



The Newsletter of the Montana Campus Compact - November 2001

## MTCC Breaking News...

### **MTCC Launches a New Program : Community Partners**

For the first time in its history MTCC is broadening its membership to include community based organizations. MTCC's newest program, Community Partners, allows community -based service organizations to become members of the Montana Campus Compact, thus providing them directly with the same benefits and opportunities as our college and university members. Community-based organizations need not have any affiliation with higher education in order to become a members of MTCC. We are looking for organizations similarly committed to the goals for utilizing citizens to address the problems of Montana's communities.

Organizations that join MTCC will receive a benefits package that includes the following:

**Training and Technical Assistance Opportunities**-MTCC hosts Civic Engagement Seminars periodically throughout the year; there are also a number of other statewide trainings that Community Partners would be eligible to attend. MTCC also houses an extensive community service resource library available to Community Partners.

**Directory Listings**-MTCC produces a number of directories, handbooks and web-based listings that will feature Community Partners, thus enabling them to publicize their organizations and attract potential volunteers.

**Network Opportunities and Recognition**-Community Partners will receive our monthly newsletter Compact Connects, and be able to attend a number of networking opportunities including the Civic Engagement Seminars and the annual recognition event.

**AmeriCorps Education Awards for Volunteers**-Community Partners are eligible to apply for AmeriCorps Education Awards to reward volunteers who perform meaningful community service.

If you have any questions about the Community Partners Program or would like an application packet, please contact Josh Vanek at [jvanek@yahoo.com](mailto:jvanek@yahoo.com) or by phone at (406)243-5177.

## Around Montana...

**Building Engaged Citizens** - On September 28-30, 2001 members from The Montana Campus

Compact VISTA, Campus Corps and Bonner Fellows programs and student leaders from MTCC's member institutions gathered at the Lubrecht Forest for a weekend of orientation and skill-building. The weekend retreat brought together 71 members to learn about the year ahead and to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

Many participants at the building Engaged Citizens Retreat expressed their appreciation for the variety of workshops which were available to them. Participants enjoyed honing their mentoring skills, planning sure fire volunteer recruitment strategies and planning their life goals.

Michael LaVolpe a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and now a technical trainer for New Horizons in Chicago, gave a spectacular hands-on training to the MTCC VISTA's on grant writing. Lynda Vande Sandt, a second year VISTA, said "it was the best training I have ever been to".

Special thanks and appreciation go out to Wendy Bay Lewis founder of [www.civicmind.com](http://www.civicmind.com) and the keynote speaker at the event (look for Wendy's suggested reading list in the Resource Roundup section of this issue). And thanks also go out to "Banjo" Ron Mills for his extraordinary banjo playing at the campfire both Friday and Saturday nights. Many participants turned out to hear Ron share his gift of song, and some even chose to sing along!

**Mark Your Calendars!** - On November 17, 2001 at the Bobcat / Grizzly game in Bozeman, The Montana Campus Compact will be honoring four student athletes who are active participants in community service. A raffle will also be held on game day to support MTCC and its four programs - stay tuned for more details.....

# Spotlight on Service



**- Kathy Tanner**  
**Office of Community Involvement**  
**Montana State University - Bozeman**

Even Howard is just one of those diamonds in the rough! We first met Even when she volunteered in the 2000-2001 academic year with our MSU America Reads \* America Counts program. Even was assigned the task of tutoring a 3rd grade boy who was struggling with very poor reading fluency. His writing skills were poor and his attitude toward reading was dismal. Even was able to bring this students skills up to a "good" and "very good" level by working with him throughout the school year. She was creative in her approach and as a result, the student became motivated and found success.

After making such a terrific impact, Even chose to apply for our Summer Ed Award Only position working on the MSU America Reads \* America Counts Program. The choice for us was an easy one.... she was chosen and started work in July! Even is a tremendously gifted woman. She knew what she needed to do over the summer months to prepare us for another year in the school system, but she was also determined to take the program out to children who were home for the summer and perhaps not spending much time honing their literacy skills!

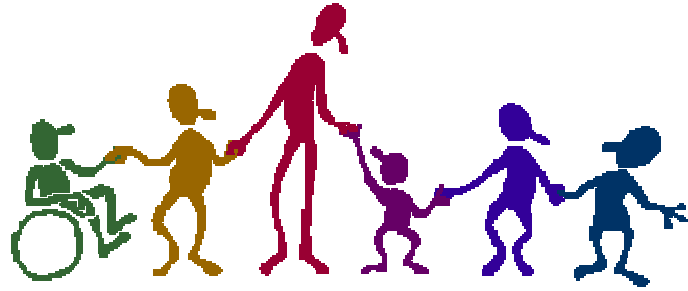
Even arranged to have a space at the Bozeman Farmer's Market each Saturday of the summer! She created an inviting spot beside a big tree on which she hung the America Reads banner; she spread out a large quilt and stuck her sun umbrella in the ground! Even attracted hundreds of children to her reading blanket both at Farmers Market and the weekly "Lunch on the Lawn" held each Wednesday of the summer on the lawn next to the Emerson Cultural Center. Children attending the food and music festival each Wednesday were given the opportunity to read on their own or along with Even. She purchased letter beads and had them making bracelets with their names and phrases on them and she built a reading castle out of cardboard that stimulated the kids imaginations and stories were created on the spot! Even partnered with a local used bookstore, Wilson Avenue Books to borrow books for each week out in the community and her work in the hot sun of the summer resulted in many children of all ages finding a new appreciation for the fun of reading and storytelling!

Since completing her summer AmeriCorps position, Even arranged an internship through the English Department to continue working with our office and the MSU America Reads \* America Counts program. She will be building a project web site, developing a parent newsletter and writing articles for submission to our local school newsletters on a monthly basis. Her commitment to serving children in our community is outstanding and her humble, peaceful nature partnered with amazing organizational skills has made her an asset to MSU, the Bozeman area community and our state service efforts as a whole!

**How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.**

**- Anne Frank**

# 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 these simple ideas that can have a big impact on your community.

The League of Women voters is a nonpartisan group dedicated to furthering political participation. They maintain a web site full of information about local and national candidates. If you'd like to learn more about who's running before election day, jump on [www.montana.com/lwvmt/](http://www.montana.com/lwvmt/).

The League of Women Voters also sponsors the "Take a Friend to Vote" campaign. Check out the details on their web site [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and pledge to take a friend to the ballot box this November!



## Resource Roundup

Suggested Readings from Wendy Bay Lewis and TheCivicMind as given at the MTCC Building Engaged Citizens Retreat September 28-30, 2001. Please visit Wendy's web site at [www.civicmind.com](http://www.civicmind.com) or e-mail her at [TheCivicMind@aol.com](mailto:TheCivicMind@aol.com) .

Doppelt, Jack C. and Ellen Shearer. **Nonvoters: America's No-Shows.** Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 1999.

Etzioni, Amitai. Next: **The Road to the Good Society.** New York: Basic Books, 2001.

Friedman, Thomas L. **The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization.** New York: Random House Anchor Books, 2000

Levine, Arthur and Jeanette S. Cureton. **When Hope and Fear Collide: A Portrait of Today's College Student.** San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998.

Mitchell, Michele. **A New Kind of Party Animal: How the Young Are Tearing Up the American Political Landscape.** New York: Touchstone, 1998.

Schudson, Michael. **The Good Citizen: A History of American Civic Life.** New York: The Free Press, 1998.

Shore, Bill. **The Cathedral Within: Transforming Your Life by Giving Something Back.** New York: Random House, 1999

Westheimer, Joel and Joseph Kahne. **What Kind of Citizen? The Politics of Educating for Democracy.** Lecture. Chicago. 23 Jan. 2001.

## Citizenship Competency Corner

### What is Coaching and Why is it So Important?

**Bernard Redshaw**  
[www.LearningBuzz.com](http://www.LearningBuzz.com)

Almost anything an individual (manager or non-manager) learns about his/her job is by doing things. New tasks, new problems, new situations all provide new learning opportunities. Generally, the more the individual (let us call him/her 'the learner') is involved in identifying problems and working out solutions for them, the more complete and long lasting the learning is.

This self learning tends to bring about learning with a deeper understanding than learning that is 'taught.'

However, it is always possible that wrong conclusions may be drawn from a particular experience, and it is always possible that the learner may become lonely, discouraged or just 'stuck.' So it is therefore important that there is someone around to give guidance, encouragement and support to the learner, when it is required. This process of giving guidance, encouragement and support to the learner is what we call coaching.

Although we may have become more aware of coaching in recent years, is not a new phenomenon. It is something that almost all managers have been doing quite naturally ever since there were managers. It is just part of good management practice. Some managers do it more, some do it less. Some do it well, some do it less well.

Effective organizations ensure that their managers coach more and coach well. To do this, they provide a climate where coaching is regarded as important, where everyone understands what coaching is, and where managers (and sometimes non-managers) are helped and encouraged to coach regularly and effectively as part of their normal management role. In these organizations, coaching is as much a culture as it is a skill.

So what exactly is coaching? A recent definition describes it as:

"Systematically increasing the capability and work performance of someone by exposing him or her to work based tasks or experiences that will provide the relevant learning opportunities, and giving guidance and feedback to help him or her to learn from them."

The coach uses the workplace as the classroom. It is by exposing the learner to new and real work experiences, by encouraging the learner to solve new work-problems, that the coach helps the him/her to learn and to develop new competencies and to improve existing ones.

Coaching is very different from teaching or instructing. It best described as facilitating. The coach encourages the learner to learn for him/herself. The coach usually adopts a "back seat" role being available to give guidance and help when the learner really needs it, and regularly helping the learner to review each experience so that he/she understands what he/she has learned from it.

**Free  
MTCC VISTA  
T-shirt!!**

**To the first person who answers this Trivia Question correctly:**

The schools of Western civilization  
today are modeled after the education system in which ancient civilization?

**Be the first person to e-mail us at [mtccinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:mtccinfo@yahoo.com) and the T-shirt is yours!**

**Congratulations to last month's winner -  
Kirsten Graham - Faculty Fellow from the  
Helena College of Technology**



Compact Connects is a publication of  
**The Montana Campus Compact.**

Do you have news, photos or announcements that you  
would like published in the next Compact Connects?  
Please contact MTCC at (406) 243-5177 or e-mail us at  
[mtccinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:mtccinfo@yahoo.com).

