

Compact Current



INSIDE	
JMU director garners Compact community engagement award	2
Student-led organization fights drug abuse	3
Save \$10 on two bestsellers on civic engagement	4

Educating Citizens
Building Communities

SPRING 2009

Compact Current is the newsletter of Campus Compact, which provides leadership, resources, and advocacy to support civic education, community building, and campus engagement for more than 1,100 member campuses.

Bold Presidential Agenda Holds Promise for Higher Education

Maureen F. Curley, President, Campus Compact

The strong call for citizen engagement from the Obama administration, coupled with two decades of growth and success in the national service movement, has created an array of opportunities for civic engagement work in higher education.

Campus Compact is at the forefront of efforts to turn these opportunities into tangible results, working with Congress, the Obama administration, and other national associations to shape initiatives that promote and support campus engagement.

As one of the original organizers of Service Nation and the sole group representing higher education, Campus Compact brought together a wide range of presidents committed to deepening campus-community relationships at the Service Nation Summit last September. One direct result of the Summit was the landmark Serve America Act. Sponsored by Senators

Kennedy and Hatch, this legislation expands and supports student engagement efforts in communities, social innovation and entrepreneurship, and fellowship and scholarship programs. It also provides incentives for higher education to invest in efforts that link service and academic achievement.

Campus Compact immediately engaged with the transition team of the new administration, submitting comments regarding the structure and

performance of the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. High on the agenda is the passage of the GIVE Act, legislation that would reauthorize the work of the Corporation and address some of the administrative complexities of its programs, including AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Learn & Serve America. Most recently, the Compact helped to generate support for the stimulus package, which included a \$200 million increase for both AmeriCorps and Federal Work-Study. Campus Compact continues to explore other interests of the administration, including making college more affordable through a new tax credit linked to service activities.

Campus Compact's network of 35 state offices and more than 1,100 institutional members is an extraordinary mechanism for soliciting new ideas, generating feedback on proposed initiatives, and educating elected officials on the public value of higher education. We encourage leaders on our member campuses to serve as partners in our policy and advocacy work. For updates and resources relating to our policy efforts, please consult our website—www.compact.org/policy—or contact me at the national office. (See the back page for contact information.)

continued on page 3, right

Campus Compact's network is an extraordinary mechanism for soliciting new ideas, generating feedback on proposed initiatives, and educating elected officials on the public value of higher education.



Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated solely to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life. Through our national office and network of 35 state offices, members receive the training, resources, and advocacy they need to build strong surrounding communities and teach students the skills and values of democracy.

Campus Compact comprises a national office based in Providence, RI, and state offices in CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, NH, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WI, and WV. For contact and other information, see www.compact.org.

Board of Directors

CHAIR

John J. DeGioia Georgetown University

VICE-CHAIRS

Jane A. Karas Flathead Valley Community College

Toni Murdock Antioch University

MEMBERS

Louis Albert Pima Community College-West Campus

Lawrence S. Bacow Tufts University

Warrick L. Carter Columbia College Chicago

James B. Dworkin Purdue University-North Central

David L. Giunta Natixis Global Associates

Judith Hansen Southwestern Oregon Community College

James T. Harris III Widener University

JoAnn Haysbert Langston University

Teresa Iannaconi KPMG LLP

Shirley Ann Jackson Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Alex Johnson Community College of Allegheny County

John Keating University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Leo Lambert Elon University

Richard R. Rush California State University Channel Islands

John Sirek McCormick Foundation

James Votruba Northern Kentucky University

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Maureen F. Curley President

JMU Director Garners National Staff Award for Community Engagement

Campus Compact has selected **Richard Harris**, Director of Community Service-Learning at James Madison University (JMU) in Virginia, as the recipient of the inaugural Leadership

Award for Campus and Community Engagement.

This national award is presented to a community service-learning professional for leadership in developing and sustaining strong campus/community partnerships and fostering a culture of engagement.

Harris has directed the Community Service-Learning office since 1996, expanding JMU's role as a partner in the community and developing numerous programs designed to assist communities in need while helping students gain the knowledge and experience required to address social issues. Under Harris's leadership, JMU has earned the reputation of being a national model of campus engagement, with a strong focus on forming community partnerships that benefit all involved.

Douglas T. Brown, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice-President of Academic Affairs at JMU, says, "Rich's work in developing service-learning at James Madison, in my view, has been one of the cornerstones of our educational experience." Harris's deep commitment to his students, his campus, and his community has led both students and community partners to cite Harris as a source of inspiration and lasting influence. Reflecting on his experience at JMU, a former student said he considers Harris "a teacher, mentor, philosopher, activist, dreamer, and ... friend."

JMU has achieved numerous distinctions for its community work, such as ranking 14th among large colleges and universities for graduates serving with the Peace Corps; earning a place on the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; and being selected for inclusion in *Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement* (The Princeton Review and Campus Compact, 2005).

In addition to Harris, Campus Compact honors five award finalists for their outstanding contributions to campus and community engagement: **David Chiles** of Cabrini College (PA); **Patti Clayton** of North Carolina State University; **Cheri Doane** of Central College (IA); **Lorraine McIlrath** of the National University of Ireland, Galway; and **Thomas Schnaubelt** of the University of Wisconsin – Parkside.

The Leadership Award for Campus and Community Engagement recognizes the work of a community engagement professional who advances his or her campus's civic vision and the field by creating high-quality initiatives, contributing to the development and sustainability of strong, reciprocal partnerships, and fostering a culture of engagement on campus. In this, its first year, the award drew an impressive group of nominees from campuses across the United States and abroad, representing a wide range of institutional types. **CC**

Compact Current, the national newsletter of Campus Compact, is distributed three times a year to all Campus Compact member institutions.

Editorial Correspondence: Address all correspondence to Karen Partridge, Editor, Compact Current, Campus Compact, 45 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111, email kpartridge@compact.org.

Campus Compact receives financial support from Ariel Capital Management, LLC, Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Corporation for National and Community Service, The Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, The Joyce Foundation, The Kettering Foundation, KPMG Foundation, Learn and Serve America, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, TIAA-CREF, and TOSA Foundation, among others.

Student-Led Organization Fights Drug Abuse

University of Oklahoma group is first of its kind in the state

Spencer Pittman

In August 2008, I created a student organization at the University of Oklahoma that has had an impact well beyond my campus. Receiving national attention, Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse has been growing in size and, more importantly, in its advocacy reach.

When originally seeking endorsements from addiction treatment professionals, a common response we heard was “Oh great, another anti-drug group. They’re all the same.” Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse has proven this statement wrong.

Ours is the only anti-drug-abuse organization run by college students in the state. We offer education to youth, college students, and the community through awareness raising, strategic programs, and mentoring relationships leading to better choices and healthier lifestyles.

Leaders within the group include students of criminology, pharmacy, medicine, and education. This base gives us unique insight into what is effective in anti-drug-abuse campaigns. We know that student-to-student interaction is essential for understanding how and what narcotics are being abused on our campuses—something many sociologists are unable to research. For instance, we believe that attention to addiction needs to start focusing more heavily on abuse of prescription drugs, which is rising on college campuses.

In addition to work on campus, we support community efforts. In one program, I have teamed with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity (for which I serve as Philanthropy Chair) to create an event called “Capture the Flag Against Addiction.” This is designed as an annual, cornerstone philanthropic event in which a campus sports tournament raises funds for community efforts. Proceeds from the 2009 event this spring will go to the Norman Addiction Information & Counseling (NAIC) center,

which specializes in addiction prevention, outpatient counseling, and classes.

One of NAIC’s specialties is drug court, an educational alternative to standard probation that is less expensive and more effective in preventing relapse among nonviolent, first-time drug offenders. One of our goals is to create an endowed fund that awards drug court graduates with \$100 upon completion. For graduates, the money will serve as positive reinforcement and a means of helping to alleviate the stress of reintegration into society. We plan to raise \$20,000 to implement the award.

Members of Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse see this work a paradigm shift for students aspiring to become actively involved in their campuses and communities. Our organization is not just another anti-drug club donating funds to charity without thought. We have developed a professional relationship with a successful treatment center to help support its work in a meaningful way.

Teresa Collado, NAIC’s executive director, praises these efforts not only for raising funds but also for publicly highlighting an effective means of treating addiction. This is in keeping with our goal of studying and supporting cutting-edge methods of combatting drug abuse. We expect our programs to go beyond affecting our campus and our community to support advocacy efforts nationwide. **CC**

Spencer Pittman is a junior at the University of Oklahoma. For more information about this program, please email him at spencer.pittman@ou.edu.

Agenda Holds Promise for Higher Ed

continued from page 1

Communicating about our members’ achievements in areas such as engaged scholarship, community-campus partnerships, and student achievement is another way that we advocate for campus engagement efforts. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification is one well-respected means of documenting institutional success. We are proud to note that of the 119 institutions receiving this designation in the most recent round, 104 are Campus Compact members.

This rigorous evaluation process has helped to elevate our work and to articulate not only what we do but also what we have accomplished. In a time of great need and uncertainty, higher education is responding in ways that support communities, generate new knowledge, and educate the next generation of problem solvers. Campus Compact members are leading the way. **CC**

Get a jump on spring savings!

Save on our **civic engagement bundle**, featuring two of our bestselling books:

Civic Engagement Across the Curriculum

~and~

Assessing Service-Learning and Civic Engagement

Buy both and get \$10 off the total price!

Just go to our online bookstore at www.compact.org/publications and enter CIVENG in the Promotional Code box at checkout.

Hurry, sale ends April 14

Members get both books for only \$49!

Nonmember sale price: \$64



Save \$10 on these two best-selling books

www.compact.org

campus@compact.org

617/357-1881

Boston, MA 02111

45 Temple Place

Campus Compact



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5731
Boston, MA