

With so many other priorities such as schoolwork, work, and family obligations, why should you consider committing to service as well? For starters, when you volunteer for your community, you not only gain experience, which can enhance your résumé and employment opportunities, but you are able

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campuses, and it enables students to participate in organized community service activities for grades or class credit. In the classroom setting, students are able to reflect upon and assess their volunteer experiences in a structured way. Typically, these opportunities are offered by local non-profit organizations (like College Forward!). So...if you sign up for a class that has a service learning requirement, look at it as a great opportunity to get involved in your community and grow personally. Check out your school's course listing and or talk to your academic advisor and see what your school has

Community Service: Making a Difference

to explore possible college majors and future careers. By limiting yourself to discussing issues in the classroom and reading textbooks, sometimes classroom learning can seem out of touch with the real world; however, being active in your community can help you make critical connections between classroom learning and everyday life. Finally, you gain a better sense of civic responsibility and moral development while making meaningful improvements to your community.

Service learning is one type of volunteering program that is emphasized on many college

to offer!

So now that you're dying to volunteer somewhere, how do you get involved? Go to your



campus volunteer center and speak with a coordinator about possible opportunities. If

(continued on next page)

VOCABULARY

WORD OF THE MONTH

Exorbitant (*adj.*): excessive,
over-the-top

Example: She ordered an ***exorbitant*** number of Girl Scout cookies and spent much more money than she intended to.

Community Service, *cont'd.*

you don't have a service center, **get in touch with a service organization** on your campus, such as Habitat for Humanity or Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity. They're always coordinating new projects and looking for enthusiastic volunteers. You can also **search for individual opportunities** listed on www.idealists.org or www.volunteermatch.org and see which ones interest you most. Or, if you are aware of a particular need that isn't being addressed and you have a solution in mind, discuss with a

professor the possibility of **starting your own service organization** and see what advice he or she has to give. Many universities will fund new student organizations if you have a good cause and committed members; perhaps your university is one of them! Finally, if you have limited time, look into going on a **service trip** through a student service organization. These trips typically take place over Christmas break, Spring break, or the summer—and are a better fit for the active student. (They're also a great way to meet other

passionate and selfless people.)

The Corporation for National and Community Service has set a goal to increase the number of college students volunteering to 5 million by 2010—that's a lot of students! They hope that in doing so, these students will become aware of a culture of service and citizenship, thus embarking on a lifetime of service. However you choose to get involved, get active soon! Every bit of help you give goes a long way to improve the lives of the people in your community.



College Fun Fact

Smith College (in Massachusetts) is the nation's largest liberal arts college for women. Every Thursday night, Smith students eat dinner by candlelight. Once a year on a beautiful fall day, the president announces a **surprise day off** of classes by ringing the college bells.

Know of a college fun fact? Please send it (with your source) to us at: collegians@collegeforward.org

www.fafsa.ed.gov - You still have time to fill out the FAFSA, but not much time. If you have not yet completed your Free Application for Student Aid, please contact me as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out on grants, scholarships and loans because you missed the deadline!

www.collegeforward.org - Have you visited the College Forward website lately? There is a lot of information about what has been going on, so you should check it out. Also, if you'd like to read the retention newsletter before it actually makes it to your home, apartment, or dorm you can view it on the website. Happy surfing.

www.americorps.org - Do you want to give back to your community? Do you want to meet other people who are interested in community services and volunteering? If you are, then check out this site for more information. There are currently 9 AmeriCorps members in the office. If you have any questions about service, ask around.

Resources & Links

www.campusblues.com - Are you sometimes stressed out and you don't really know what to do? Check out the helpful advice on this website. This should not your main contact for help, though. Visit your advisor or counselor on your campus or in your academic department with any questions or to seek professional advice on how to handle stressful situations.

Student -to- Student



The Collegian Leadership Council (CLC)

Staying connected with College Forward

What is the CLC?

The Collegian Leadership Council, or CLC, is a **committee of college students** who will be selected to represent their peers and serve as a student resource for the CF staff. Members' duties include but are not limited to: assisting with outreach to high school students, communicating with fellow college students to coordinate upcoming community service events, mentoring Student Leadership Council members, and assisting CF staff in improving support services for college students.

Who are the CLC members? How are CLC members chosen?

Any college student participating in College Forward's retention program who is interested in becoming a member of the CLC is welcome and encouraged to apply. Potential CLC members are required to **submit an application** to the College Retention Coordinator, Talia Carroll, who will then (with a small committee) evaluate candidates' enthusiasm for the program and potential to become outreach and service leaders.

Why should I join?

As a member of the CLC, you will be able to **implement your ideas** to improve the College Forward program, which helps not only you and your peers, but future students. Also, you can add the CLC on your resume to demonstrate your **leadership experience**. As a member of the CLC, you will learn invaluable lessons on teamwork, event planning, and community service.

If you are interested... please email Talia (tcarroll@collegeforward.org) and request an application. Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified no later than April 30th. The first CLC meeting will be at the end of spring semester (most likely at the end of May.) We look forward to hearing your suggestions! CLC members may also be eligible to participate in the upcoming summer retreat. Call or email Talia for more information.



WANT \$100? Submit your own article to the "Student-to-Student" section of the newsletter, and each time one of your articles is selected, we'll send you \$100! Articles can be about any college-relevant topic (i.e. roommates, academics, getting involved, etc.). Submissions must be 200-300 words in length. Send submissions or any questions to: collegians@collegeforward.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

- MAR. 14th (Wed) College Forward OPEN HOUSE! Come check out the office and hang out with us! Snacks and drinks provided. 10am-4pm
- MAR. 16th (Fri) Spring Break Bowling for all Collegians! Westgate Lanes on West William Cannon in South Austin—7-9pm. Bring your bowling skills!
- MAR. 24th (Sat) Austin AmeriCorps Awareness Day 8:30am-12pm
- MAR. 31st (Sat) College/Universidad 101 (come volunteer!) 8am-5pm
- APR. 13th (Fri) Leadership Summit: Goal Setting @ Highland Business Center 10am
- APR. 19th (Thurs) ACC student gathering-Lehman HS 4pm-7pm
- APR. 28th (Sat) Community Service project to be announced*

**Visit the College Forward Discussion Forum for up-to-date information on To Be Announced items*

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:



All great

achievements

require **time.**



-Maya Angelou

We'd like to keep you informed about new staff members and other office happenings at College Forward—watch this space to get the scoop on what we've been up to!

Open House! Grant! Smith!



We want to see your smiling faces! Come by to the **College Forward Open House** on Thursday, March 15th, from 10am-4pm. Come check out all of the fun pictures on the walls, crazy colors and super fun office people! We can wait to see you, so swing on by and hang out with us!

Recently, we were awarded the **Glimmer of Hope** grant to fund our activities at Del Valle HS and Travis HS! It's a really big deal, so if you have any questions about it, be sure to ask!



Becca Strachan, School & Special Events Coordinator, has been **accepted to Smith College** to pursue a Master of Social Work degree! Her assignment will be in Seattle, WA, where she will work for an agency focusing on mental health issues. Give Becca a high five when you see her and congratulate her on her great news!

STUDY TIP OF THE MONTH

Utilize Your Resources!

You have a lot going on in your world—taking a full load of classes, working to make ends meet, going home to visit family and friends, doing homework, etc. Because it can be totally overwhelming to juggle everything in your personal and social life, it is important that you take advantage of the many free resources you have on your campus. If you know where to go for help when you have a problem, it will make your life so much easier!

For example, if you have an English paper due and you know that English is not your best subject, take your paper draft to the writing center and let a professional help you improve it significantly. (You'll learn a lot about writing in the process.) Or, if you struggle with math, find a tutoring service on your campus to help teach you the concepts you don't understand. Workout at the student recreation center, speak with a nutritionist at the health center, or talk with someone in the financial aid office about scholarships for which you might be eligible.

Use the resources available to you to take some stress off of yourself. If you are not sure what is available on your campus, contact your student life office or student affairs department. Remember that you're accountable for your own success and must do everything you can to be the best student you can be!

Historical Figures in Education

American **John Dewey** (1859-1952) strongly believed that teaching should not just be the feeding of facts to children. Instead, he maintained that children should learn skills such as critical thinking and problem solving to reach their full potential as human beings. He believed in learning by doing and demonstrated basic concepts of chemistry and physics by allowing his classes to observe breakfast food as it cooked.



He was a champion of experiential (progressive) education. He wanted teachers to understand that what they taught needed to reflect their pupils' varied background experiences.