Keyed-In September 2011

The Monthly Newsletter of the Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning.

In this issue:

The Key Center is hiring a Marketing and Events position!

Do you want to be a mentor? Announcing the new NC-ACTS! Program, called ADVANCE Earn an AmeriCorps education award while serving as a significantly involved mentor with local youth this academic year.

Announcing our Student Leadership Board Developing student-led programs. Helping UNCA become a more community-involved campus. Interest Meetings September 22nd and 27th, 9 PM. More details below!

How to become a Community Engaged Scholar

Upcoming Local Special Events Including OrganicFest, the Eat Smart Move More NC Leadership Team Meeting, the Project Connect / Veterans Affairs Stand Down Meeting, and the $5 Challenge. And are you doing anything for commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11th?

UNCA Volunteer Fair September 22nd from 11-2 downstairs in Highsmith Union

Opportunities for Building Relationships with Community Organizations Including opportunities for working with Youth and on Health or Food Security related projects.

Meet the Key Center Staff. Find out about the AmeriCorps programs they represent and meet the new face in our office!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Student Employee Position Available @ the Key Center
Marketing and Events Liaison Position: Come be the Key Center social media and marketing guru and work on helping to plan and implement important service events throughout the year! See the posting online through the Career Center’s On-Campus Job and Internship section. To apply, fill out a Student Employment Application and make sure to explain why you want to work with the Key Center. You can email that application to keyctr@unca.edu or drop it by the office (Highsmith Union 248). We are looking for a student with interests in event planning and marketing. Find the posting online at: https://unca-csm.symplicity.com/.

Announcing the 2011-2012 ADVANCE Program

Do you remember NC-ACTS? This is the new NC-ACTS program, which has been expanded to include Virginia (don’t worry, we will not be sending you to Virginia; as a member of this program, you would be working right here in Asheville). The ADVANCE (AmeriCorps Dedicated to VA & NC Children Excelling) program is an AmeriCorps education award program engaging North Carolina and Virginia college students as mentors. ADVANCE members are required to complete their term of service (300 hours) within one calendar year. However, the ADVANCE program is designed to occur between August and May, paralleling the academic year. Upon the completion and certification of 300 hours of service activities, each ADVANCE member will receive a $1,175 education award from the Corporation of National and Community Service Trust Fund. The education award goes directly to the Member in the form of a voucher that can be applied toward qualified educational expenses including federally-backed student loans and tuition.

What will I do as an ADVANCE member?

- Work at a placement site (through Communities in Schools North Carolina) mentoring and tutoring youth, approximately 8-10 hours per week (you would be expected to work at your placement site approx. 3x per week for several hours, which can be designed to some extent around your schedule).
- Participate in reflection activities (approximately 3 per semester) with your ADVANCE cohort (approximately 3-5 UNCA student ADVANCE members), facilitated by the ADVANCE Program Coordinator. This will serve as a great, supportive group for you at UNCA with similar experiences to share. You won’t be in it alone!
• Be a positive role model for youth. Positive, engaged mentorship has been demonstrated to be a major factor in contributing to youth success. You will learn a lot through this experience about working with youth.
• Complete a total of 300 hours over the year, and earn a $1,175 AmeriCorps Education Award.

To find out more about the program, click here. Applications will be available at the Key Center this month. Stop by Highsmith 248 (right past the front desk on the left) for more information, or to grab an application. The Key Center will also be tabling in the cafeteria, so look for us there.

Key Center Student Leadership Board

This is new. Information Meetings:

*Thursday, September 22nd 9 PM*

or

*Tuesday, September 27th 9 PM*

Location: HU 103

Do you want to see UNC Asheville more engaged in the Asheville community and more connected to local organizations that are doing great work? We are looking for students that want to talk about how to take service-learning and community involvement to the next level at UNCA, and how the Key Center can not only be a better resource for students but also have a more integral role at the University and in the community. **This group will have an impact on the direction of the Key Center next year, and will seek to build opportunities for student leadership.** You don’t have to be active in service or have experience with service learning to participate, although if you do have experience we’d love to have you involved. **Do you have a desire to make institutional change?** Do you feel like you have good ideas about how to reach students? Are you active in a student organization? Have you been involved with undergraduate research or community-based research? **Are you a freshman or sophomore?** We would love to have the input of a diverse group of students on this committee. If you think you might be interested or have any questions, feel free to contact Jamie jparlie@unca.edu or stop by the Key Center Highsmith Union 248 and talk to Britta, or email bvolz@unca.edu. Or just show up to one of the information meetings!
As a member of this committee, you will have the opportunity to participate in a **FREE** conference to find out what innovative service-learning and activism projects students are involved in all over the state. This annual conference convenes students, from across the region, to network, share and learn about best practices and unique innovative ideas in civic engagement. Sessions focus on topics including community service, leadership, service-learning, advocacy and activism. It is being held **November 12th** at Wake Forest University. The cost of the conference and transportation will be covered for members of the Student Leadership Board. For more info on the conference, go to [http://org.elon.edu/nccc/events/sc.html](http://org.elon.edu/nccc/events/sc.html).

Contact Jamie jparlie@unca.edu or Britta bvolz@unca.edu with questions or stop by Highsmith Union 248!

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**Become a Community Engaged Scholar**

Want to be active in making Asheville a better place and graduate with the honor of **Community Engaged Scholar**? Here’s how to become a part of this new opportunity.

The university has just created the new honor for graduating seniors of Community Engaged Scholar. This gives students the chance to become deeply involved in service learning in Asheville and Western North Carolina -- and receive recognition for their efforts.

It will take you a few semesters - and bear in mind the program is just getting under way -- but here’s what you do:

- Complete six or more academic credit hours in Service-Learning Designated Courses. They are new too -- you'll begin to see them on the Class Schedules beginning in Spring 2012 just as you do Writing Intensive and other special courses. They will be indicated by an “SL” notation when you register for courses.
- Complete a Key Center Workshop on Service Learning
- Complete a Public Service Project that the community needs. Examples are too numerous to name here, but include projects such as creating a public relations or marketing campaign for a non-profit, developing a software program for an agency, producing a handbook or manual for clients for an organization, or conducting research on the effectiveness of an agency's program or work.

Look for us tabling in the cafeteria and come sign up to find out more. Additional information is available on the [Key Center website](http://keycenter.asheville.edu). You are welcome to stop by the Key Center anytime with questions.
Special Events

**UNCA Volunteer Fair** - September 22nd, 11 AM – 2 PM in Highsmith (downstairs level). The Office of Special Programs is putting on a Volunteer Fair where you can meet face-to-face with representatives from local organizations and sign up to work with ones that interest you! For more information, contact Mary Chakales mchakale@unca.edu.

**9/11:** The American Red Cross is sponsoring a **blood drive** (also sponsored by Hands On Asheville-Buncombe) the week of September 5th-11th to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 attacks and honor first responders. Click [here](http://handsonasheville.org/) for more information or to get involved, or go to [http://handsonasheville.org/](http://handsonasheville.org/) and search for 9/11. You can also read what other students are doing to commemorate 9/11 and/or write your own post at [http://911day.org/](http://911day.org/).

**OrganicFest 2011:** Do you want to learn about renewable energy initiatives in North Carolina? This festival is happening **Saturday, September 10th** in downtown Asheville (pack Square park & Roger McGuire Park), and NC GreenPower is looking for volunteers to represent their organization. You will learn a lot about what NC GreenPower is doing to support renewable energy in North Carolina. There are 3 shifts: 10 AM - 1 PM; 1 PM - 4 PM; and 4 PM - 7 PM. Your responsibilities will be to represent NC GreenPower by informing event-goers on the different ways that NC GreenPower offers NC citizens to support **renewable energy generation** in our great state. Pass out NC GreenPower promotional and marketing materials, such as our brochures and recycled pens, pencils, and color-changing cups. And of course, have fun! Katie Shepard at 919-857-9026 or kshepherd@ncgreenpower.org. Please let the Key Center know if you are able to volunteer.

**NC Eat Smart Move More University Collaborative Meeting:** September 15th from 3-4 pm, interested faculty and students are invited to attend a reception to meet ESMM University Collaborative members in the Chancellor's Conference Room at the Sherrill Center. The ESMM Collaborative facilitates strong working relationships among university-based researchers as well as governmental and community partners that result in the generation and dissemination of new knowledge regarding optimal strategies for the prevention, evaluation, and treatment of childhood obesity in North Carolina. Member institutions include four NC institutions with medical schools, Duke, East Carolina, UNC Chapel Hill and Wake Forest as well as NC State, UNC Asheville and the NC Division of Public Health. For more information contact Dr. Rebecca Reeve at rreeve@unca.edu. You can also check out the event website: [http://ncchw.unca.edu/ESMMNC](http://ncchw.unca.edu/ESMMNC). This is a great networking opportunity if you are interested in nutrition and health-related issues.
2011 Project Connect / Veteran Affairs Stand Down: Do you want to learn about issues veterans are facing in Asheville? Stop by the Project Connect / Veteran's Affairs Stand Down meeting on September 22nd, 8 AM-1 PM. **Theme: We Are Community.** This year’s event will highlight the collective commitment of the community to create and implement solutions to **ending homelessness.** People with and without homes are valued in this community. **What can YOU do** to come together with the community to join in or efforts to end homelessness? This is a chance for you to network with local organizations to start to figure out how you or your club/organization can work on addressing **local Veteran's issues.** If you are interested in attending the event to find out more, email bvolz@unca.edu. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up here. Check out their website: http://abhomeless.wordpress.com/tag/project-connect/. Please let the Key Center know if you choose to get involved.

$5 Challenge: This September 17, Slow Food Asheville is inviting you to help **take back the ‘value meal’** by getting together with friends for a slow food meal that costs no more than $5 per person. Host a dinner or have a potluck, and then post it on the Slow Food Asheville facebook page along with your recipe. To find out more go to: http://www.slowfoodasheville.org/events/5-challenge/.

Claxton Elementary Fall Carnival: October 15th 10am-2pm. Claxton Elementary’s Fall Carnival is a celebration for the whole community, school and greater Asheville! The Carnival provides local food from Barleys and a plethora of fun events for kids and adults to enjoy. This event is a community builder to bridge the gap between children, schools, and the city of Asheville. The funds raised at the Carnival go to support Claxton Elementary’s Parent Teacher Organization. Volunteers will be needed for AM and PM shifts to float, help with food, and station control. Games Include: 5 and Under Moon Walk, Dual Lane Slide, 30' Obstacle Course, Dunking Booth, Speed Pitching, Joust, Cornhole Toss, FACE PAINTING, WALKWAY, Fishing Pond Game, Jellybean and Gumball Guess, Lollipop Tree, Ping Pong Toss, Wheel of Fortune, Soda Pop Ring Toss, Limbo.

Getting Involved In Your Community: Deep Service and Service-Learning Opportunities

*These are ways that you can get involved that will engage you further in your community, while at the same time boosting your resume and experiences. Through working with an organization in a way that engages your interests, you will increase not only your real world experience but also your network, which will help you find jobs in your field. The organizations featured here have specifically requested to work with UNCA students, and keep in mind there are often all kinds of ways to get involved with them—not just the opportunities advertised here:*
Youth-Related Opportunities

**Children First/CIS Project MARCH Learning Centers:** This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning how to manage groups, building strong relationships with children, and learning new personal and professional skills. This is also a great opportunity for anyone taking education courses to gain experience in the field. The mission of Project MARCH is to empower children and their families to reach their full potential through advocacy, education and services. UNCA students would be working with elementary school children at our after school learning centers. UNCA students would assist the children with their homework, distribute a healthy snack, and play games and enrichment activities. There will be three staff members at each learning center to help facilitate and answer any questions. The centers are located at Pisgah View, Deaverview and Woodridge communities - two housing authority and one Section 8 communities. The Children First/CIS Learning Centers are open Monday-Thursday 2:30-5:30. They ask that students commit to a minimum of one hour a week for at least a semester, so the children in the learning centers have a chance to develop a relationship with the volunteers. They also ask that students be consistent in the day and hour they choose to participate, and that students commit to at least a semester, preferably the entire year, so that the children can develop a relationship and have consistency. Their goal is to have 3-5 UNCA students for each of the three learning centers 4 days a week, making a total of 36 students per week. Let the Key Center know if you get involved with Children First.

**Getting Back to the Basics (GBTTB):** This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to understand issues that face Asheville's children who come from disenfranchised backgrounds. The GBTTB mission is to provide year round services and support to families with youth ages 11-21 that are socially or economically disenfranchised from the Asheville Metropolitan Community. GBTTB is looking to partner with a group of UNCA students who are excited to serve as tutors and mentors for their programs. GBTTB could help with transportation for students who can help with their program on Saturdays. Make sure to explain that in addition to serving as mentors, you’d like the opportunity to learn what other kinds of work GBTTB does with parents and with the community so that you can get a sense of the bigger picture and engage in deeper service-learning. For more information on this organization, check out their website [http://www.gbttb.com/](http://www.gbttb.com/). Call Beverly Miller at 828-777-2615 to sign up.

**In Real Life:** This new program is based on a unique national model called PASA from Providence, Rhode Island, and its right here in Asheville! IRL provides quality after-school classes everyday of the week in areas such as sports, music, science, homework help, drama, cooking and lots more for all Asheville Middle students, with a sliding fee scale and free transportation to make sure that everyone is able to attend. The program connects community leaders and experts with middle school students to make sure that they have positive role models and are participating in programming that actually matters to them, rather than just a glorified day-care. Check out their website at [http://www.inreallifeasheville.org/](http://www.inreallifeasheville.org/). IRL needs tons of volunteers working hands-on with kids in the programs, as well as doing more behind-the-scenes organizational work. However, because they need volunteers to fill out a background check before they begin working, and because the program starts fairly
early (September 7th) IRL wants to get the ball rolling as soon as possible for volunteers! Contact Emma at irlacsf@gmail.com or (828) 350-6270.

**Randolph Learning Center:** There is a lot going on here. Get involved with their new recording studio, their tutoring programs (they are especially looking for math tutors!), or their new **sustainable garden project.** Are you a mass communications student? They would love to have a student interested in assisting with making a documentary of their **recording studio.** Are you interested in working in grant-writing? They would love to have support in researching how to get a Promise Neighborhood grant. There are all kinds of ways you can work here and connect it back to your academics while building your job skills and resume. Contact Eric “Big E” Howard at 828.550.6909 or email him at eric.howard@asheville.k12.nc.us. Eric and Fletcher (the new vice principal) are great local resources who know a lot about alternative education and are really connected to the community. Please let the Key Center know if you get involved with the Randolph Learning Center!

**YMCA:** Do you want to be a mentor for a kid who really needs one? Positive mentorship is the #1 factor that helps point kids at crucial development stages in the right direction. The YMCA is looking for UNCA student mentors for their after school programs who can commit to approximately one day a week for the semester, or ideally, for this academic year. The YMCA is **looking for mentors from all different backgrounds** and with all different academic interests. You don’t need to be interested in education, but you should be excited about working with middle school students. While this admittedly isn’t for everyone, middle school students are at a crucial developmental stage and are a lot of fun! The YMCA afterschool programs run from 3:00-6:30 Monday-Thursday, October-May. Contact Heather Deifell at 828-775-5888 or email her at hdeifell@ymcawnc.org and you can talk about which program might be a good match for you. Heather is a great community contact, and this is an **excellent opportunity to network** with YMCA and Buncombe County School staff and gain valuable experience in youth-centered programming and education (and a great way to get a job in this field after you graduate!). Please let the Key Center know if you chose to get involved with the YMCA.

**Health and/or Food Security**

**Asheville ROOTS Project:** **Right here next to campus** on the beautiful Rhodes property! This project was started by the Student Environmental Center and is working to promote sustainable food education for the local community in partnership with the UNCA Health and Wellness Department, Bountiful Cities, and other community organizations. They need lots of help in their new **community garden.** For more information, contact Jordan Ellis, jmellis@unca.edu.
**Care Partners:** Have you ever wondered what it might be like to be a *young person* recovering from a stroke or brain injury or other accident? If so, this may be a great opportunity for you. CarePartners is looking to build relationships between UNCA students and their younger patients who are transitioning from rehabilitation therapy to community. Many of these patients have had life-changing events or accidents, and will be fascinating individuals to learn from. Many were extremely active individuals before their life-changing event, just like you. Activities may include things like accompanying individuals in simple exercise in the community or on shopping trips, or just simple conversation—like grabbing a coffee and talking about the news. You and the person you are paired with can make it what you want it to be! You will not be involved in any personal care or therapy, but may be able to observe therapy if this is an interest of yours. If you are interested, contact Laura Dylus at 828-274-9567, ext. 4081 or at ldylus@carepartners.org. Please let the Key Center know if you get involved!

**FEAST:** FEAST is a *hands-on group cooking* experience using fresh seasonal local ingredients with a focus on childhood and family nutrition. They cook and eat food that is Fresh, Easy, Affordable, Sustainable and Tasty. Kate Justen, who runs FEAST, is looking for students to get involved with her once monthly Friday class at Asheville Middle School. If you are interested in working in the cooking classes on a semi-regular basis, contact Britta at bvolz@unca.edu. If cooking is not your thing, but you want to work with FEAST in other capacities, Kate is also interested in help with *making promotional materials, fundraising, and photo/video documentation.* There are also delicious culinary fundraising events you can attend to support FEAST.

**Regional Bike Plan Opportunity:** Student service-learners are requested for assistance with the Land-of-Sky Regional Bike Plan for the 7-county region including Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Madison, Swain and Transylvania Counties. Students that are interested in planning, bicycle and pedestrian issues and general transportation issues and/or have a background in geography, social sciences, public health and civil engineering would be well-suited. They need volunteers to help perform bicyclist counts for our Regional Bike Plan; counts to take place on weekdays and on some Saturdays during the period of September 15-October 15th. A volunteer would be asked to perform at least two 2-hour shifts in the field doing manual counts (typically 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm), in addition to attending a training session and doing some basic data entry and analysis. Access to a working vehicle preferred. There is potential for this to become a longer-term paid internship opportunity for one or two motivated students. *Please respond by September 15th.* Interested students can contact Lyubov Zuyeva, a Transportation Planner with the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, at Lyuba@landofsky.org.

**MANNA FoodBank:** There is an amazing group bonding opportunity with MANNA this fall. If you have a club looking for a fun few hours of service together, this may be for you! MANNA has an opportunity to pick between 150,000 and 200,000 pounds of apples from a donated orchard, and they need help *picking apples.* They will be picking apples on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9-12 and 1-4. They need at least 25 volunteers per shift (your group would not need to fill all 25 slots, and individual volunteer sign-ups are welcome, but you might as well do it with a friend!). Their first shift is on Saturday, September 10 and they will run from that date until Saturday, October 29th. They will happily
take one-time volunteers or volunteer groups, but would also love to have some regular apple pickers. Contact Autumn at 828-299-3663 ext. 245. Or email her at amccarver@feedingamerica.org. Please let the Key Center know if you get involved with MANNA or are already involved! (Note: this is not really service-learning unless you above and beyond to make it into a learning experience…but, it should be a fun time).

**Note: You can also get involved with MANNA every Thursday from 3:30-6:30 and not have to worry about transportation. There will be a roundtrip van service every Thursday to make it easy for you to get involved. Contact Mary Chakales mchakales@unca.edu for more information.

**Mountain Homes Therapeutic Riding Center:** If you are a sociology or psychology major or interested in learning more about working with people with special needs, this is a great opportunity for you. The Center is looking for students to get involved for an hour or two (preferably on a consistent, weekly basis) on Mondays (between 3-6 PM), Tuesdays (4-5 PM) and Fridays (between 10-12 PM) and Saturdays (between 10 and 12 PM) with their Therapeutic Riding program. Call Liz Stephens at 828-713-5048 to get involved. Please let the Key Center know if you choose to work with Mountain Homes.

**Women’s Wellbeing & Development Foundation:** If you are interested in women’s health or community development, this is a great organization for you to check out. They did a community engaged study of the Hillcrest neighborhood to see what kinds of classes residents were interested and now run a full-fledged program in that community offering classes ranging from Adult Cooking and Computer Literacy classes to classes in Yoga and Self-Empowerment, and some of the classes are now taught by residents. They also offer hiking for youth and a number of other programs. They would love to have students involved in a number of different capacities. It is very likely that you can work with them on a project that fits your interests. Find them on Facebook to find out more. To figure out a project you can do with WWD-F, please contact Britta first at bvolz@unca.edu.

If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed above, but not quite sure if you’re ready to commit to calling or unsure which one is best for you, come talk to us in the Key Center or email Britta (bvolz@unca.edu) or Cori (ceander2@unca.edu) and we can have a one-on-one discussion about what might best fit your needs. Remember, these are just some of the options available out there! We know that as a student, you are busy. We want to connect you with opportunities that will help you grow as a person and connect to your education and professional development.

If you prefer to operate in cyberspace, fill out our Find 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 Last Word

Come drop by the Key Center and introduce yourself. Britta Volz is new to the Key Center and is excited to meet more students and figure out ways to support them at UNCA. She hails from Washington, D.C. originally, but has lived all over the US doing various AmeriCorps programs (including AmeriCorps NCCC and trail work with Coconino Rural Environment Corps) and is particularly fond of an odd hodge-podge of states: North Carolina (of course), Iowa, Texas, Idaho, and Arizona are her favorites. Come convince her as to why she should add your state to her list.

Cori Anderson is returning this year to the Key Center for another term of service with Project Power, a local AmeriCorps program called Project POWER, a program committed to serving at-risk youth in schools, non-profits and faith-based organizations throughout Buncombe County. She is also a professional photographer, and loves scuba diving and art history.
Dr. Joseph Berryhill, a UNCA faculty member in the Psychology Department, is serving another term as our fearless leader here at the Key Center. Find out more about us at:
http://keycenter.unca.edu/faces/facstaff.

Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning
University of North Carolina at Asheville
248 Highsmith Union
Email keyctr@unca.edu
Phone (828) 251-6400
http://keycenter.unca.edu/
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