



PRESS RELEASE

FSU Students Make Big Impact in Tallahassee Through Community Service

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Students at Florida State University are making a marked and measurable difference in the Tallahassee area through their service to the community.

According to the university's Center for Civic Education and Service, the period between May 2005 and April 2006 saw more than 270,000 service hours logged by nearly 4,000 FSU students.

In 2005, The Independent Sector, a nonpartisan coalition of roughly 550 charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, estimated the value of a volunteer hour at \$18.04. At that rate, those 4,000 FSU students contributed about \$5 million in time, talent and energy to Tallahassee during the 2005-2006 academic year alone.

The FSU Center for Civic Education and Service seeks to engage its students, faculty and staff in community-based learning through service. For students, the Center serves as the campus clearinghouse for service opportunities in the Big Bend area and beyond. For faculty and staff, it assists with strategies to connect community service to classroom curriculum through its service-learning program.

"Florida State University recognizes the importance of community service within a liberal arts education, and encourages its reporting on academic transcripts through our ServScript Program, which helps us track volunteer hours completed each semester by many of our students," said Lisa Brown, the Center's program assistant.

However, because the ServScript program tracks only those students who complete a minimum of 20 hours per semester and voluntarily meet other program guidelines and deadlines, Brown said the total number of service hours and their value and impact in the community are likely much higher than reflected in Center records.

Why do FSU students serve?

"Through my college years, I've found that serving the community is not a chore, but a way to enrich my college experience in a prolific and creative way," said senior literature major Lauren Woeber of Jupiter, Fla.

College of Education doctoral student Pamela Crosby of Tallahassee pointed to the multiplying effects of service. "If the good we do continues to grow and influence others, then our labors for what we once may have regarded as 'lost causes' can transform into catalysts for widespread change."

Both Woeber and Crosby are recipients of FSU's Student Profiles of Service Award, one of several honors presented to students each year in recognition of their personal commitment to service and the example they set for others.

"I can't imagine not serving," said geography graduate student Jillian Volpe White of Winter Haven, Fla. "By volunteering at a variety of agencies in college, I learned about different social issues and how I could fit any degree into a service career. I love watching other people grow in service and passionately pursue a particular cause."

White, who earned her bachelor's degree in communication from FSU last year, also is an alumna of FSU's Service Scholar Program. The program integrates direct service opportunities with scholarship and leadership development to help shape active, life-long volunteers and community leaders.

For more information about the FSU Center for Civic Education and Service and the programs and services it offers, visit the Web site at:

<http://www.serve2learn.fsu.edu/>.

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