

Service Learning Leader Schools

On May 1st, sixty-six schools received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service Learning. This year, for the first time, middle schools were eligible to submit Leader School applications to Learn and Serve America. Twenty-two of the sixty-six schools chosen nationwide are from the Southern Region. Congratulations to these middle schools and high schools:

Academy for Science and Foreign Language—Huntsville, AL
Bay High School—Panama City, FL
Wakulla Middle School—Crawfordville, FL
Neptune Middle School—Kissimmee, FL
Taylor County High School—Perry, FL
Coral Shores High School—Tavernier, FL
Warren Central High School—Bowling Green, KY
North Laurel Middle School—London, KY
East Jessamine Middle School—Nicholasville, KY
Tupelo Middle School—Tupelo, MS
Ramsey Street Alternative Middle School—Fayetteville, NC
Ferndale Middle School—High Point, NC
Piedmont High School—Monroe, NC
D.R. Hill Middle School—Duncan, SC
Britton's Neck High School—Gresham, SC
Pickens Middle School—Pickens, SC
Wren Middle School—Piedmont, SC
Camp Creek School—Greeneville, TN
Harpeth Hall School—Nashville, TN
William E. Waters Middle School—Portsmouth, VA
WVDE at Davis Stuart School—Lewisburg, WV
Morgantown High School—Morgantown, WV

Find the entire list of Leader Schools at <http://www.cns.gov>.

A Leader School Takes the Lead!

Service learning is an integral part of a comprehensive school improvement plan, developed by a community-based strategic planning committee for Huntsville City Schools. Using historical data and the expertise of faculty, students, and administrators, members of the Strategic Planning Committee crafted a plan that is rife with service learning and proposes a marriage between service learning and character education for each school in the system. Since the inception of the service learning program at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language (ASFL), students and teachers have been engaged in multiple civic projects that have precipitated positive change on the local, state, and national levels. Because of ASFL's success, the Strategic Planning Committee deems it essential that all Huntsville City School students participate in service learning and, therefore, strongly sanctions its infusion into the traditional academic curriculum.

The Committee's Plan directs that, over the next five to seven years, the school system will employ twelve action strategies. Paramount among them was the strategy which stated, "We will, in partnership with families and community, develop the habits of responsibility, respect, citizenship, and service." Specifically, this strategy seeks to develop and implement a systemwide (K-12) character education and service learning model for Huntsville City Schools. This model will include a public awareness campaign and staff development. Accordingly, each of the 46 schools has been given the opportunity to write a service learning proposal, not to exceed \$1,000, for the year 2000-2001.

This is the first time that Huntsville City Schools has promoted and provided funding for a program of this nature and magnitude. We at ASFL certainly believe our success with service learning, the information provided to the Strategic Planning Committee on how to integrate service into the curriculum, the support available through the Exchange, and the students themselves greatly influenced the school system's decision to implement service learning systemwide. We are overjoyed with this new direction in academic instruction and offer our full support wherever it might be needed in the fulfillment of this endeavor.

Submitted by Ollye B. Conley, Principal, Academy for Science and Foreign Language. Ollye is one of our Exchange Regional Trainers and the school is a new Leader School.

A Summit at Sea World

Students were honored at the Communities in Schools (CIS) Conference on March 4, 2000, at Sea World in Orlando. The conference, *The Summit at Sea World*, hosted in partnership with The Prudential Foundation, included motivational speakers such as Marcus Conyers of BrainSmart, Kelli Meierhenry (Miss Florida 1999), Curly Neal (former Harlem Globetrotter), and Wally Amos of Famous Amos.

The Prudential Florida Youth Initiative Program provides education and enrichment activities for CIS students, training and asset development for staff, and local and statewide communications which encourage the continued development of leadership skills and community involvement for students throughout Florida.

With nearly 700 students attending the conference, having the speakers and the lunchtime performance, as well as being at Sea World, was indeed a celebration. Through the conference, the students learned more about leadership, service, and careers.