



PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Award Focus: **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



STUDENT SERVICE

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
5,000

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
380,000

KEY SERVICE AREAS
**Food distribution, housing rehabilitation,
park restoration**



ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The President's Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its community service work. CNCS is a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*.

UNIQUE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

A distinguishing characteristic of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is its commitment to community engagement through both coursework and co-curricular activities. The university has increased the number of service-learning courses offered in all six academic colleges and at every level, from first year general education through graduate seminars. Today 42 percent of the student body participates in service learning and volunteer projects.

Over 14 years, academic service-learning has grown from seven courses with 100 students, to more than 160 courses with over 2,600 students each year.

SERVICE SUMMARY

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is committed to maintaining and expanding meaningful, sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships that improve the broader community and the university.

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



The university's curricular and co-curricular service programs provide millions of dollars of direct service each year as well as organizational capacity building to a broad range of community agencies, organizations, and nonprofits. Through these partnerships, students, faculty, and staff teach and learn in real life settings.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seven Days of Service:** Each year, as part of the university's "Signature Service Days" initiative, hundreds of university students partner with local high school students and community volunteers, dedicating part or all of their spring break to service throughout the city of Omaha. A hallmark of this program is an interdisciplinary focus on housing rehabilitation and homelessness prevention through on-going partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and The Metropolitan Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH).
- **Addressing Food Insecurity:** Students are dedicated to relieving chronic food insecurity in the local Omaha area. According to Feed America, 34,570 children in Omaha are considered to be food insecure, including 40 percent of North Omaha's families. The university's Aquaponics project (cultivating plants in water with aquatic animals) is just one example of their focus on food drives, community gardens, service in food pantries, expert support for nonprofits focused on hunger issues, and awareness campaigns around food/hunger issues.
- **Success in School:** University programs such as the Service Learning P-16 Initiative, the Signature Days of Service, and SummerWorks are dedicated to increasing the academic success of both K-12 and university students through collaborative service learning and volunteer projects emphasizing employment and college preparation. These programs focus especially on those who are at risk to not finish high school or successfully graduate from college.
- **Computer Basics for Inmates:** In an effort to increase inmate confidence with technology and to prepare them for reentry into society, University of Nebraska at Omaha students serve the Douglas County Department of Corrections by teaching essential computer skills to inmates.

LOOKING FORWARD

With the opening of the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center in Spring 2014, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has been strengthening its commitment to meaningful and reciprocal community engagement through academic service learning and student-led volunteerism. The university continues to pursue funding opportunities to expand and better support community engagement programming through internships, capstones, field experiences, and thematic service and volunteer opportunities.