On the Behalf of the CLS

The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) enhances the education of students through meaningful experiences designed to prepare socially responsible individuals to create positive sustainable change. The Center 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.

This year we continued to build on our strategic plan and our focus areas of Advocacy, Community Engagement, Mentoring, and Student Development. Additionally, two new staff members joined us. We were very fortunate to have an AmeriCorps*VISTA Member who was able to work full-time with our mentoring organizations and the Alachua County School system. We also filled our open Senior Secretary position.

This was also an exciting year as we received the Florida Education Foundation’s “20th Annual Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award for Outstanding Support of Education” for Alachua County. The Davis Projects for Peace program selected “Integrando a México” to receive a $10,000 grant. Finally, our students continued to increase the amount of service they perform. This year an estimated 24,623 students completed 108,115 hours of service valued at $1,989,316 for the state of Florida and $3,569,335 nationally.

This publication was compiled to highlight these and other significant accomplishments within the Center for Leadership and Service. We hope that it will help you learn about our efforts and reflect our dedication to students and the community.

Tracey E. Reeves, Ph.D.
Center for Leadership and Service Director

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**Our Mission**

The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) enhances the education of students through meaningful experiences designed to prepare socially responsible individuals to create positive sustainable change. The Center 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.

**Service Consultation**

- August: 14
- September: 14
- October: 5

**Service in the Community**

- Graduate Assistants and full-time staff meet individually with students to help them choose a service site and learn more about the Center for Leadership and Service.
- Goal for Fall Semester is 30 consultations, which we reached on October 12.

**Mental Value to the Community**

- $2.3 million 2010-2011
- $2.2 million 2009-2010
- $1.6 million 2008-2009
- $1.5 million 2007-2008

**Mentoring**

- Graduate Assistants and full-time staff meet individually with students to help them choose a service site and learn more about the Center for Leadership and Service.
- Goal for Fall Semester is 30 consultations, which we reached on October 12.

**Significant Accomplishments**

- An estimated 108, 115 service hours valued at $1,586,316 for the state of Florida and $2,309,936 nationally completed by an estimated 21,623 students.
- Davis Projects for Peace 2011 selected "Integrando a Mexico" to receive a $10,000 grant.
- Florida Alternative Breaks recognized as the fifth largest alternative break program in the nation by Breakaway.
- Received Florida Education Foundation's "24th Annual Commissioner's Business Recognition Award for Outstanding Support of Education" for Alachua County.
- 45 Presidential Service Awardees with over 9000 combined total hours of service.
- Approximately 700 Volunteers in attendance at our days of service in the Gainesville and Alachua County Community (Summer Plunge, Gator Plunge, and MLK Day of Service) with over 2500 hours of service.
- 400 Mentors with over 6000 hours of service in Alachua County schools.
- Organized 24 Florida Alternative Break Trips: 3 Domestic trips during Summer Break, 4 Domestic trips during Winter Break, 4 domestic trips during MLK Weekend, 13 Domestic trips during Spring Break, and 3 International trips during Spring Break: 355 participants and 12,000 service hours.
- 45 Volunteer organizations in attendance for Fall 2010 Volunteer Organization Fair with over 500 students attending.
- 140 children were sponsored for the holidays through Partnership for Strong Families "Wish Upon a Star" Program.
Advocacy

Understanding Yourself and the People Around You.
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 warning to veteran affairs support.

Major Programs and Events

ACTIONs!

ACTIONs! mission is to create active citizens through a commitment to community service, leadership, and social change. They organize large events ranging from one day events to week and month long programs.

This past year ACTIONs:
- Hosted 4 days of service totaling over 2100 hours of service with over 700 volunteers and more than 40 host service sites
- Took part in 3 national initiatives including Hunger & Homelessness Week, World AIDS Day, and MLK Day of Service
- Collaborated with other student organizations including RCP Movement and Black Student Union for stronger participation and to achieve the common goal of advocating for social justice

Projects for Peace

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 one was selected at the national level to receive a $10,000 grant for their project.

- "Integrando a México". Patricio Provenzio spent the summer coordinating a youth empowerment course that sought to provide young people from Mexico with tools to become agents of social change in their communities and across the country. Throughout the 4 weeks of the course, the participants took part in six different sections: Constructive Engagement of Con Fle Workshops, Creative Workshops, Community Service Sessions, Civic Engagement Workshops, and Social Project Development Workshops.

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.

- Gainesville activist and retired nurse, Vivian Filer, served as the keynote speaker and shared her thoughts on "A Life of Social Change"
- 4 Panels focused on Global Health, Education, Poverty Alleviation, Climate and Energy/Sustainability
- 2 Skills Sessions on “Purposeful Partnerships for Change” and “Making a Statement: Explaining Your Work”

By the Numbers:

- Approximately 700 volunteers immersed in our days of service
- Over 40 service host sites
- 50 participants at the Oxfam Hunger Banquet
- On approximately 5 events planned by students to promote social justice

Spotlight

Projects for Peace 2011 Winner

"Integrando a México" is a youth empowerment course that sought to provide young people from Mexico with tools to become agents of social change in their communities and across the country. Taking place for the second consecutive summer, "Integrando a México" brought together 42 Mexicans from more than ten states of the country with facilitators from all over the world. Throughout the four weeks of the course, the participants took part in six different sections: Constructive Engagement of Con Fle Workshops, Creative Workshops, Community Service Sessions, Civic Engagement Workshops, and Social Project Development Workshops.

The course was a success, and this was a result of productive activities guided by well-prepared facilitators of the program. The structure of the course allowed the program to progressively build on the values and skills that were promoted. The participants acquired a wealth of knowledge and skills through their active involvement in each area, and in the end it turned out to be a culturally and intellectually enriching experience that stimulated the participants to become agents of social change, which was the course’s central objective.

During the next year, it is expected that at least 3,500 people from the participants’ communities will directly benefit from the course through the participants’ social projects and broader civic engagement. Furthermore, in the long term, the course’s impact will grow as the participants expand the social projects they designed, and as they become active in their communities through service. The hope is that this will continue for the rest of their lives, and that their work will inspire others.
Determination to Make a Difference in Your Community.

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.

Major Programs and Events

Gator Non-Profit Professionals

Gator Non-Profit Professional (GNP) The members of GNP have a common desire to help UF students find and launch a career within the nonprofit sector that positively impacts the lives of others. This past year GNP:

- Hosted third annual "Public Service Panel" which included four national organizations: Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, City Year, and Teach for America.
- Co-sponsored “Get to Know an NPO” with the Career Resource Center, over 30 students had opportunity to speak with local non-profits about opportunities.

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 work to heighten social awareness through regional and international service trips during academic breaks. With the passion, knowledge, and relationships gained from their experiences, members become lifelong advocates for social justice in their communities. This was an exceptional year for FAB as they:

- Organized and led 26 Florida Alternative Break Trips: 3 domestic trips during summer break, 4 domestic trips during winter, 4 domestic trips during MLK weekend, 12 domestic trips during spring break, and 3 international trips during spring break.
- Drew in 335 participants totaling 12,000 hours of service and fundraised over $6,000.

- Trained and educated 52 site leaders on working with their specific social issues and in pre and post trip service.
- Highlights from FAB Board exit interviews:
  - “Education is really what we do, service is just the means.” - Becky Rodriquez
  - FAB has been a defining experience in my college career” - Nicole Azzii
  - “Prior to FAB my life plan involved grad school, PhD, then professorship. Now I’m committed to volunteering after graduation either in TFA or AmeriCorps.” - Kelly Peston

Service Ambassadors

Service Ambassadors (SA) promote active citizenship among University of Florida students as well as the surrounding community. They plan events that educate citizens about prevalent issues in order to remind them of their civic responsibility and to inform them of the opportunities available to those who choose to make a difference.

- Hosted Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Volunteer Organization Fair; averaging 45 agencies/organizations in attendance and over 500 students per fair.
- Held inaugural “Service-Leadership Summit” intended to help students tap into their inner passions for service and to help them discover tools for reaching their service goals.

By the Numbers:

- 305 participants totaling 12,000 service hours in 26 alternative break trips with 16 out of 25 sites return community partners
- Over 150 Agencies established as community partners
- UF ranked in the top ten for both Teach for American and City Year recruitment
Understanding Yourself and the People Around You.

Why mentoring? 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 as an organization:
- “Really great concept, I know the kids really loved the trip to SeaWorld”
- “Sea World was fantastic, everything flowed”

Motiv8
Motiv8 is a mentoring group dedicated to fostering mentorships between “at-risk” middle school students and caring University of Florida volunteers. This year: Motiv8 had many accomplishments:
- Mentored 90 middle school students, dedicating 855 hours at Howard Bishop and Lincoln Middle Schools
- Fundraised a total of $1260 to help put on social activities for the mentees

Gator Teens Mentors
Gator Teens Mentors is 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 second year in partnership with Best Side High School:
- Mentored 56 high school student giving a total of more than 477 hours
- Held Lake Wauburg social and college access workshops for mentees dance and over 500 students per fair
- Held inaugural “Service-Leadership Summit” intended to help students tap into their inner passions for service and to help them discover tools for reaching their service goals.

By the Numbers:
- 335 participants totaling 12,600 service hours in 26 alternative break trips with 16 out of 25 sites return community partners
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Spotlight
Florida Campus Compact College Access Program (2010-2011)

Florida Campus Compact College Access Program within AmeriCorps is a program in which college and university students mentor at-risk youth with the goal of helping them to gain skills and knowledge needed for their eventual college admission and success. These AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one mentoring or small group mentoring for students in grades six through twelfth.

Over the past year, seven CLS students worked weekly with middle and high school students in any area that they are in need or just spending an hour or two becoming a fostered friend. As a part of being a member in AmeriCorps, these students were required to complete a certain percentages of their services not only to mentoring, but also to fundraising and the organization of events, and community and service learning projects with their mentees. The purpose of incorporating different types of services is to provide multiple opportunities for the local community to get involved and to set an example for the students being mentored. This holistic approach provides the mentors with more opportunities to help youth and interact with members of the community.

The students completed most of their term of service through mentoring programs in Alachua County Public Schools. Public schools in Alachua County have varying amounts of at-risk students who are in need of academic guidance and social support. This type of mentoring environment provided the mentor with varying degrees of obstacles, but it allowed them to realize the need and understand the importance and impact a mentor can have on the life of at-risk youth.

Six of the seven students completed three hundred hours of service while the other, Mia Witchcomb, completed 300 hours. Each of the students gained positive life experiences and learned about themselves. After completing her 900 hours Mia summarized her experience...
Student Development

Developing Our Future’s Leaders.

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.

Major Programs and Events

**Lead101**

Lead101 members are peer educators who provide and promote the necessary skills and knowledge needed to explore and apply new leadership practices through workshops, role modeling, service projects and annual leadership conferences.

This year was a successful one for Lead101:

- More than 65 participants attended the Act of Leadership Conference, where students had the opportunity to participate in workshops framed around the values in the UF Leadership Model. Dr. Carl Barfield, Professor in the Department of Entomology & Nematology served as the keynote speaker.
- 75% of respondents agreed that the information presented at the conference was new and informative.
- 95.4% of respondents agreed that the presenters were engaging and informative.
- 98.1% of respondents agreed that they had the opportunity to engage and network with other participants.
- 86% of respondents said they would recommend the conference to others.

**LeaderShape**

**FLI** Florida Leadership Institute

LeaderShape is an advanced, ethics-based leadership development experience for young adults. More than 50,000 participants from over 500 different colleges, universities, corporations, and organizations across America have graduated from the program. We coordinate a Florida state-wide session and this year:

- 25 UF students attended LeaderShape 2011 along with participants from FGCU, UCF, UWF, JU, and St. Leo.

Spotlight

**Quotes from former participants**

“Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go to LeaderShape. This was a life changing experience and it made me realize that there is nothing I cannot do. Before LeaderShape, I thought I was crazy. I thought of myself as ‘dreaming too hard’. My dream was that I wanted to see a world free of discrimination and prejudice. But after going to LeaderShape, I felt like I was engulfed in an ocean of dreamers who wanted to make the world a better place. It helped me realize the value of one, and the power of all.” Through this realization, I know I can make a great impact on the world.”

– Chishy Dumph, LeaderShape 2010 Participant

“LeaderShape was a life changing experience for me, and it still affects my life some four months later. It helped me understand where my true passions lie and helped me believe in a vision that I never dreamed could be a reality. I also use the skills I learned at LeaderShape in my everyday life. To give a more concrete example of the benefits LeaderShape bestowed upon me: If I had not attended LeaderShape this summer, I may never have developed such a clear vision for my future as LeaderShape Council, and I may never have taken the bold risks to set that vision in motion.”

– Kathy Keeler, LeaderShape 2011 Participant

By the Numbers:

- 335 participants totaling 12,600 service hours in 26 alternative break trips with 16 out of 25 sites return community partners.
- Over 150 Agencies established as community partners.
- UF ranked in the top ten for both Teach for America and City Year recruitment.
Florida Leadership Institutes
Florida Leadership Institutes are designed for participants to increase their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of leadership, increase their leadership skills, learn practical skills for event/program planning, meeting management, and budgeting, and interact and to get to know their fellow student leaders. This year there were 2 FLI sessions:

- 35 students attended the 5G Cabinet session at Camp Weed
- Topics covered included UF Leadership Model, Creating a Vision, Communication, Professionalism/Accountability
- Presidents and programming chairs from organizations including Reitz Union Board, Women’s Leadership Council, Leader, Black Student Union, Hispanic Student Association, Jewish Student Union, Asian American Student Union, various 5G Cabinets, Campus Crusade for Christ, Club Creole, Florida Alternative Breaks, Travel & Recreation Program, IDEAL, NPHC, MGC, Indian Student Association, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, attended the Programming session roundtables
- Topics included “Building a Network of Student Leaders” and “Annual and Traditional Programs”

Awards & Recognition

What We Mean by Awards and Recognitions.
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.

CLS Awards and Recognitions
- Received Florida Education Foundation’s “24th Annual Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award for Outstanding Support of Education” for Alachua County
- 43 Presidential Service Awardees with over 9000 total hours of community service
- 14 CLS Impact awards given to UF students, faculty, community partners and donors for their dedication and commitment to leadership and service

We recognize these individuals or groups with the following awards:

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.

Women Leader of the Year Award recognizes undergraduate women who have made the University of Florida and Gainesville community a more positive and supportive environment through service to the public via volunteer programs and student organizations. The Women Leader of the Year award is an equal opportunity for all undergraduate women at the University of Florida, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or gender expression. Most importantly, applicants are judged on their leadership philosophies as communicated through their written responses and live interview questions. In keeping with the mission of the Women’s Leadership Council, the Women Leader of the Year Award strives to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding female students here at the University while encouraging and inspiring women throughout our community to rise to the challenge of leadership.

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 14 different recipients in the organization, community, and individual categories this year. We had over 100 students, faculty, and friends who joined us to celebrate the achievements of our office, student organizations, friends, and staff.