



PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNER

Award Focus: EDUCATION



STUDENT SERVICE

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
4,960

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
3,388

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS 2013-14
420,000

KEY SERVICE AREAS
Education, poverty, childhood obesity,
wellness, fitness, nutrition, and health



ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes higher education institutions for their exemplary commitment to and achievement in community service. The National Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition of the contributions that colleges and their students make to local communities and the nation. It is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

UNIQUE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service programs are woven into campus life at Springfield College, from inside the classroom to volunteer opportunities through the Office of Student Volunteer Programs. Our community-based learning experiences prepare students for lives as active citizens and community leaders in service to humanity. Students, faculty, and staff participate in service during annual projects, alternative spring breaks, on their own accord, or events and activities organized by the College. And new students are immediately immersed into this service-oriented culture during their summer orientation, advising, and registration sessions through participation in a service project of their choice.





SERVICE SUMMARY

Springfield College offers several majors and 36 courses with service-learning components, many of which aim to improve conditions for the City of Springfield, where 46.2 percent of residents live below the poverty level, including more than half of the city's children (53.7 percent). High school graduation rates are at 61.6 percent (compared to the state's rate of 86.1 percent), and 60 percent of children cannot read proficiently by the end of the third grade. That is why our students, faculty, and staff are involved in significant ways throughout the community, tackling critical educational needs in the community. From art therapy programs to the school's applied exercise science program, students have an opportunity to engage in community work through partnerships with local schools and agencies. These partnerships aim to increase the educational success of community members and create a healthy, active, vibrant community that engages all people.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- **AmeriCorps School Turnaround Initiative:** Springfield College was awarded one of 13 grants to provide holistic support to turnaround schools in the area. AmeriCorps staff at the College provided over 39,000 hours of service to more than 500 at-risk students by placing teams of academic coaches, school counselors, and academic support specialists in K-12 schools to address student needs.
- **Massachusetts Reading Corps:** AmeriCorps staff at Springfield College collaborated with local literacy champions to help children gain the early literacy skills needed to become strong readers, beginning in Pre-K. Literacy tutors were placed in schools, and the College created a supervision and support structure to ensure effective implementation, fidelity to the model, and tutor development.
- **Partners Program:** For more than 20 years, the Partners Program at Springfield College has paired college mentors with disadvantaged elementary and middle school students from neighborhood schools. In 2013-14, the program facilitated 100 student pairs, with Springfield students dedicating over 600 hours of their time. Since the program's inception, more than 700 young students have been mentored.

LOOKING FORWARD

Springfield College is building a Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, scheduled to open in the fall of 2017. The center will provide a physical space and an environment where the community can participate as equals in the creation and development of strong community bonds. The center also has the potential to provide the resources to students to take action on the issues they care about, providing a platform to develop students as leaders in service to humanity. In particular, it can be a space where College student and young people in the community can come together and lessen the feeling of separateness.