The flooding in the Southern Tier in early September was devastating to tens of thousands of families, businesses, nonprofits, and public properties. Binghamton University’s staff, faculty, and students stepped up to provide help during the immediate response, as well as with longer term recovery efforts. Over 1,000 students and almost 100 faculty and staff were present to provide support to displaced families at the emergency shelter set up in Binghamton University’s (BU) Events Center. They helped serve food, set up cots, distributed bedding, provided entertainment, consoled people, played with children, and stayed up nights with people too upset to sleep.

Throughout the following months, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) at Binghamton University served to coordinate flood recovery activities. First, CCE launched a flood recovery website that contained numerous ways people could support flood victims from both on-campus, as well as in the community. Special flood recovery e-newsletter editions were distributed to thousands on campus. CCE worked with dozens of student groups, academic departments, and offices to set up fund-raisers and resource drives to replace the clothes, food, toys, coats and other items lost to flood waters.

Probably the greatest challenge that faced area residents was the mud sludge that filled their basements—destroying their furnaces and other appliances. Every weekend for two months, teams of students worked with local churches to “mud out” the homes of people unable to do so themselves. Students provided assistance with debris removal, de-molding, power washing, shoveling mud, and other activities. Then in late October, about 70 students from BU, SUNY Albany and SUNY Cortland jointly participated in a clean-up initiative that served the communities of Binghamton, Johnson City, Conklin, and Endicott. In addition to the efforts coordinated through CCE, many student groups organized their own home cleaning projects.
By the end of September, a two-credit service-learning internship course was launched to help students make sense of the community catastrophe. “Community in Recovery: Southern Tier NY After the Flood of September 2011” was very quickly filled to its 50 slot capacity (with more petitioning to get in). The course combined a series of six seminars on topics related to the crisis and response with opportunities for students to provide direct service to the local community. BU faculty shared their expertise and research findings to help frame the issues from a variety of different disciplines. Community professionals and responders spoke about the disaster within the local context. Each student completed at least 30 hours of service spread across three areas: cleaning out the homes of individuals or families, assisting a local nonprofit or community group with their flood recovery work, and engaging in some sort of resource drive or fund raiser to assist flood victims. Students reflected on the new information and their experiences through discussions, short response papers, and a reflective personal essay at the end of the course. Many reported that this was a life-altering experience.

Although the waters have receded, the flood recovery work in Brome County still goes on. The CCE is currently establishing Flood Recovery Student Assistance Teams (thanks to the Education Assistance Program support from NY Campus Compact and Americorps). Thirty students will supervise teams of three to five other students each to work on flood recovery projects within the community. These will include rebuilding/repairing individual homes, repairing local parks and playing fields, and working with nonprofits that have also been impacted by the flood. Finally, the CCE is organizing an Alternative Spring Break for BU students who wish to remain in Binghamton during their spring break in early April to help with flood recovery efforts.

Through the coordinating efforts of the Center for Civic Engagement, Binghamton University responded immediately when our community was devastated by a natural disaster. We are pleased that our staff, students, and faculty were present and ready to assist when our community needed us most.

**AmeriCorps: 1 Million Turned Away**

In 2011, AmeriCorps received a whopping 582,000 applications for just 82,000 positions. This is up from 536,000 in 2010 for 85,000 spots. That means that over two years, nearly 1 million applications have been turned away.

These numbers are truly staggering, and they confirm the fact that Americans have a deep-routed desire to help overcome the challenges facing our nation through the power of service.

We created a great graphic to show how this incredible passion to serve compares to the number of positions available.

**Spread the Word!**

While interest in AmeriCorps is enormous, actual opportunities have decreased due to Congressional budget cuts.

When the bipartisan Kennedy Serve America Act passed in 2009, it set out a path to increase AmeriCorps to 250,000 annual members by 2017. funding, and for the past two years, Congress has decreased funding.

If not for your efforts to fight back, the decrease would have been much worse.

While it’s frustrating to see so many turned away, the outpouring of passion to serve is motivating. It’s a powerful reminder that we must keep fighting to expand service opportunities. We can change these numbers if we send a loud and clear message to Congress: Americans want to serve and it’s time for you to deliver. But first we need to make sure people are aware of the situation. Please help us spread the word to your friends and family via your social networks.
Call for Exemplary Program Examples in New York State

NYCC is building a database of exemplary university/college community and civic engagement programs across the State. If your campus has what you consider to be an exemplary program, institutional initiative, or campus-community partnership, please let us know by completing the form at:

http://www.nycampuscompact.org/news.html

Civic Engagement and Diversity – Working Together for Greater Impact

Civic engagement and diversity are two areas for which increasing numbers of higher education institutions allocate financial and human resources. There are important points of intersection and areas where they diverge. How can we bring these initiatives together for greater impact inside and outside our institutions?

Dr. Tania Mitchell, Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies and Director of Service Learning in the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CSRE) at Stanford University, will be on Cornell University’s campus to facilitate the exploration and discussion of this important topic.

Thursday, March 29, 2012
Workshop: 9:00 – 11:30
Interactive presentation: 2:30 – 4:00
Cornell University
Industrial Labor Relations School Conference Center

No Charge to NYCC Members

Click here for more information

Click here to register

Submit a spotlight or event to be included in our weekly newsletter and on our website

Send submissions to nycc@cornell.edu
Call for Campus-Based Resources in New York State

NYCC is developing a New York State Resource Corps. If you or someone on your campus has expertise that you would be willing to share, WE WANT TO KNOW YOU! We are looking for people with expertise in the following areas: campus-community partnerships (local, national, international); developing an academic service-learning program, community/civic engagement student leadership programs, a successful faculty development program for service-learning and community-based research, or other community-civic engagement related initiatives, programs, policies on your campus.

Please send a short description of the expertise you have to nycc@cornell.edu. Be sure to include your contact information (e-mail, name, title/institution, phone number). There is no limit to the number of experts per institution, so please forward this e-mail to everyone on your campus who has expertise in this area.

2012 Presidential Election—Campus Election Engagement Project

NYCC is interested in supporting campus efforts to mobilize student interest and involvement in the upcoming presidential election. (Please note: these efforts must explicitly and legally exclude any students involved in our Education Award Program or personnel involved in our VISTA program.) We will be partnering with Paul Loeb again this year to encourage campus-based, bi-partisan efforts to highlight the critical issues we face in our decision to elect the next president, as well as future decisions in Congressional elections.

Please review Paul's e-mail announcing the re-launching of the Campus Election Engagement Project and respond to him with any interest and examples from your campus.

http://www.nycampuscompact.org/news.html

New York Campus Compact AmeriCorps Education Award Program Deadline Extended

Through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service, NYCC has received additional AmeriCorps Education Award Program (EAP) funding for the 2011-2012 program year. EAP fosters civic engagement among higher education students, promotes the National Service movement, and encourages positive relationships between campuses and communities. The program meets critical community needs by engaging college students in service as part-time AmeriCorps members, and fostering within them an ethic of civic responsibility.

Upon successful completion of 300 hours of service in a calendar year, students are eligible to receive a $1,175 Education Award to be applied toward outstanding federal student loans or the cost of attendance at a college or university. With rising tuition costs the education award earned upon successful completion of the program helps make service a viable opportunity for students with financial need. Campuses who are interested in implementing the NYCC EAP on their campus should contact Brittany Campese asap at bcampese@cornell.edu or 607-254-6239.

The following campuses have already been awarded Education Award Program positions for 2011-2012:

- Binghamton University
- Buffalo State College
- Cayuga Community College
- Cornell University
- Corning Community College
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges
- Nazareth College
- New York University
- Niagara University
- Purchase College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- St. Lawrence University
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- Syracuse University
- University of Rochester
Recommendations for 2012 Newman Civic Fellows Are Now Open

We are excited to announce that Campus Compact is now accepting recommendations for the 2012 Newman Civic Fellows awards, an initiative that acknowledges and connects student leaders from member colleges and universities. In 2011, when we first launched the Fellows award, 137 students were named. This year, our sights are set much higher because word-of-mouth has spread widely about the awards.

The award honors the late Frank Newman, a tireless advocate for the civic engagement of higher education and one of Campus Compact’s founders. The Newman Civic Fellows Awards are a presidential recognition. Campus Compact member presidents are invited to recommend one student leader for each campus. These outstanding student leaders should be individuals who engage in efforts to create systemic change in communities throughout the country through service, research, and advocacy. Second- and third-year students from four-year institutions and second-year students at two-year institutions are eligible. Presidents may nominate just one student each year to receive this honor. That student will represent her/his institution as part of a national group of student leaders dedicated to public problem solving.

Students receive an award certificate and an invitation to join the Newman Civic Fellows online network. Please encourage college and university leaders to recognize a student through this special award: http://www.compact.org/initiatives/campus-compact-awards-programs/the-frank-newman-leadership-award/

Deadline Extended to February 28, 2012

Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award

The Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award recognizes one senior faculty member each year. Honorees are recognized for exemplary engaged scholarship, including leadership in advancing students' civic learning, conducting community-based research, fostering reciprocal community partnerships, building institutional commitments to service-learning and civic engagement, and other means of enhancing higher education's contributions to the public good. The award is named in honor of Thomas Ehrlich, former chair of the Campus Compact board of directors and president emeritus of Indiana University.

The award winner is granted $2,000 and the opportunity to conduct a session at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Annual Conference 2013. Four finalists will also be featured in a panel presentation at the conference. Nominations will be accepted from colleagues, community partners, college presidents, provosts, or through self-nomination.

For more information about the 2012 Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award and to access the Nomination Form, please go here.

Deadline: March 30, 2012

2012 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty

Sponsored by the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE), The annual Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty recognizes a faculty member who is pre-tenure at tenure-granting campuses or early career (i.e., within the first six years) at campuses with long-term contracts and who connects his or her teaching, research, and service to community engagement.

The award will be presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) which will be held from October 13-16, 2012, at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. CUMU is a co-sponsor of the Award.

Nominators will submit nominations via an online application. To submit an application, please see the Application Instructions: Here.

Application Deadline: Friday, April 27, 2012.
THE STEM DIVERSITY SUMMIT

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Mobilizing Workforce Innovation on Long Island
~ Connecting K-12, Higher Education, Community & Workforce ~

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Farmingdale State College ~ Roosevelt Hall
2350 Broadhollow Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735

The Urgency To Act – Together – Is Greater Than Ever Before.
Join the movement on Long Island to help communities connect, collaborate, and ultimately compete through the lens of STEM education. The 2012 STEM Diversity Summit will bring together leaders such as you from business, education, government and non-profit organizations to understand recent developments, learn from others at the state and national level, and engage in shaping solutions relevant to our region.

The Farmingdale State College STEM Diversity Roundtable and Center, in alliance with New York State STEP/CSTEP and the Empire STEM Learning Network and its Long Island Regional Hub, will explore innovative ways to strengthen STEM teaching and learning in the 21st century in order to meet the pressing demands of the workforce.

Best practices and research exhibits in STEM will be featured by public school students in Grades 8-12, as well as presentations on sustainable energy technologies and biotechnologies by national, regional, and local businesses.

To register for the Summit, go on-line to: http://www.farmingdale.edu/stem

For more information, email: stem@farmingdale.edu or call 631.420.2622

Educating Citizens, Building Communities

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