Our mission is to educate, engage, and equip the campus community to accomplish tangible, public work that improves the lives of people in our communities.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
Anne P. DePrince, Ph.D.

As you will read in the pages of this newsletter, the talented students who bring life to CCESL programs have been hard at work, locally and nationally. Thanks to student efforts, CCESL and DU were represented at conferences near and far.

In addition to highlighting their work in this newsletter, let me spotlight some important faculty accomplishments:

- Four DU faculty (from three departments) joined faculty from five metro area institutions for Colorado Campus Compact’s Engaged Faculty Institute: Service Learning 101.
- This quarter alone, CCESL has awarded 4 new Community-Engaged Learning mini-grants to support innovations in service learning classes.
- The Public Good Fund Committee convened to review Public Good Fund Proposals and provide feedback on the call for proposals for next year. Watch for our Summer issue, which will highlight 2011-2012 Public Good Fund awardees.
- The Community-Engaged Learning Advisory Committee convened and generated innovative ideas for advancing service learning on campus. Stay tuned for updates in our Summer issue.
- Several faculty have rolled out new service learning classes this quarter, from Geography to the Writing Program!

I am also delighted to welcome our new Faculty Associates: Drs. Keith Miller (Chemistry), Kate Willink (Communication Studies), and Cheri Young (Knoebel School of Hospitality Management).

Bringing leadership from across campus, they will each work on unique projects over the coming year that support and advance meaningful community engagement across campus. We are grateful to have them on board!

Please watch for many exciting events this spring, from CCESL’s first Service Day (a kick-off to our new Service Initiative; see page seven of this newsletter) to the Diversity Summit and Puksta Passage.

Happy spring – and thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Anne
DU SELECTED FOR 2012 PRESIDENT’S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

The University of Denver has received the distinction of being admitted to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education. Launched in 2006, the Honor Roll annually recognizes higher education institutions that embody values of exemplary community service and civic engagement and that raise the visibility of best practices in campus-community partnerships.

DU was admitted to the Honor Roll on the basis of a series of selection factors evaluated for the 2010-2011 Academic Year, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service. Selection to the Honor Roll represents recognition from the highest levels of the federal government of DU’s commitment to service and civic engagement on campus and in the nation at large. DU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL) played an integral part in contributing to the university’s public good mission through a range of programs that are dedicated to enhancing student learning and service, faculty teaching and research, and community development.

Here are some quick facts about CCESL programs and DU’s public good performance in AY 2010-2011:

- The Faculty Service Learning and Service Learning Associates programs supported faculty training and development and paired advanced students with faculty who teach service learning courses to bring student leaders into the classroom. In colleges and departments across divisions, more than 30 faculty taught over 50 service learning courses that enrolled over 800 students.

- Designated by the Office of the Provost, the Public Good Fund makes available $100,000 annually for innovative public good and community-based faculty research projects that address community-identified needs. One 2010-11 project resulted in the development of the Colorado Law Project website and the training of 85 public reference librarians to support public navigation of Colorado legal information and resources.

- The AmeriCorps Program places motivated DU students in high-need K-12 environments and non-profit agencies for long-term service placements that last from one to four years. 350 students were involved in AmeriCorps and contributed over 161,000 hours of service with 200 community partners. AmeriCorps enrollment increased 34% from the previous year, and AmeriCorps members received over 5,800 hours of training to support their community service.

- DU students, faculty, and staff are also considerably involved in public schools through tutoring and mentoring programs, teacher-prep field placements, service-learning courses, public good research projects, and the Public Achievement (PA) program, which partners with Denver Public School classrooms to increase youth civic capacities.

- Over 3,400 DU students completed more than 375,500 hours in community service and service-learning projects and programs.
DID YOU KNOW?  SOON EVERYONE WILL!

Did you know...that Public Achievement (PA) coaches and team leaders take part in regular trainings to ensure that the work they do with youth in Denver Public Schools is of the highest quality. In April, PA coaches and team leads were joined by Puksta Scholars for a cross-training on power mapping. Students traded perspectives, creativity, and best practices.

Oh – and we caught them on film!

As some of you know (because you’ve been kind enough to be interviewed!), we are working with producer Raivan Hall to chronicle the work that CCESL-connected staff, faculty, and students do with communities. Thank you to those who are making this project possible with your time, stories, and passion.

Stay tuned for more on the web release of CCESL’s first videos!

KIMMY FOUNDATION AWARDS NEW ENDOWMENT TO DU

CCESL will have the privilege of coordinating the selection process for a new service award for graduating seniors, thanks to a generous endowment from the Kimmy Foundation for Youth Education to DU.

The Kimmy Foundation’s mission is to support youth who exhibit creativity, character, and compassion in keeping with the life and ideals of Kathryn Dougherty Galbreath. The newly-established DU Kimmy Foundation Community Service Professional Award reflects the Foundation’s commitment to the professional advancement and service of capable young men and women in their growth and development as world citizens. Consistent with DU’s vision to be a great private university dedicated to the public good, DU has matched the Kimmy Foundation’s contribution.

Award recipients will be chosen from graduating seniors based on: 1.) past contributions to community service as a DU student; and 2.) future contributions toward society via community service/engagement, including specific employment plans following graduation.

This award highlights the Kimmy Foundation’s efforts to support those who give to others and lead the way toward helping their community.

Kimmy Foundation President James Galbreath noted, “We feel that we will be making a significant difference in the life of a college graduate who has chosen a career path to help others in need. We want to inspire future generations to give back to others, as Kimmy did during her lifetime.”
WEBINAR IN SERVICE LEARNING IN GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

By: Ysaye Zamore, Service Learning Associate

A webinar titled “Service Learning in Graduate Professional Education” was done on April 5th, 2012 by faculty at the University of California: San Francisco. The purpose was to explain what service learning looks like for graduate students and specifically how UCSF medical students benefit from this added component in their program. Webinar attendees learned about the challenges and opportunities involved in implementing service learning in a graduate educational setting, and they were given insight about service learning projects happening at their campuses.

Some of the main points from the webinar include:

- Get faculty involved by being creative about explaining the role of service learning in graduate work and how it can improve student and faculty outcomes
- Give students autonomy, independence, and control over the project to keep them engaged, especially when they are already involved in community work
- Embrace the chance to form community partnerships and deeper relationships between students, faculty, and the community
- Inform students that service learning is an additional opportunity to pursue their passion when they may not have an outside chance to do so
- Students should remain open-minded and understand that service learning is a needed component to increase learning application
- Although it may have its challenges (i.e. increased time commitment, building infrastructure, development of community partnerships), service learning projects often produce many benefits (i.e. provides a different type of learning experience for students who are not visual or auditory, increases productivity and innovation from students, promotes community engagement and understanding)

Some web-based resources for service learning include:

- www.ccph.info
- www.compact.org
- www.servicelearning.org
- www.researchslce.org/publications
- www.ces4health.info

PUKSTRA SCHOLAR SELECTED AS MENTOR AT PEACEJAM YOUTH CONFERENCE

Fatima Gul, a first-year Puksta Scholar, was selected to serve as a PeaceJam Mentor during the recent PeaceJam Rocky Mountain Region Youth Conference with 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Shirin Ebadi of Iran. Throughout this two-day (April 21-22) youth conference in Denver, Fatima was partnered with another mentor to lead a group of high school students throughout the weekend. Fatima was able to facilitate small-group discussions on controversial issues, coordinate team building activities and be an energizer and motivator to students as they create social change in their communities. Along with Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, Fatima led the way in showing students that a more peaceful life is possible.
COLORADO PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENT COACH CONFERENCE: FIRST YEAR A SUCCESS

On March 10, 2012, CCESL hosted the first conference aimed at bringing together individuals engaged in Public Achievement (PA) programs across the state of Colorado. There are currently four colleges and universities in Colorado that host PA programs: Colorado College (CC), University of Denver (DU), University of Colorado–Boulder (CU-Boulder), and Colorado State University (CSU).

Public Achievement is an international program that has its beginnings at the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota. Public Achievement is a youth civic engagement initiative focused on the most basic concepts of citizenship, democracy and public work. Public Achievement draws on the talents and desires of ordinary people to build a better world and to create a different kind of politics. There are three primary tenants of PA, that everybody can do citizen work, that citizenship isn’t easy, and that we learn by doing. In PA, college students serve as coaches and work closely with a group of middle or high school students to identify social justice issues that students care about within their school and community. Coaches guide high school students through the community organizing process over the course of the academic year incorporating civic skills, such as public speaking, relationship building, issue identification, and taking public action. Together, teams conduct community-based research and carry out a public work (service-learning) project to address the issue they identified.

Cara DiEnno (DU), Jessica Copeland (CC), and Elaina Verveer (CU-Boulder), planned the conference events with the feedback of numerous individuals. CCESL was the host for the event held in Sturm Hall. The conference was organized by Cara DiEnno and a student committee that included Anita Balakrishnan, Rachel Hanley, and Matthew Farrell.

The event included a keynote address presented by Dennis Donovan, National Organizer for Public Achievement, twelve breakout sessions on a variety of topics, a World Café dialogue among and between different PA programs, and a reflection hall with prompts that coaches responded to throughout the day.

Seventy-three participants from six institutions, including the four institutions with established PA programs listed above and the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs and Johnson & Wales University attended the conference. The majority of coaches at both DU and CU are also AmeriCorps Compact Service Corps members.

When participants arrived they were provided with a packet of information about the day. This packet included an agenda at a glance, a detailed agenda, a one page description of the PA programs for each campus (CU, DU, and CC), a map of Sturm Hall, paper to take notes, and a list of updates due to the conference reschedule. Participants were also given a pre-assessment and asked to complete the form before the opening keynote.

To close out the conference a final large group reflection was led by the DU and CU Coordinators, Cara DiEnno and Elaina Verveer, respectively. Students shared additional feedback and added to the notes they had left on the posters in the reflection hall.
Puksta scholar presents at “Everyone Reading’s 39th Annual Conference on Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities” at New York University

Editor’s Note: A note of gratitude to the Puksta Foundation for providing funds for Puksta Scholars to present their work at conferences, thus offering students a valuable professional development opportunity.

By: Brittany Morris, Puksta Scholar

After four days in New York City, running around and getting lost more than enough times, all I needed was sleep; instead, I got finals week. Although my trip to NYC may have been during the most inconvenient week of winter quarter 2012, it was absolutely the most tremendous opportunity.

I have had the pleasure of working with the International Dyslexia Association – Rocky Mountain branch for five years now and some of the most amazing people I get to work with are a group of kids called the IDA Ambassadors. The program was created as a way to get kids who have learning disabilities (LD) together to talk about the struggles and triumphs in their lives. It has become a way to dialogue with teachers, administrators, parents, and professionals about learning disabilities and what it is like to live with them. That is what brought me to Everyone Reading’s 39th Annual Conference on Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities at NYU. The IDA Ambassadors session entitled “What We Want Everyone to Know About Dyslexia” was accepted by the conference committee and we began planning our trip to The Big Apple.

Being in the big bustling city was extraordinary, though, the best part of this trip was the conference itself. I able to attend sessions and learn about how the brain interprets time, engaging parents as learning partners, organizational skills studies, and doctors who are incorporating literacy into pediatric visits. The IDA Ambassadors had a very successful session and received great feedback. Session attendees included the Everyone Reading President, lawyers, parents, teachers, and even young students. We used simulations in order to give the audience a feel for what it might be like to be a dyslexic student and used stories from our own lives to reinforce the research we discussed. It is remarkable to see the kids I work with and myself truly impacting people, encouraging them to ask questions and even bring about emotional responses which verify the importance and strength of sharing our stories.

I am so lucky to be a part of the Puksta Scholars Program and CCESL which provide me with opportunity for engagement and learning. My work with these programs allows me to meet people who are as passionate about social justice as I am and find new resources for being involved in making a difference in my community.
HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER’S 11TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY SUMMIT ON INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

The theme of the 11th Annual Diversity Summit is “Pioneering Innovation Through Inclusion: What Do You DU?” challenging participants to recognize the many benefits that arise through inclusion and to implement inclusive practices in everyday life both personally and professionally.

This year’s keynote speaker will be Jeff Johnson, a Washington, DC based, award-winning journalist, social activist and political commentator. From his celebrated conversations with marquee world figures in the political, business and entertainment arenas to his grass-roots trench work to inspire the next generation of leaders; investigative journalist, political correspondent, and activist, Jeff continues to be a trailblazing social entrepreneur and authentic voice for change. He also consistently challenges audiences to consider innovative solutions to resolve historic and systemic social imbalances and inequalities.

Conference registration is open!
If you have questions regarding the Summit, please contact diversitysummit@du.edu or call 303-871-7661 for more information.

Kick-Off Celebration
Holocaust Social Action Site
Thursday, May 3, 2012
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Conference
Sturm Hall
Friday, May 4, 2012
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HELP US HAVE A STRONG CCESL SHOWING TO THE DIVERSITY SUMMIT!

CCESL CO-SPONSORS KICK-OFF CELEBRATION
With our friends and colleagues in CME, Center for Judaic Studies, and the Social Justice LLC, CCESL is a co-sponsor of the kick-off celebration on Thursday evening. Join us at the Holocaust Social Action Site for a screening of “In Whose Honor” and discussion of identity and social justice.

CCESL’S OWN CARA DIENNO AND RYAN HANSCHEM PRESENT AT DIVERSITY SUMMIT
Join Cara and Ryan for their Diversity Summit Session, “Innovative Community Organizing Strategies to Develop Inclusive, Socially Just Communities”. Abstract: CCESL believes community organizing is a more effective strategy than activism because rather than bringing people together around issues, community organizing brings diverse people together to achieve social change based on their shared values. Participants will gain an understanding of Community Organizing principles, such as how to work with others to take collective public action, and how they may be strategically used to address social inequalities. The rich traditions of Community Organizing have been applied to develop creative solutions in diverse communities for decades. Learn innovative strategies to take advantage of these skills in order to create and support inclusive communities here in Denver. We will also discuss current civic engagement initiatives through DU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL) that can build skills and provide opportunities to take action to address community needs.
SERVICE LEARNING PLAYS INTEGRAL ROLE IN NEW MINOR

With the creation of DU’s new Intercultural Global Studies minor, students now have the opportunity to experience a service learning component to their degree both internationally and domestically. CCESL is pleased to support the IGS minor.

DU PROFESSOR, MATTHEW TAYLOR, WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA FEATURED IN NY TIMES BLOG

Matthew Taylor, Associate Professor in Geology at DU, has been working on a project financed by the National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences program to investigate past droughts in the region using tree rings. Matthew has decades of experience working in the field in Guatemala and has been involving his graduate and undergraduate students in his fieldwork from the very beginning. To see a wonderful account of his time in Guatemala with DU students and collaborators from Columbia and Guatemalan Universities, visit the New York Times:

Tree Planting at Bluff Lake Nature Center

Friday, April 27th
8:30 am to 1 pm

University of Denver students, faculty, staff, and alumni will join The Park People at Bluff Lake Nature Center to plant 30 new trees in the restoration area along Sand Creek. The volunteers will be trained on proper tree planting techniques to ensure the trees live long and healthy lives.

Schedule:
8:00 Meet at CCESL’s office in Driscoll South to carpool to Bluff Lake
8:30 - 9:00 Arrive at Bluff Lake and enjoy fresh bagels, coffee and juice.
9:00 Welcome and introduction to the project. Safety tips and planting demonstration.
9:30 - 12:00 Divide into small groups and begin planting trees. Each team of 3 people will collectively work on one tree at a time until all 30 are planted, staked, mulched, and watered.
12:30 Enjoy lunch and relax in the shade. Acknowledge and reflect on your accomplishment!

For any questions, please contact:

Ryan J Hanschen
CCESL Program Coordinator, at
ryan.hanschen@du.edu or 303.871.4281

Bluff Lake Nature Center is a nonprofit agency that owns and manages a unique urban wildlife refuge and outdoor classroom in northeast Denver. The refuge is home to an abundance of animals and native plants, which thrive in a variety of habitats.
SAYING GOODBYE WITH GRATITUDE!

Please join CCESL in saying thank you, goodbye, and good luck to six outstanding student employees.

**KATIE BOYSEN:** Katie worked as front desk staff at CCESL for a year and a half. Her plans for the future are up in the air but she will be spending the summer in Shanghai studying Chinese through the State Department’s Critical Language program.

**NICOLE PFEIFFER:** Since September 2011, Nicole has worked as the AmeriCorps Campus Compact Service Corps Assistant Coordinator. Nicole will be continuing her Master’s Degree in International Development and Global Health Affairs. She moving on as the Program Coordinator for the Nathan Yip Foundation as well as working as a Global Health Affairs Program Assistant.

**FIONA SHEPHERD:** Fiona has been with CCESL for two years, initially as a Public Achievement Team Lead, and later as the AmeriCorps Lead Coordinator. After graduation, she will intern in Brazil for a month as the Project Director of U.S.-Brazil Connect’s new fellowship program. Upon return from Brazil she will begin her funded research project on human trafficking in the Denver Metro Area.

**YSAYE ZAMORE:** Ysaye has spent over a year and a half as an administrative assistant at CCESL. She has also been an active member in AmeriCorps and is a Service Learning Scholar. After her June graduation from the International Disaster Psychology Master’s program, Ysaye plans to spend some time traveling before she finalizes her career plans.

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FACULTY MEMBER ATTENDS CONFERENCE WITH SERVICE LEARNING MINI-GRANT

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to funding from the Provost’s Office, faculty can apply for mini-grants to support their service learning classes and training. Visit our website for more information.*

By: Andy Sharma, Ph.D., Institute for Public Policy Studies

This winter, I participated in Colorado Campus Compact’s Engaged Faculty Institute: Service Learning 101. Following that 6-session training, I attended the 92nd Annual Southwestern Social Sciences Association Conference (April 4-7) in San Diego, California. Of the many panels I attended, one was specifically dedicated to service learning with an emphasis on working with refugee communities. The panel covered key concepts not fully explored during the Engaged Faculty Institute training, particularly in relation to service learning activities with diverse communities. For example, panelists urged faculty and students to be aware of cultural factors when interacting/developing an outside classroom activity, particularly with refugee groups. To illustrate this point, panelists used the example of males limiting contact with females in some cultures. If a male community member is unwilling to meet with a female student, this should not be attributed to the individual (e.g., that the individual does not want or is unable to help). Rather, both the faculty and student should respect cultural differences and find ways for other household members to assist and communicate with the student.

In addition to discussing cultural issues, the panelists highlighted the importance of supporting students’ professional conduct in service learning activities. For example, based on the work with refugee communities, they recommended that students make formal appointments and confirm any meetings with households. Simply put, students should not visit homes unannounced or send text messages without establishing some rules of conduct with the family.

Despite these additional considerations, the panelists reported that students find service learning opportunities with refugee communities to be rewarding. Faculty also benefit from this enriched experience, but should be aware that service learning courses can be work-intensive and require continued improvement.
PA COACH EMCEES AT NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Editor’s Note: Funding provided to CCESL from the Provost’s Office allowed us to support Antonio’s travel to take advantage of this unique professional development opportunity.

By: Antonio Vitale, Puksta Scholar

I recently had the privilege to attend the National Service-Learning Conference, which is the largest gathering of youth and adults involved in the service-learning movement. Attendees from across the United States and around the globe gathered to share concepts and ideas about service-learning as a means to build skills and citizenship while addressing community needs. There were projects ranging from saving the “Great Pacific” to ending genocide.

Throughout the conference, I was able to attend various workshops such as; “How to write a grant,” “Closing the achievement gap through Service-Learning,” and more. I also had the privilege of being able to emcee and speak at the conference. Amongst the attendees was Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi, CEO Geoffrey Canada (Waiting for Superman) and Ray LaHood (Secretary of U.S. Transportation). It was such an honor to be able to express my passion and to have been able to do so in conjunction with so many inspirational leaders.

The National Service-Learning Conference was an amazing opportunity, which I was directly able to relate to Public Achievement and the great things our CCESL leaders are doing locally in schools. It was so refreshing to know that there are other people and organizations around the world working to help make a better tomorrow. It also made me feel proud to know how amazing our PA group here at DU is, we have incredible leaders, and very genuine people.

In South High School where I work, we are working on saving the environment, and spreading awareness. One of the most innovative projects at the conference, as I mentioned earlier, was geared toward saving the Great Pacific. The picture shows a pool full of water (The Great Pacific) and plastic bottles (trash). Participants would use a large fish net to fish out a piece of trash, and inside was a compelling fact that brought awareness to participants. This gave me so many ideas about ways to help innovate the students at South that I work with. There were also so many benefits from some of the logistical workshops, like how to properly write a grant.

Next year the conference will be held here in Denver, Colorado, and I cannot wait to attend, I hope that many of my fellow coaches and PA staff will consider doing so also. Not only was the conference rewarding and useful, but the experiences I had, and the connections I made are invaluable. I would especially like to thank Iman Jodeh, Cara DiEnno, and Anne DePrince, without them this opportunity would not have been possible.
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STOP BY TO SAY HELLO...
Monday – Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm
Dirscoll Student Center South
Suites 6, 18, and 22

AMERICORPS MEMBER
WINS THIRD PLACE IN PHOTO CONTEST

Colorado Campus Compact (CCC) recently held a month long photo contest, Service in Action, which was open to students at member campuses in the region. CCC called for photo submissions that illustrated students’ interpretation of service in learning. The contest involved over forty photo submissions and more than 450 public votes.

Molly Pike, an AmeriCorps member and 2nd year International Disaster Psychology student, won third place! Her entry, ‘Befriending the Body’, is a photo of a therapeutic yoga group that she co-developed to benefit survivors of trauma. Congratulations, Molly!

To see Molly’s entry, visit: https://www.facebook.com/ccccompact/app_95936962634#!/photo.php?fbid=441781802503028&set=a.440884149259460.115454.211021972245680&type=1

STAFF UPDATES

CCESL Associate Director, Dr. Cara DiEnno, published “For the love of the land: How emotions motivate volunteerism in ecological restoration” in the journal of Emotion, Space & Society. For the full article, please visit:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.emospa.2012.02.002

Iman Jodeh and Ryan Hanschen are working with DU Alumni Relations to explore future partnerships that would bring CCESL student and DU alumni together for service activities. For more information, contact Iman at iman.jodeh@du.edu.

Ryan Hanschen is the new Adviser of DU Service & Change (DUSC), a recently formed student organization that will officially launch in Fall, 2013. DUSC will unite and merge the efforts of three current student orgs—Be the Change, DU Volunteers, and Pioneers Engaged in Acts of Kindness (PEAK)—to more effectively engage the DU community in diverse service opportunities that advance the public good. For more information, contact Ryan at ryan.hanschen@du.edu.

DU ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spend Winter Interterm 2012 in Dharamsala volunteering and earning academic credit. For details, visit http://www.du.edu/intl/abroad/isl.html or contact isl@du.edu.

Attend an info session to learn about this international service learning experience: April 19th: Center for World Language and Culture or May 2nd: BMC Room 309 at 12:00 pm. Application Deadline: May 9th at 4:00 PM