



National Service-Learning Partnership News Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We are a Solution: Youth Changing the World Through Service-Learning **National Service-Learning Partnership Announces the Winners of the 2009 Multimedia Showcase**

Washington, DC, March 16, 2009—We live in a world faced with several critical challenges that deserve our collective attention. Everyday in schools and communities across the country—and in fact, the world—young people are daring to make a difference by using the skills and information learned in the classroom to create solutions to important community problems.

With support from the State Farm Companies Foundation, the National Service-Learning Partnership (NSLP) at the Academy for Educational Development is helping to shine a bold spotlight on the many ways in which young people are changing the world. The ***We are a Solution: Youth Changing the World through Service-Learning Multimedia Showcase*** is a national service-learning recognition program that provides young people the chance to express how they are transforming their communities, schools, and even their own lives through service-learning. “State Farm® supports service-learning because it is a teaching method that engages students in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of their academic studies” said Kathy Payne Senior Director, State Farm.

NSLP and the State Farm Companies Foundation are pleased to announce the grand prize winners of the 2009 Multimedia Showcase:

Elementary School Division
A.D. Henderson University
School, 4th and 5th grades
(Boca Raton, FL)
Youth Representative:
Darryn T. Long
Adult Sponsor: Gina Bove

Middle School Division
Tchefuncte Middle School
(Mandeville, LA)
Youth Representative:
Joshua Costa
Adult Sponsor: Heidi Rhea

High School Division
Whitman-Hanson Regional
High School, Journalism
(Whitman, MA)
Youth Representative:
Audrey Hart
Adult Sponsor: Lisa Shea

All finalist and other selected entries are available for viewing at www.slsolutionsshowcase.blogspot.com

Submissions to the Multimedia Showcase help build awareness about the power and potential of service-learning; and spotlight the important ways in which young people are creating meaningful community change through service-learning.

"Through service-learning, young people take what we learn in the classroom and put it in action to create change in our communities." said high school senior Lisa Franks, who is a member of the Partnership's Board of Directors. "This Multimedia Showcase gives us a much-needed forum where we can express what service-learning means to us, to our schools, and to our communities in our own words."

Service-learning leaders from around the country identified the need for persuasive publicity for service-learning as one of the field's top priorities. Although many people are unfamiliar with the term service-learning, they often support it when they learn more about it and its positive effects on students (Roper Poll, 2001).

"Young people are the most effective and persuasive spokespeople for service-learning," said NSLP Executive Director Nelda Brown. "We believe the videos, photo essays, and PowerPoint presentations submitted for the Multimedia Showcase helps us capture and harness the power of the first-hand stories and testimonies of youth engaged in service-learning. This online collection of success stories will be an important tool to help us advocate for service-learning using vivid pictures and real voices."

Each year, youth nationwide, submitting as individuals, classrooms, or teams, are invited to submit entries for consideration. Entries are sorted into three divisions by grade level: Elementary School (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12). One grand prize winner is selected from each division. Grand prize winners receive a \$500 award for their school or community-based organization to support future service-learning activities in the schools or organizations of their choice. All of the finalist entries will be added to the online library and shared broadly as a strategy to publicize the ways service-learning impacts of the lives of individual students, teachers, school administrators, and business leaders.

About the National Service-Learning Partnership:

The National Service-Learning Partnership at the Academy for Educational Development is a grassroots network of more than 12,000 members from all 50 states and U.S. territories. The Partnership connects and mobilizes youth, teachers, parents, administrators, policymakers, education leaders, community partners, businesspeople, and researchers dedicated to advancing service-learning as a core part of every young person's life and education.

About State Farm:

State Farm® insures more cars and homes than any other insurer in the U.S., is the leading insurer of watercraft and is also a leading insurer in Canada. State Farm's 17,000 agents and 67,000 employees serve over 77 million auto, fire, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and more than 1.9 million bank accounts. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 31 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit statefarm.com® or in Canada statefarm.ca®.

About State Farm Companies Foundation

The State Farm Companies Foundation is a tax-exempt private foundation that was established in 1963 and is funded by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. State Farm Companies Foundation provides charitable support for K-12 public education initiatives that are national in scope in the areas of systemic improvement, service-learning, and teacher excellence. For more information about State Farm Companies Foundation, please visit www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/part_spos.asp.