ANNUAL REPORT 2011–2012
THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & SERVICE ENHANCES THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS THROUGH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES DESIGNED TO PREPARE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO CREATE POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE.
The Center for Leadership and Service fosters lifelong service and civic participation by engaging the University with its greater community in action, change, and learning. We focus on the areas of advocacy, community engagement, mentoring, and student development in order to involve UF students in the betterment of the community. The CLS provides educational programs, workshops and conferences, coordinates community service, leadership, social justice and service learning opportunities for students.
An estimated 115,963 service hours valued at $2,163,870 for the state of Florida and $2,526,833 nationally completed by UF students.

Davis Projects for Peace 2012 selected two projects: “Clean Water for Life” (Rwanda) and “Rainwater Harvesting Systems” (Bolivia) to receive a $10,000 grant each.

Mia Wilchcombe, student Director of Gator Teens Mentors and College Access AmeriCorps 900 hour member received Florida Campus Compact’s AmeriCorps Member Recognition Award for the state of Florida.

Organized 25 Florida Alternative Break Trips, including two international trips. 257 participants and 8,600 service hours.

43 Presidential Service Awardees with over 9,500 combined total hours of service with over 1,125 hours of individual service for the “Servant Leader of the Year”

73 Volunteer organizations in attendance for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Volunteer Organization Fairs with over 500 students attending.
115,963 service hours

370 mentors with 6,900 hours of service in Alachua County Schools

43 Presidential Service Awardees

700 volunteers for Days of Service
We are committed to providing structure and resources for students to promote and advocate for social, environmental, and economic justice. Through our advocacy-based programs students become more connected to inequities and problems facing our world, ranging from homelessness and poverty to global warming to veteran affairs support.

**Gator Global Initiative**

Gator Global Initiative is a social justice conference designed to educate students and student organizations about social issues. Participants have the opportunity to develop goals and projects to create change locally, nationally, and globally and hear from experts in fields like global health, poverty alleviation, education, and energy and climate change/sustainability.

UF Alumni Anup and Rina Patel served as Keynote speakers and shared their thoughts on “A Life of Social Change”.

6 Panels focused on Health, Education, Human Rights, Social Entrepreneurship, Poverty Alleviation/Global Economy & Finance, and Resources (water and food)

Every school year the CLS chooses one social issue as its focus for programming for the entire academic year. This is a great opportunity for students to engage with their peers in discussing and experiencing a relevant concern in our world. This past year our issue was Poverty:

- Hosted a Kick-Off event on the Plaza of the Americas with information on poverty in Gainesville
- Jack Donovan, the Director of the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry served as our Key Note Speaker for the series
- Collaborated with Multicultural and Diversity Affairs on “On the Brink” as series about poverty, financial education, and economic justice.

Projects for Peace provides the opportunity for college students to create and implement proposals for building peace in the 21st century.

This year we were proud to announce that 15 student teams applied with a variety of advocacy-based projects and two were selected at the national level to receive a $10,000 grant for their projects.

RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS
Engineers without Borders goal was to bring the families of Cachitambo, Bolivia a reliable source of fresh water to drink, as well as to plant and help the local school to have consistent water supply. This is a major step towards the long-term goal of making the community closer, as well as keeping the children out of dangerous mines.

CLEAN WATER FOR LIFE
Jessica McElroy provided a safe water source for the Twa community and surrounding areas of Rwanda through the construction of five rainwater tanks and fifty household Bio-Sand filters. She also engaged the community through health education mural paintings on the rainwater tanks.

This project has allowed this community to have access to clean water right outside their homes and has caused them to worry less about having to find water on a daily basis.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We provide our students the opportunity to learn about social issues in the local, national, and global communities. Our community engagement programs prepare students to become active citizens through direct-service, exposure to the non-profit sector, and service-learning opportunities.

Service in the Swamp

Service in the Swamp provides students with easy access to weekly volunteer opportunities, the knowledge and resources to start their own service projects, and helps them develop their leadership through service. Students can also gain more leadership and organization skills by signing up to lead their own service project as a Service Leader. Service in the Swamp offers UF students opportunities to network with local non-profits, meet new people, and rack up some volunteer hours.

- For the inaugural year we had 145 volunteers complete 726 hours of service
- Service sites included Children’s Home Society, Wilmot Gardens Restoration Project, Emeritus Assisted Living, Jungle Friends, and Arbor House
Gator Plunge

Gator Plunge is a single-day service project where hundreds of volunteers will branch out into various areas of Gainesville to participate in exciting service projects. Service projects will include working with animals, art and culture, youth development, elder care, environmental issues, homelessness and housing, and much more. Students are able to learn about service opportunities in Gainesville, meet new people and network with campus leaders, and experience their community first-hand.

- Sites included across town repertory theatre, Alachua Conservation Trust, American Heart Association, Child Advocacy Center, Einstein Montessori School, Florida Certified Organic Growers, Girls Place Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Haven Hospice, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Keep Alachua County Beautiful, Kids Count, Natural Area Teaching Lab, Peaceful Paths, Salvation Army and Wilmot Gardens Restoration Project
- Approximately 400 participants including 13 First Year Florida classes performed 1143 hours of service

Volunteer Organization Fairs

Every semester the CLS brings students and community organizations together to provide a place for students to find information about social issues and service opportunities they are passionate about. Community service organizations and non-profits have the opportunity to recruit volunteers and promote their cause.

- 73 volunteer organizations and non-profits were in attendance with 500 students in attendance.

Florida Alternative Breaks

Florida Alternative Breaks (FAB) through education, service, and reflection provides students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a particular social issue. They seek to heighten social awareness through regional and international service trips during academic breaks. With the passion, knowledge, and relationships gained from their experiences, members will become life-long advocates for social justice in their communities. This was a solid year for FAB as they:

- Organized and led 25 Florida Alternative Break Trips: 3 domestic trips during summer break, 2 domestic trips during winter, 6 domestic trips during MLK weekend, 10 domestic driving trips during spring break, 2 domestic flying trips during spring break and 3 international trips during spring break.
- Drew in 257 participants totaling 8,600 hours of service
- Trained and educated 52 site leaders on working with their specific social issues and in pre and post trip service.

MLK Day of Service

“A Day On – Not a Day Off!” The UF community remembers the legacy of Dr. King by serving in the Gainesville community. Students learn about service opportunities in Gainesville, meet new people, experience their community first-hand, and celebrate Dr. King.

- Received $500 grant for second year through North Carolina Campus Compact
- Approximately 200 participants completed 362 hours of service

BY THE NUMBERS: 700 volunteers | 35+ service host sites | 8,600 total service hours in 25 FAB Trips
We believe in the power of positive influence. Our students give back to the community by enriching the lives of elementary, middle, and high school students through our mentoring programs. They inspire, motivate, encourage, and empower young lives.

**Gator Teens Mentors**

Gator Teens Mentors are committed to providing “at-risk” high school students with the resources and skills to successfully pursue a higher education. This year Gator Teens successfully completed their third year in partnership with East Side High School:

- Mentored 51 high school student giving a total of 733 hours.
- Held Lake Wauburg social and campus tour for mentees.

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

370 UF Students mentored K-12 students in Alachua County

6900 hours dedicated to mentoring
Project M.A.S.C.O.T

Project M.A.S.C.O.T (Mentoring Alliance: Students and Communities Outreaching Together) is a one-year program where college students mentor at a local elementary school that has received a C grade or below during the previous academic year. In order to celebrate the student’s accomplishments, mentors coordinate a trip to an Orlando theme park at the end of the year. This year Project M.A.S.C.O.T:

• Mentored 81 elementary school students at Idylwild Elementary giving a total of 2375 hours.

Motiv•8

Motiv•8 is a mentoring group dedicated to fostering mentorships between “at-risk” middle school students and caring University of Florida volunteers. This year Motiv•8 had an amazing year:

• Mentored 75 middle school students, dedicating over 1100 hours at Howard Bishop and Lincoln Middle Schools
• Coordinated an outstanding orientation program

After-School Gators

After-School Gators (ASG) work with students in various elementary schools during their after-school programs, where they help with homework, play kickball, do art, and many other fun activities. This year:

• Approximately 90 mentors worked with “at-risk” students at 5 different elementary schools: Williams, Rawlings, Lake Forest, Metcalfe, and Idylwild

“Motiv8 has helped me recognize that there is always a need for mentors and volunteers in Alachua County. By working with my student, I have seen the positive impact it has had on his character and grades.”
We strongly believe that all of our students have the potential to be leaders. Through our programs, conferences, and institutes, we assist students in developing the necessary skills to assume roles of leadership and service in a culturally diverse and increasingly complex society.

**CLS Ambassadors**

The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) Ambassadors are a select group of students highly committed to the CLS. They serve as para-professionals who work to promote the CLS and its mission on campus. They facilitate curricular and co-curricular presentations on various leadership and service topics, plan the Volunteer Organization Fairs and CLS Information Sessions, and assist with other CLS programs and services throughout the year. This year the ambassadors:

- Tabled for the CLS at 15 events.
- Coordinated the “Leaders ‘R Us” Workshop series

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

1st year of CLS Ambassadors
1st ever Involve · Lead · Succeed Conference
1st ever LIVE CLS program
Involve • Lead • Succeed Conference

The Involve • Lead • Succeed Conference is a collaborative effort between the Center for Leadership and Service and Student Activities and Involvement. This day-long leadership and involvement training helps students identify their passions and develop skills such as communication, time management, networking, teamwork, and conflict resolution. Participants also have the opportunity to learn about their “True Color” through a personality survey designed to help them understand their personality and behavioral type, as well as those of others. Highlights from this year’s conference are:

• Keynote Ryan Winget facilitated a session on True Colors
• Six breakout sessions on topics including conflict resolution, teamwork, networking, time management, communication, vision, etc.
• 84% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the conference, they feel comfortable and knowledgeable in creating a path of involvement and leadership.
• 88% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the conference, they are able to utilize skills learned to better collaborate with one another.

LeaderShape

LeaderShape is an intensive, energizing, six-day educational experience designed to equip young adults to become extraordinary leaders. More than 30,000 participants from over 500 different colleges, universities, corporations, and organizations across America have graduated from the program. We coordinate a Florida north state-wide session and this year:

• 28 UF students attend LeaderShape 2012 along with participants from UCF, USF, UWF, St. Leo University, and Bethune-Cookman University.
• Guest Leader panelists included: Dr. Theresa Beachy Harrison from Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, Brian R. Scarborough from Scarborough Insurance, April Schroeder from Marketing Mud and Liquid Creative Studio with Sujit Chemburkar, Director of the Marshall Student Center at the University of South Florida serving as Moderator.

LIVE CLS

LIVE CLS is a three day interactive experience that provides incoming first-year and transfer students with a proven dedication to community betterment, with the opportunity to explore leadership and responsible citizenship in the Gator Nation. Through participation in community service, workshops, speakers, a challenge course, as well as interaction with campus leaders, LIVE CLS participants begin discovering their own path for creating positive sustainable change while at the University of Florida and beyond. LIVE stands for lead, inspire, volunteer, and engage and this inaugural year:

• Topics covered included UF Leadership Model, StrengthsQuest, Social Responsibility, and How to be an Advocate. Students also participated in a challenge course at Camp McConnell and a service project at Children’s Home Society Thrift Store.
Every year we encounter students, faculty, and community partners that unselfishly dedicate their time to serving the community. Whether they are advocating for a social issue, performing community service, mentoring, developing student leaders, teaching a service-learning class, or planning a service event they are unsung heroes of social change and community improvement. We recognize these individuals or groups with the following awards.

**Presidential Service Award**

Presidential Service Award recognizes undergraduate and graduate students who have dedicated their time and efforts while at the University of Florida to promoting social justice, community awareness, and civic engagement on campus and in the community. The Presidential Service Award is a chance to acknowledge those students who have made outstanding efforts towards community service and too often go unrecognized and unrewarded for their selfless labor. This year we awarded 43 students who dedicated more than 100 hours each of direct community service.

**CLS Impact Awards**

CLS Impact Awards is the culmination of all the efforts, time and commitment to service and leadership of all our students, faculty, friends, and community partners. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and community agencies that have been committed to volunteerism both personally and professionally. There were 13 different recipients in the organization, community, and individual categories this year. We had approximately 100 students, faculty, and friends who joined us to celebrate the achievements of our office, student organizations, friends, and staff.
THIRTEEN
CLS Impact awards given to UF students, faculty, community partners and donors for their dedication and commitment to leadership and service

FORTY-THREE
Presidential Service Awardees with over 9,500 total hours of community service

BETH NAHLIK
CLS Assistant Director, received Advisor of the Year award from Student Activities and Involvement for her work with Florida Alternative Breaks

1,125
total hours of community service at the Sidney Lanier Fitness Program for the overall Servant Leader of the Year