

Compact Connects

November 2000

www.umt.edu/mtcompact

MTCC Breaking News...

This fall, MTCC sponsored a contest to encourage college students to write-up their "service stories." We received eight excellent entries, and from those we carefully selected three individuals to present their stories at the Governor's Conference on Civic Engagement during our workshop entitled "Study Groups, Sacrifices, and Strong Coffee!: Creating the Engaged College Student." Congratulations to the following individuals who were chosen to present their stories:

- ◆ Carrie Cochran, The University of Montana
- ◆ Della Johnson, The University of Montana
- ◆ Ria Overholt, Western Montana College
- ◆ Honorable Mention: Cheryl Eslami, The University of Montana

All of the service stories will be compiled, published, and made available for you to enjoy. You won't want to miss out on reading these heartfelt stories that clearly show the value of community service through the eyes of college students!

Attention All Students and Campus Based Supervisors!

The Service Learning program at The Montana Campus Compact is accepting applications for Spring, 2001 Student Fellowships. Five competitive fellowships are available for students to engage in public scholarship that strengthens communities and enriches the academic curriculum.

This is your opportunity to implement that service project you've been saying somebody needs to do. You could be that somebody!

Benefits of a Student Fellowship include:

- ◆ A budgeted monetary award;
- ◆ Training and technical assistance from The Montana Campus Compact

- ◆ A student development workshop providing opportunities for collaboration, discussion, education, and support;
- ◆ A network of colleagues/peers statewide engaged in active practice of service learning;
- ◆ Effective personal development and resume-enhancing activities;
- ◆ Promotional assistance of the projects through The Montana Campus Compact

For a copy of the application or for more information, please contact

Therese Hetzel

Service-Learning Program Manager

406/243-5177

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Spotlight on Service

Montana Reads Members spent the past academic year hustling up volunteers and tutoring like crazy! In fact, during the 1999-2000 program year more than 1,300 children received tutoring as a result of the program. A survey of Montana's teachers provided very valuable information about the impact of this service. Here's a summary of that data, based on a pre/post skills/interest assessment:

- ◆ 96% of children tutored showed at least some increase in their reading skills or interest in reading at the end of the school year, whether it be their ability to sound out words, understand what they read, concentrate, write, and/or participate.
- ◆ 69% of children tutored improved their overall ability to read.
- ◆ Of those, 66% began the academic year below grade level in reading, and ended the academic year at or above grade level.

Montana Reads Members—give yourselves a hand! You and those 200 volunteer tutors should be very proud of what you've accomplished for Montana's children!

Civic Engagement Tip

Each and every one of us can be responsible for the well-being of our communities and our world! How can you become a more active, involved, and responsible citizen for your community and your country? Check out the easy tips below to take action...

CIVIC PARTICIPATION – ANOTHER WAY TO GET THINGS DONE! *By Jen Gardner, UM Law Student*

Campaign season is upon us! Unless you are a Martian (or as busy as an AmeriCorps Member), you have probably noticed that in less than 7 days we will be electing a new President of the United States. Not only that, but we will also be electing senators and representatives from all over the country to take their place in the hallowed halls of our nation's capitol. Throw your hat in the ring and **fulfill your civic duty** – VOTE! Our service work as AmeriCorps Members is just one avenue of civic participation. Voting is another, and there are 3 things you can do to help improve our society by being an advocate for civic engagement:

1. **Register to vote** – you can do this at County Election Offices, and on some sites, even over the Internet. Surf away!
2. **Get educated!** The web sites below offer a plethora (probably more than you'll ever need) of information about issues, local and national political races, up-to-date breaking news stories, quotes, and much more. Spend some time investigating and become an educated voter!
3. **VOTE!** Whether you cast an absentee ballot, or go to the polls in person, raise your voice loud and clear on Election Day—November 7, 2000!

Why, you ask? What difference does my vote make, you ask? Well, if you are unsure that your vote does indeed make a difference, check this out – the importance of one vote:

- ★ In 1649, one vote literally cost King Charles I of England his head. The vote to behead him was 67 against and 68 for – the ax fell thanks to **one vote**.
- ★ In 1776, **one vote** gave America the English language instead of German (at least according to folklore).
- ★ In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the union by a margin of **one vote**.
- ★ In 1868, **one vote** in the U.S. Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- ★ In 1889, by a **one vote** margin, Washington was admitted to the union.

★ In 1916, if presidential hopeful Charles E. Hughes had received **one additional vote** in each of California's precincts, he would have defeated President Woodrow Wilson's re-election bid.

★ In 1948, a Texas convention voted for Lyndon B. Johnson over Ex-governor Coke Stevens in a contested Senatorial election. Lyndon Johnson became a U.S. Senator by a **one vote** margin.

★ In 1962, the governors of Maine, Rhode Island, and North Dakota were all elected by a margin of **one vote per precinct**.

★ In 1994, the U.S. House of Representatives enacted a law banning specific classes of assault weapons. The vote was initially tied but **one** member changed his **vote** to approve the ban.

Before you race out to the ballot box, however, it is also your civic responsibility to get educated on the issues. If you have not had time to research the upcoming elections, here is how you can find current information about candidates, important issues, and everything else you could possibly want to know. The sites below are nonpartisan and for informational purposes only. Let your fingers do the walking...

★ www.vote-smart.org

★ www.lwv.org

★ www.politics1.com

★ www.issues2000.org

And check out these news sites that offer excellent political coverage (find the "politics" or some similar button on the home page of the site):

★ www.cnn.com

★ www.washingtonpost.com

★ www.nytimes.com

Happy campaign season!

Resource Roundup

A fabulous newsletter designed to address a wide range of tutor related issues. Helpful hints, creative and fresh ideas – a must read! Go to www.nwrel.org/learns to download the latest copy of “The Tutor” quarterly newsletter!

The National Service Resource Center – books, videos, guides, and more related to almost every service topic you can imagine. Youth service, diversity, reflection, leadership, mentoring, literacy, media, recruitment, team building, stress management, volunteers, youth at risk, and much more! Go online to review NSRC’s extensive catalog of information at www.etr.org/NSRC or call at 1-800-860-2684.

Interested in volunteer or service web sites? Check out the following:

- www.impactonline.org
- www.communityleadership.org
- www.helping.org

Guide: “Identifying Local Resources for Your Literacy Program”

Produced by: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Community and Education Volunteer Services Center – Available by calling The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175

Are you getting ready to publicize and spotlight your awesome AmeriCorps project? Consult these media resources for a little extra help!

- **“A Guide to Working With the Media”**

Produced by: Corporation for National Service, Office of Public Affairs (202) 606-5000 ext. 555

Also available by calling The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175

- **“Public Relations Toolkit for National Service Programs”**

Produced by: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Community and Education Volunteer Services Center – Available by calling The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175

Speaking of news, if you are interested in staying informed of the breaking news on the national service scene, go to www.nationalservice.org/news/nsn . This site keeps you updated with a newsletter published every other Monday.

Citizenship Competency Corner

Changing Attitudes, Providing Skills, and Developing Knowledge.

At least once a year, we at headquarters are asking Campus Corps/Montana Reads Members to complete those tedious self-assessment forms—front and back! To show Members that their time with this paperwork has served a purpose, we'd like to brief you on the exciting results of these surveys.*

Among the AmeriCorps Members who served two academic years in the program, we found that 86% showed an increased ethic of service at the end of their term. Specifically, these individuals increased their skills and knowledge in the following three areas of civic engagement:

- ◆ Providing services and solutions to help meet the community's needs
- ◆ Looking for ways to express opinions in the community
- ◆ Being aware of community resources

It is good to know that even though students enter our programs with the intentions of “giving back,” they are ending their experiences with us even more motivated and prepared to be responsible, engaged citizens. Way to go!

**Self-surveys include pre/mid/post assessments*

Did You Know?

✂ What are the names of the first two AmeriCorps programs in Montana?

Be the first to respond correctly by contacting Laura Hassler at (406) 243-5177 or via Email at laurah@selway.umt.edu and receive a fantastic prize from MTCC!

Thanks to last month's winner, **Theresa Seccomb, MT Tech of the UM**, for her quick response!

Quotes to Inspire You

✂ Leadership is action, not position – *Donald H. McGannon*

✂ The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in other men the conviction and the will to carry on—*Walter Lippmann*

Happy Birthday To...

The following individuals are celebrating birthdays during the month of November:

Shelley Clark, University of Great Falls

Travis Cooper, University of Great Falls

Aaron Grossman, The University of Montana

Steve Lindsey, the University of Great Falls

Risha McCormack, University of Great Falls

Lydia Rodriguez, Western Montana College of the UM

Lucas Sprague, Western Montana College of the UM

Jason Stevens, Montana Tech of the UM

Joyce Workman, Flathead Valley Community College

How About You?

Do you have any resources, success stories, breaking news from your campus, trivia, quotes, or other tid-bits to share? We **ALL** want to hear from you! If so, please send your submission to:

The Montana Campus Compact

302 University Hall

Missoula, MT 59812-3960

Phone (406) 243-5177

Fax (406) 243-2797

Or send it electronically to:

laurah@selway.umt.edu

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