Keyed-In March 2012

The Monthly Newsletter for The Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning

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The Key Center Community Engagement Calendar

The Key Center has started a new public Google calendar so you can keep up with service and community engagement opportunities all month long.

Click Here to View the Calendar

If you hear of any service learning, community engagement or service opportunities that you think would be an appropriate addition to the calendar, please email us with as much information as possible and we'll look into adding it to the calendar, as well as the Weekly Wednesday email and monthly Keyed-In Newsletter.

Community Engaged Scholarship Workshop

For students who have a strong interest in graduating with the Community Engaged Scholar distinction, a workshop will be held on March 21 in Highsmith 235 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The workshop is required for students who want to graduate with the honor.

This workshop is to help students prepare to undertake a Public Service Project, which fulfills one of the Community Engaged Scholar requirements. Students interested in taking this workshop should be currently enrolled in or have already completed a Service Learning Designated Course (only offered during the 2011-2012 academic year). Registration is required for the workshop. To sign up, please email keyctr@unca.edu and provide your name, e-mail address, and Service Learning Designated Courses you have taken.

Click here for more information on the Community Engaged Scholar program. As you begin to look at classes for next semester, remember that Service Learning Designated Courses will be marked with an "SL" on the registration website.
Get Involved: What’s going on at UNCA and in Asheville?

For a list of opportunities to get involved in service or service-learning, visit our website: http://keycenter.unca.edu/students. We are happy to meet with students one-on-one at the Key Center to discuss what kind of work with community organizations interests you.

If you prefer to operate in cyberspace, fill out a Service Learning Opportunity Form on our website. You can also let us know about the work you are doing in our community by logging your service hours with us. If you know of a great organization or if you are doing work with a local organization, come tell us about it.

The Key Center hires a new student team

During February, the Key Center initiated a pilot program to include student employees as voices for Service Learning at UNC Asheville and in the greater Asheville community. We are pleased to introduce them to you now.

Devin Corrigan, part of the new Key Center Development team, has been working as an Intern with Just Economics and has taken several classes in her time at UNCA that incorporated service learning. She is very interested in helping to develop the Key Center so that it may continue to grow and flourish on campus.
Macon Foscue, the coordinator of the team, is currently taking two service learning classes and has become familiar with the work of the Key Center over the last year. He recently attended the North Carolina Campus Compact Civic Engagement Institute with a team of faculty, administrators, and students who are dedicated to expanding engaged learning at UNCA through service learning and community involvement.

Katie Pindell, part of the new Key Center Development team, has been heavily involved with the Key Center Student Leadership Board and recently attended the North Carolina Campus Compact Civic Engagement Conference in Chapel Hill, NC. She hopes to work to gain more resources for the Key Center and to better support service learning and strong University-community partnerships.

Katie Tavener, part of the new Key Center Communications team, has been an integral part of the Student Leadership Board this year. She is passionate about continuing to be part of the Key Center, and strongly believes in the importance of supporting service learning and that students should be encouraged to be active citizens of their community.

Kyja Wilburn, the Key Center’s new Campus-Community Connector brings extensive experience with service learning and believes in the ability of education to engender in students the skills and motivation to build democratic societies. Her experience and ability to articulate the value of service learning will be a real resource for the student team.

Hannah Williams, the current Communications Coordinator, is currently enrolled in a service learning course and her undergraduate research project is on best practices in promoting service learning. As a Mass Communication major, she is excited to work with a team of students to further promote the Key Center for the rest of the semester.
The Last Word: Where Service Learning Can Lead

Although the Key Center is primarily focused on connecting UNC Asheville faculty, students and community organizations for meaningful projects that equally meet academic and community needs, we also hope to serve as a jumping-off point for our students to find other valuable service-based endeavors that will continue beyond graduation.

For instance, FoodCorps is now accepting applications for paid, full-time positions serving high-obesity, limited resource communities across the country. Or you could choose AmeriCorps VISTA or AmeriCorps NCCC, which are national service programs aimed at fighting poverty, strengthening communities and building leaders.

Perhaps you are an Environmental Studies major – then you may be interested in looking into GO, an Asheville-based development organization dedicated through improving lives and the health of our planet through innovative job training and placement programs.

And Manna FoodBank is currently hiring a Communications and Marketing Manager, which may be a great opportunity for someone studying Mass Communication or Management.

The Key Center is focused on connecting UNC Asheville faculty, students and community organizations for meaningful projects that equally meet academic and community needs. But service learning is designed to be a life-long endeavor, so we also hope to serve as a jumping-off point for our students to find other valuable service-based endeavors that will continue beyond graduation.