and faculty during an emergency.

To help guarantee team members' readiness, Nick Auck of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security stressed the reasons for exercising credentialing in programs. The credentialing could be based on a minimum number of classes/training team members attend and could list any other certifications members hold that would prove useful in an emergency. Ready Campus Team members could be re-credentialed each year, if they maintained their campus training. In this way, a credentialing system could help universities answer any liability concerns that might arise. Official credential cards with qualifications listed on them would also be an effective tool when organizing or adapting teams on-the-spot in an emergency. Finally, credentials can indicate which individuals are Team Leaders versus Members and thus help ensure that Team Leaders, who will have even higher levels of training, are present before Teams are deployed.

While many of this year's conference participants came from the emergency management divisions of their parish governments, the principles discussed at the conference apply just as importantly to preparedness and response at college and university campuses. As conference attendee Simon Broussard, Director of Parking & Transit at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, pointed out, "An emergency response plan is only as good as its weakest link; therefore, comprehensive training, documentation of training, and practically applying the training is vital to any units' success."

For information about next year's conference (tentatively scheduled for January), check the LaCC website or contact the LaCC office.



Citizen Corps Advisory Council

Louisiana Campus Compact is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Louisiana Citizen Corps Program, funded through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, to promote and support LaCC Ready Campus initiatives.

In January 2002, President George W. Bush launched USA Freedom Corps, to capture the spirit of service that has emerged throughout our communities following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Since the attacks, state and local government officials have increased opportunities for citizens to support local first responders and become a part of protecting the homeland. Citizen Corps, a vital component of USA Freedom Corps, was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation.

Citizen Corps programs build on the successful efforts that are in place in many communities around the country to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. Components of Citizen Corps include the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Fire Corps, and USAonWatch (better known as "Neighborhood Watch") programs. Each of these Citizen Corps programs is intended to help drive local citizen participation and develop community action plans. These programs offer volunteer

opportunities to support safety efforts, first responders, and disaster relief activities.

Of the 5 Citizen Corps programs, LaCC has been focusing thus far on helping to establish Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) at campuses throughout the state. CERT training courses are taught by instructionally-certified First Responders and include modules on disaster preparedness, incident command system, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, and team organization. LaCC uses Citizen Corps funding to help provide resources to the CERT trainers and Campus CERT Teams.

To help inform decisions about the future direction of the Ready Campus program, LaCC has established a Citizen Corps Advisory Council of representatives from emergency management, government, the private sector, and advocacy groups. The Council members will provide LaCC with feedback on its Ready Campus plans, share ideas for program sustainability and advanced training, and identify resources and models for this work. The Advisory Council will also facilitate links between LaCC and its member campuses to parish Offices of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness and other community organizations, so that all of them can leverage resources and work together to achieve emergency preparedness and effective disaster responses across the state.

LaCC thanks these Council members for their willingness to serve in this capacity:

- **State Representative Jeff Arnold** (elected official)
- **Jane Aslam**, Project Manager South, ICNA Relief USA (non-governmental organizations)
- **Gene Barattini**, Assistant Director of Operations, Caddo-Bossier OHSEP (emergency management)
- **Sgt. Chris Durham**, Training Coordinator, SLUPD (law enforcement)
- **Darrick Hesson**, Deputy Director, Livingston Parish OHSEP (homeland security)
- **Jamie Karam**, Program Director of Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) (advocacy groups for special needs populations)
- **Eric Pickering**, Account Representative, Pickering and Associates (private sector)
- **Norma Rutledge**, Executive Director, Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center (private non-profits)
- **Karen Stassi**, Pandemic Flu Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals (public health)
- **Capt. John Thomas**, Hammond FD (fire service)



Congratulations LSU and Tulane University for receiving the "Community Engagement Classification"!



This classification, awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, describes the ongoing, permanent relationships established between institutions of higher education and their communities. These partnerships are developed for the purpose of sharing valuable knowledge and resources and for applying a collective vision for the benefit of a community. Attaining this classification is a testament to leadership in integrating community engagement into the identity, culture, and commitments of an institution.

Campus Compact Professional Development Institute to be Developed Online

Campus Compact's ground-breaking Professional Development Institute for community service and service-learning professionals is moving to an online format. As more campuses institute travel restrictions, and as new technologies make it possible to interact more effectively, Campus Compact is responding by creating a series of webinars geared toward institutionalizing civic engagement and implementing best practices in community service-learning. This new format will allow more participants to connect over a greater period of time, extending the reach of the curriculum while facilitating deeper learning. More information about this series, slated to begin Fall 2009, will be available in the coming months. The in-person Professional Development Institute will not be held in 2009.

