

Compact Current

CAMPUS COMPACT

Educating Citizens
Building Communities

WINTER 2007

Compact Current is the newsletter of Campus Compact, which provides leadership, resources, and advocacy to support civic education, community building, and campus engagement for more than 1,000 member campuses.



Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, president of Kalamazoo College (Kalamazoo, MI), co-authored a Visioning Essay on global citizenship for Campus Compact's 20th anniversary in October. Her essay and others are available at www.compact.org/20th/papers/theme/global/.

Allison Treppa is director of marketing, outreach, and communications at the ConnectMichigan Alliance.

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE:

Modeling Global Citizenship

An interview with President Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran

By Allison Treppa

Allison Treppa: Why is Kalamazoo College so committed to global citizenship?

Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran: Our commitment to global citizenship emerges straight from our mission, which is to prepare graduates to better understand, live successfully within, and provide enlightened leadership to a richly diverse and increasingly complex world. We feel a particular

"Kalamazoo works to prepare students to be critical thinkers, problems solvers, and ethical leaders committed to improving the human condition."

urgency because of the state of the world today. We are witnessing increased global interdependence as we grapple with challenging issues such as sustainability, public health, and global competition. Our citizens will need to operate from a global perspective if we are going to improve the human condition. We think it is critical to help our students develop this perspective through opportunities for global civic engagement.

AT: How do you implement this vision?

EWO: Global citizenship fits into Kalamazoo's "K-plan" curriculum, which has four components: a rigorous exploration of the liberal arts, career development, study abroad, and an in-depth senior project. A

strong part of the plan is a deep commitment to experiential education, which leads naturally into service-learning and other forms of engagement. The different aspects of the plan also encourage deliberate links between local and global understanding.

We have created a developmental sequence to aid in this process. Approximately 25% of first-year students take a service-learning course in their first quarter, and the goal is for every first-year student to be involved in service or service-learning by the end of the year. In the sophomore year, students have an opportunity to continue these experiences and to assume leadership roles through the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service Learning. [See the institute's website at www.kzoo.edu/servicelearning/.]

During the junior year, students often engage in service-learning experiences while abroad. When this is coupled with guided reflection, students develop a stronger understanding of global issues as well as a more nuanced sense of what is happening in the local community. For example, students studying hunger and sustainability in Thailand may return and work on sustainable agriculture initiatives with local farmers. In the senior year, all students complete a Senior Individualized Project (SIP) that may examine issues of social justice, sustainability, or civic

continued on page 3



Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,000 college and university presidents—representing some 5 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated solely to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life. Through our national office and network of 31 state offices, members receive the training, resources, and advocacy they need to build strong surrounding communities and teach students the skills and values of democracy.

Campus Compact comprises a national office based in Providence, RI, and 31 state offices in CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, NH, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TX, UT, VT, WA, WI, and WV. For contact and other information, see www.compact.org.

Board of Directors

CHAIR

John J. DeGioia Georgetown University

VICE-CHAIR

Toni Murdock Antioch University

MEMBERS

Louis Albert Pima Community College

Lawrence S. Bacow Tufts University

Juliet Garcia University of Texas at Brownsville

Amy Gutmann University of Pennsylvania

Judith Hansen Southwestern Oregon Community College

Teresa Iannaconi KPMG LLP

Martin Jischke Purdue University

Jane A. Karas Flathead Valley Community College

John Keating University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Leo Lambert Elon University

Tashia Morgridge TOSA Foundation

James Ortiz Southern Maine Community College

John Rogers Ariel Capital Management, Inc.

Richard R. Rush California State University Channel Islands

Michael J. Sheeran, S.J. Regis University

James Votruba Northern Kentucky University

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Maureen F. Curley President

SAVE THE DATE

Acclaimed Professional Development Institute Slated for July

Campus Compact's highly regarded professional development institute for community service and service-learning professionals will be held this year during July 23–27 in San Diego.

Designed specifically for professionals in their first five years in the field, the institute offers four and a half days of networking and knowledge from some of the most respected practitioners in the field. This unique gathering offers participants the chance to learn key principles, practices, and skills not only for creating effective programs but also for building a successful career.

Registration begins March 1, 2007. Register early to take advantage of special pricing and to ensure a place at this sell-out event.

Members: \$895
(\$795 before 3/30/07)

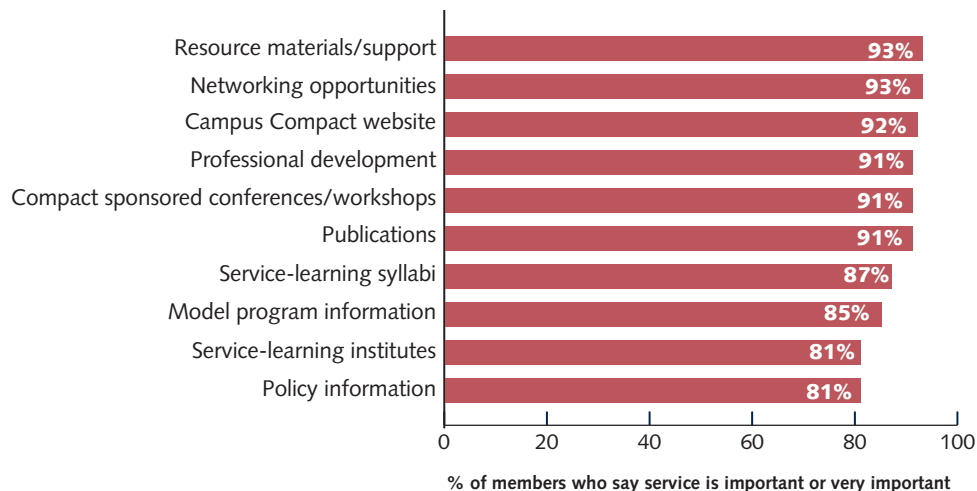
Nonmembers:
\$1,150
(\$1,050 before 3/30/07)

Register early for special savings!

WEBlink

To register online and view past years' agendas, see www.compact.org/initiatives/csd_institute

Top 10 Reasons Why Members Love Campus Compact



SOURCE: Campus Compact member survey, 2006.

Compact Current is the newsletter of Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization based at Brown University. *Compact Current* is distributed three times a year to all Campus Compact member institutions.

Editorial Correspondence: Address all correspondence to Karen Partridge, Editor, *Compact Current*, Campus Compact, Box 1975, Providence, RI 02912, email kpartridge@compact.org.

Campus Compact receives substantial support from Learn and Serve America, which supports service-learning programs across the country by providing funding and training. Campus Compact also receives financial support from: Ariel Capital Management, LLC, the Corporation for National and Community Service, KPMG Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, TIAA-CREF, TOSA Foundation, and the UN Foundation, among others.

Global Citizenship at Kalamazoo

(cont. from page 1)

engagement. The SIP provides an opportunity for critical study and reflection.

AT: What challenges have you faced?

EWO: A major challenge is that 85% of the junior class will be abroad for a significant length of time. This compels us to develop student leadership earlier than some campuses might. Michigan Campus Compact's AmeriCorps programs provide an ideal opportunity to identify leaders early on. In addition, the staff at the Underwood Stryker Institute are very intentional about searching for glimmers of potential leadership and helping students develop hidden talents.

AT: How do you as the president support global citizenship?

EWO: I try to lend my time, my voice, and, to the degree that they are available, discretionary resources to the people on our campus leading this work. At Kalamazoo, we attempt to reward and publicly acknowledge the faculty, staff, and students who are doing such good work in this area. I also participate in Campus Compact and several other organizations in which global citizenship is being discussed and efforts are being made to put forth a new vision.

AT: Why do you think this is an important part of educating college students?

EWO: Kalamazoo works to prepare students to be critical thinkers, problems solvers, and

ethical leaders committed to improving the human condition. To do that, they must develop a commitment to civic engagement and a deep understanding of social issues. We talk about it as "being at home in the world," about the ability to cross the boundaries of culture, inequality, or geography. We strive to help students make connections between theory and practice, and between policy and the lived experience of individuals.

AT: What impact have you seen?

EWO: The anecdotal evidence is that the community impact is quite profound. For example, principals in our 9-year partnership with the Kalamazoo public schools tell us that their students have become much more academically engaged, tardiness and absenteeism have dropped, and bilingual students participate more actively in class. Equally important, teachers credit the college students with some of the improvement they have seen on standardized tests, including a decrease in racial disparities.

An unintended outcome of this relationship is that many of the college's African-American students report that working with students in the public schools gives them more academic motivation. These students have found a sense of purpose that was missing previously.

The impact on our own students lasts beyond graduation. Our efforts to combine local and global citizenship experiences

SHARE YOUR STORY: Program Models Highlight Successful Practices

If you have a successful engagement program—from a one-day service event to a multifaceted community partnership—you can share it with your peers through Campus Compact's program models database. The database offers ideas, inspiration, and strategies for success to thousands of practitioners every month.

To submit a model, or to scan hundreds of examples of what others are doing, go to www.compact.org/programmodels.

have allowed Kalamazoo to produce more students per capita who go into the Peace Corps than any other college or university in the country. The representation of Kalamazoo students serving in the Teach for America program is also extremely high. Our recent alumni are choosing to remain very engaged.

Through our courses that focus on action research, we are also contributing to social capital in the community. Our work with community groups around social issues continues to empower the organizations even when students are no longer involved. Our efforts in service-learning have become highly valued and recognized by the local community. A wonderful by-product is an enhanced town-gown relationship. **CC**



Kalamazoo College student Jessica Scott works with local youth in an after-school program at Lincoln International Studies School.

GoodReads | Resources for Students and Those Who Work with Them

NEW Lessons Learned on the Road to Student Civic Engagement

Written by student leaders in Campus Compact's Raise Your Voice campaign, this small volume includes a frank discussion of barriers to engagement and how to overcome them; a new definition of civic engagement; a look at the role of higher education in preparing students for public life; and ideas for how to begin the process of building a civically engaged campus.

46 pages; \$8.00 members, \$10.00 nonmembers

Students as Colleagues: EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF SERVICE-LEARNING LEADERSHIP highlights models from across the country of how students can take on leadership roles in connecting their studies with community change.

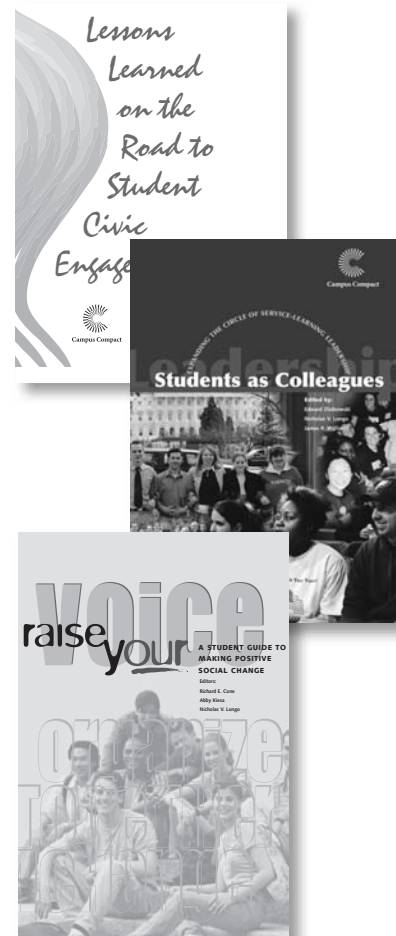
279 pages; \$37.00 members, \$49.00 nonmembers

Raise Your Voice: A GUIDE TO MAKING POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE offers tools and activities for civically engaged students, from holding civic dialogues to meeting with elected officials, and from mapping assets to organizing alternative breaks.

148 pages; \$28.00 members, \$37.00 nonmembers

WEB link

For tables of contents, sample chapters, and ordering information, see www.compact.org/publications



Campus Compact
Brown University / Box 1975
Providence, RI 02912-1975
401 867-3950
401 867-3925 fax
campus@compact.org
www.compact.org

