



Service Matters

The Newsletter of the Illinois Learn And Serve America Program

Summer 2006

Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, 100 West Randolph, 15-200, Chicago, IL 60601

ServeAndLearn.org

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Service Matters*, a quarterly newsletter on service learning in Illinois. The newsletter's goal is to provide an opportunity for teachers, administrators and service learning coordinators to gather information, news, and updates on the great work being done with this innovative teaching methodology.

Service learning is an important part of a student's education because it encourages civic responsibility in young people. This newsletter will support the work of educators throughout the state in instilling that ethic of service.

Service Learning's New Home

The Lt. Governor's Office was recently appointed as the new coordinator of service learning in Illinois. The office will administer the federal *Learn and Serve America* program and will continue to implement the Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn program.

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn has been a long time supporter of service learning. "Service learning is a tool which allows students to become actively engaged in their studies as well as leaders in their communities," Quinn said. "We look forward to working with thousands of students in the service of others."



Service Learning Grants Available!

Lt. Governor Quinn and the Illinois State Board of Education are pleased to announce the availability of Illinois K-12 School-Based Learn and Serve America Grants for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

The application can be obtained via the website, ServeAndLearn.org. School districts throughout Illinois are eligible for these grants and encouraged to apply for this innovative program. **Completed grant applications must be received at the Illinois State Board of Education no later than July 17th, 2006.**

For more information visit ServeAndLearn.org or contact Ted Gibbs at the Lt. Governor's Office at (312) 814-6673 or ted.gibbs@illinois.gov

Cesar Chavez Breakfast

On Thursday, March 30, 2006, at Chicago's McKinley Elementary School, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn hosted the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program breakfast celebration. Quinn saluted the more than 100 Chavez service learning projects throughout Illinois. This educational initiative honors the late labor leader Cesar E. Chavez and teaches students the importance of service to others through academic instruction and community-service projects.

Chavez's grandson, Cesar L. Chavez delivered the keynote address. Quinn was also joined by Jesse Ruiz, Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Chicago Alderman George Cardenas (12th Ward), Chicago Alderman Ray Suarez (31st Ward), Chicago Alderman Ray Colon (35th Ward), and labor leader Jessie Rios of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Students from McKinley Elementary exhibited their 20-by-33-foot replica of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec city established in 1325, now known as Mexico City. Quinn also recognized Dundee Crown High School (Carpentersville) for its natural area restoration project and the Macon County Teen Reach Program (Decatur) for their support of Illinois young people living with HIV/AIDS.



What's New?

In addition to this quarterly newsletter, other valuable resources can be found on the website ServeAndLearn.org for educators, parents and kids. New additions to ServeAndLearn.org include:

- **Highlighted Service Learning Projects:** Over the past three years, hundreds of schools in Illinois have participated in the Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program. A distinct few have been chosen as 2006 highlighted service projects. Students, teachers and parents can find outstanding ideas for future service learning projects on this new feature.
- **Resources for kids:** At our kids page, you will find an animated and interactive story about Cesar Chavez created in conjunction with Project Hope at Governors State University and the University of Illinois-Extension office. This is a perfect opportunity for younger students to explore the life of Cesar Chavez and how they can play a role in giving back to their communities.

ServeAndLearn.org



Upcoming Events

July 17: Service Learning Grants Deadline
October 23: State-wide Service Learning Conference

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Learn And Serve America Program. Design by Gil Jimenez; Copy by Ted Gibbs, Cesar Rodriguez, and Amanda Auger. For more information, please visit ServeAndLearn.org or email Ted.Gibbs@illinois.gov.

Project Profiles: *Jacobs High School*

Jacobs High School in Algonquian, Illinois was selected as one of the top 25 State Farm Project Ignition finalists in 2006. Project Ignition is a service-learning program designed to promote teen driver safety and increase civic leadership. High schools across the country competed with Jacobs High School's project "In a Blink of an Eye."

This fall students from Jacobs will launch a public awareness campaign on car safety in their community. The students plan to utilize seat belt checks in the school parking lots and student/parent driving contracts. They also will implement outreach efforts in Algonquian through student made videos on driving distractions and stories of local families that have dealt with the devastation of reckless driving accidents. The project goal is to educate 40,000 citizens on the importance of driver safety.

As a top finalist, Jacobs High School was awarded a \$2,000 grant to start their project proposal. They also advance to compete for the top finalist spot, which will be decided at the National Service Learning Conference in New Mexico next spring. Congratulations and Good Luck Jacobs High School!



For more information on Project Ignition please visit sfprojectignition.com.