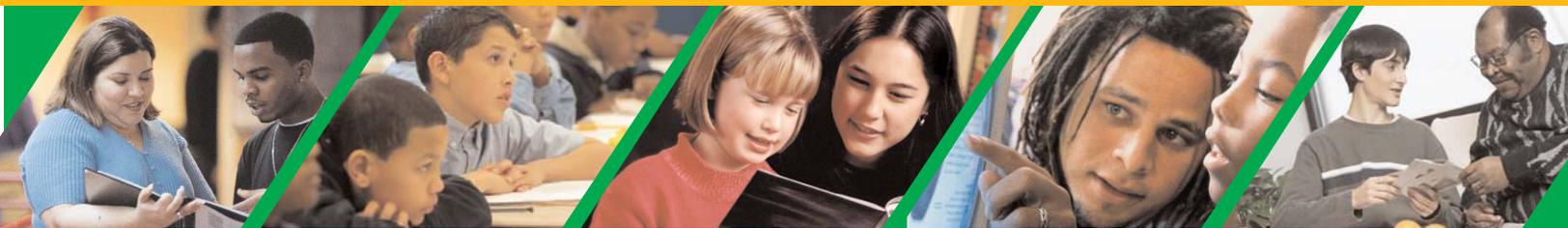


Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

presents the

2009 Spirit of Service Awards



Nominate an Outstanding Student, Educator, Grantee

Last Year's Winners:

Nick Metrakos, Student

Nick Metrakos, a senior at Blythewood High School in Columbia, S.C., serves as co-chair of the Richland School District Two Youth Action Council, a student-run council that promotes youth-directed civic engagement through a service-learning framework. Under his guidance, the council is assisting seven impoverished rural South Carolina school districts in the development of service-learning projects as a means of keeping students engaged in school while strengthening their own communities. He also works with students in other schools to help the students develop service-learning councils and to recruit student leaders for the district-wide council. Metrakos got his first taste of service-learning in a social studies class during his freshman year. The class researched the local impact of federal judicial and legislative decisions around desegregation of public schools in America. Students examined local history through archived documents, school board policy, news articles, and interviews with long-time residents of the community. They summarized their work in a paper, "In the Balance," that was presented at a public forum that included the participation of numerous elected officials and dignitaries.

Wendy Doromal, Educator

Wendy Doromal, in addition to her duties at Timber Creek High School (TCHS) in Orlando, Fla., Doromal is the service-learning coordinator for the Orange County School District, the nation's seventh largest. Doromal created the TCHS service-learning academy as well as both of the coordinator positions. Her responsibilities include conducting and organizing trainings and conferences for teachers and students, overseeing a district-wide student service-learning mini-grant program, conducting site visits of service-learning programs throughout the county, and writing grants for service-learning, which have been awarded \$325,000 so far. As a direct result of her efforts, the number of service-learning projects in Orange County has increased from seven to nearly 150 a year. Almost all of the 150 schools in the district have a service-learning contact trained by Doromal, and tens of thousands of Orange County students participate in service-learning. Examples of student service-learning projects in 2006-07 include Spanish-language poison prevention books, videos on preventing bullying, recycling books, creating community gardens, and public service announcements on topics ranging from homelessness to drug awareness. More than 125,000 people were served by student service-learning projects in 2006-07, and 210,000 are projected to be served in 2007-08.

Monforton School Seventh Grade, LSA Grantee

Beginning in 2006, the seventh-graders at the K-8 Monforton School in rural in rural Bozeman, Mont., took the lead in developing the playground by bringing the situation to the attention of the principal, the Monforton School Board, other students, and the larger community. They surveyed students and community members to evaluate needs, then investigated the type of equipment that would be suitable, safe, and engaging to encourage fitness for multiple ages. They also designed the space to include learning stations on Native American culture. Once the school board gave the go-ahead for the project, the students began to seek funds to continue. When they learned that purchasing a climbing structure would cost a minimum of \$40,000, they enlisted the aid of a community member to design a suitable structure. With help from local individuals and businesses, they created a climbing structure for less than \$3,000. The students have committed themselves to what they now call Operation Save the Playground for their three years of middle school. They also want to assist other rural schools and communities in demonstrating the ways that service-learning can help schools and students reach their academic and civic engagement goals. This integration of service-learning with the social studies curriculum has resulted in very high scores on state standardized tests.

Do you know a student or champion of service-learning who has made a true difference in their community?

Share Their Stories and the Spirit of Service!

Learn and Serve America and the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) are committed to recognizing and celebrating outstanding leaders and practices in service-learning. The Spirit of Service Awards pay tribute to the most outstanding participants in each of the Corporation's programs, which also include Senior Corps and AmeriCorps.

The awards will be presented during special ceremonies at the National Service-Learning Conference, March 18-21, in Nashville, TN. Nominations of individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to their communities and the field of service-learning are currently being sought. Nominees must exemplify quality service-learning, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and provide a model to others in the field.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This competition is open to any project or participant in a program supported by Learn and Serve America. We expect to make awards in each of the following categories:

- a Student;
- an Educator; and
- a Learn and Serve America Grantee.

Nominees must be current or past Learn and Serve America grantees or part of a grantee-sponsored project.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be made by any person affiliated with a grantee organization, program director or staff, or any Corporation staff member. Self-nominations also are permitted.

All nominations must include a narrative of 250 words or less in support of the nomination (see guidelines below). All nominations must also include:

- Nominee's name, address, telephone number, fax, e-mail address and Learn and Serve America grantee affiliation.
- Nominator's name and title, organization name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address.
- Please indicate that your nomination is for the Learn and Serve America Spirit of Service Award and specify if the nominee is a student, educator, or grantee.

Incomplete nomination submissions will be disqualified.

There are three easy ways to submit a nomination:

1. Fill out an online nomination form at NationalService.gov/spiritofservice
2. Send by e-mail to spiritofserviceawards@cns.gov
3. Fax to 202-606-3460

Each nomination must be submitted separately. If you have questions, please call 202-606-6717. The nomination deadline is Friday, November 28, 2008 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Nominations received after this date may not be considered.

NARRATIVE GUIDELINES

The narrative should address how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of service by addressing the following questions (in 250 words or less for each):

1. Tell us about the person you are nominating. Where is this person serving currently? What are this person's service responsibilities? When did he or she start serving? What qualities set this person apart from other individuals who serve in your program?
2. Tell us about the leadership qualities of the person you are nominating. How has this person inspired others and encouraged others to serve? Has he or she taken on particular leadership roles in your organization or in the community that set them apart? If so, please describe these roles.
3. Provide some examples of tangible outcomes the person you are nominating has achieved. For instance, discuss problems solved, measurable changes (like test scores, truancy rates, changes in rates of infection, mentoring matches, etc.), dollars saved, effective leveraging of volunteers and resources, or number of people served. Please be as specific as possible and identify some examples of the impact the individual has made.
4. Tell us about the extraordinary efforts made by the person you are nominating. Has this person had to overcome any personal challenges? Has this person's service changed your programming, capacity for service delivery, or sustainability in any way? What makes this person's efforts stand out from others?

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of Learn and Serve America staff members at the Corporation and representatives of the service-learning community. The committee will make its recommendations to the executive staff of the Corporation. Final selections will be determined by the executive staff of the Corporation. All decisions about award recipients are final.

If a nominee is selected, the nominee and nominator will be contacted by telephone. Award recipients will be invited to travel as a guest of the Corporation to Nashville, TN, where they will be recognized during special ceremonies at the National Service-Learning Conference.

Nominators will be notified of the status of their nominations once the selection process is completed. The list of all award recipients will be posted on the www.nationalservice.gov website. Information submitted becomes the property of the Corporation and will not be returned to the nominator.

Privacy Policy: You are advised that a nominee's name, as well as all submission material, may be used for news or publicity programs connected with the Corporation for National and Community Service. Contact information, however, will not be shared with anyone outside the Corporation, and only with individuals within the Corporation who have an official need to know the information. Finally, if a nominee or nominator does not want his or her name and/or narrative information used for purposes of news, publicity, and publications, please indicate this within your submission.

The Spirit of Service Awards are sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

