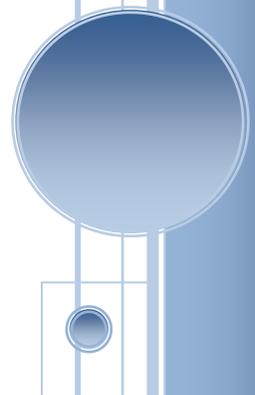




**FEINSTEIN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
AND  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING**

**2009-2010 Report**

**“Helping to better the lives of others is the greatest of all achievements”  
-Alan Shawn Feinstein**



# COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE FEINSTEIN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

*Community service learning* in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD) began in 1996 with the Alan Shawn Feinstein Endowment. Alan Shawn Feinstein, is a renowned educator, journalist, and humanitarian who has dedicated his time, talents, and treasures to bettering the lives of others. The Endowment provided a gift of \$1,000,000 to Rhode Island College and called for course work and community service as a mandatory graduation requirement for undergraduate students enrolled in the School of Education. In response, a FSEHD faculty committee, with approval by the Dean's Leadership Committee, drafted a community service requirement of 25 hours to be completed by initial certification teacher candidates one semester prior to student teaching. This requirement reflects the belief that a teacher is a professional person following a calling and offers them the opportunity to serve others in the pursuit of learning.

The community service requirement is detailed in a *Community Service Student Handbook* that provides criteria for service, documentation procedure, related forms, and a list of potential community service sites.

[www.ric.edu/communityservice/requirement.php](http://www.ric.edu/communityservice/requirement.php) .

In addition to the Community Service Requirement, all students seeking admission into a teacher preparation program must enroll in and successfully complete the service learning course, Foundations of Education 346: Schooling in a Democratic Society. Through this course, all prospective teacher candidates perform a minimum of 15 hours of tutoring in a Providence public school. Every semester, upwards of 150 potential teacher candidates work one on one with students to improve their reading and writing.

Alan Shawn Feinstein's commitment to the schools in the State of Rhode Island is legendary. He has dedicated millions of dollars to its elementary and secondary schools, and to its colleges and universities, to advance the importance of community service in education and the values of caring, compassion and brotherhood.

Among the many awards and honors he has received are the Hope Award from the Rhode Island State Council of the Knights of Columbus, American Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award and the American Red Cross Longfellow Humanitarian Award.

# INTRODUCTION

The Office of Special Projects (OSP), created in 2006 and renamed in The Office of Community Service Learning (OCSL) in 2009, successfully serves the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development faculty and teacher candidates, school districts, community-based organizations, and the campus community through the provision of volunteer services, outreach initiatives, community focused events, administration of the teacher candidate Community Service Requirement and consultative services regarding community engagement.

Former Rhode Island College President, John Nazarian and former Dean of the Feinstein School, Julie Wollman conceived the idea for the OCSL as a home to community service, service learning, and community partnerships in the FSEHD. Their basic vision for the office included the administration of the FSEHD teacher candidate Community Service Requirement, coordination and development of community relationships, conduit for connecting FSEHD teacher candidates and faculty with service opportunities, and an extension of the experiential learning already existing in the Feinstein School.

To lead the creation of the office, Nazarian selected Liz Garofalo, then Coordinator of the College's Pre-K STARS statewide literacy program and Math Mates partnership program with the Coventry School District and Foundation for Excellent Schools. Garofalo's track record for initiating, developing, and managing community programs combined with her Master's Degree in Public Administration, years at the College (1998), and reputation for facilitating community collaborations deemed her the ideal candidate to launch the office.

Under the coordination and direction Garofalo, the OCSL has become a valuable college and community resource that successfully brokers mutually beneficial relationships with school districts, after school programs, and community-based organizations for the purpose of community service and service learning and provides the necessary services and support for FSEHD faculty and candidates to engage in community service and service initiatives.

The following report highlights community service data, presents the major activities of the OCSL in 2009-2010, and forecasts the 2010-2011 agenda.

# SNAP SHOT OF SERVICE

*Data collected from July 2006 to December 2008*

*Source: Community service documentation submitted by teacher candidates upon completion of a minimum of 25 hours of community service*

Between July 2006 and December 2008, forty-three Rhode Island municipalities were served by teacher candidates engaged in community service.

The top five Rhode Island cities/towns served by FSEHD teacher candidates through community service activities during this period were:

Providence	681 candidates
Cranston	40 candidates
Warwick	38 candidates
Pawtucket	30 candidates
Coventry & Woonsocket	26 candidates

FSEHD teacher candidates recorded 20,521 hours of community service. Of the 20,521 hours, 343 hours were performed at a single site.

Elementary schools were cited as the most frequent settings (539 candidates) for performing service hours. After public elementary schools, the top locations for service activities were:

Public Middle Schools	122
Early learning Facilities	117
After School Programs	92
Public High Schools	80

The data relating to service activities show tutoring as the service activity in which most teacher candidates participated followed by 1) assisting in after school programs, 2) mentoring, and 3) coaching.

The population most frequently served by FSEHD teacher candidates included children in Pre-K through 6th grade.

The Office of Community Service Learning is home to a multitude of community related projects and serves FSEHD faculty, teacher candidates, and community based organizations by providing support for and facilitation of community collaborations. The activities of the office continually increase as internal and external demand for community connections rises and as the office's reputation for successfully meeting those needs continues to grow.

The remainder of this report highlights the major activities of the OCSL in and around community service learning in the 2009-2010 academic year.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

### PRE-K STARS (SHARING, TALKING AND READING STORIES)

Pre-K STARS is an early childhood literacy community service program that places teacher candidate volunteers in preschools and state licensed home-based childcare facilities to conduct theme-based story hours once a week for ten weeks. A student leader, under the direction of the OSP Coordinator, recruits peer volunteers and arranges a placements in or near their hometown. The HBS children's librarian, FSEHD early childhood faculty, and former volunteers train the candidates in selecting and reading age and culturally appropriate literature, designing engaging follow-up activities, and navigating the developmental stages of three to five year olds. The student leader monitors the volunteers and maintains communications with the sites and the Coordinator of Special Projects conducts site visits. They co-facilitate monthly reflection sessions and meet bi-weekly for planning and support.

In addition to the weekly theme based story hours, the Pre-K STARS program donated over 200 new and used books to children enrolled in participating sites in Cranston, Providence, Woonsocket, and Warwick.

### A MATCH FOR SUCCESS: M.ED IN READING & PROJECT GOAL

Since the spring of 2008, the OCSL has been pairing the M.ED in Reading Program and Project GOAL, for weekly service learning sessions at the Henry Barnard School. The sessions provide M.ED candidates with the opportunity to hone their skills and the GOAL middle school youth with reading strategies to help them succeed. The M.ED candidates benefit from working with

the diverse, dedicated, urban middle school youth and the GOAL participants learn and employ strategies to improve their reading and grades.

During the visitations (six consecutive weeks in the fall and five in the spring), M.ED candidates enrolled in ELED 685: Diagnosis of Reading Difficulties (fall) and ELED 686: Treatment of Reading Difficulties (spring) partner with GOAL students to administer assessment and diagnostic tests. The candidates then formulate recommendations and teach students strategies to assist them with their daily academics. At year's end, candidates prepare case studies with findings and recommendations for students, their families, and their classroom teachers.

**Project GOAL** facilitates the development of Rhode Island's disadvantaged middle school youth from Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls through after-school tutoring and soccer-related programs. GOAL fosters opportunity for urban youth through the employment of a nurturing after school environment, academic tutoring, health/nutrition information, exercise, and safe facilities, while exposing the children and their families to models of positive healthy lifestyles.

## HENRY BARNARD SCHOOL MENTORS

**The HBS Mentor program** connects Rhode Island College students with school-identified children from HBS in need of enhanced social and emotional support. Mentors meet with their mentees for a minimum of thirty minutes per week and structured and unstructured activities including board games, conversation, sharing lunch, self-esteem building craft projects and other cooperative

In 2007 the Henry Barnard School solicited the expertise of the FSEHD OCSL Coordinator in designing their mentor program. The office convened a team of HBS faculty and staff, the director of assessment for the FSEHD, and representatives from the RI Mentoring Partnership to assist with the development of the program. Under the OSP's guidance, the program has increased from six mentor- mentee matches to forty matches per year, employs a work-study student, retains an advisory board, and has presented at several regional and national conferences. The FSEHD OCSL has and continues to provide direction, resources, training, and shared oversight of the program. In addition to the weekly mentoring sessions, the matches engage in a variety of activities including fundraisers for their craft supplies, game and movie days, fieldtrips, and year end

family days.

## JUST FRIENDS

In September 2009 the OCSL established a connection with *Just Friends* a disability awareness program for fourth graders in the Cumberland Public School district. The program, coordinated by Cumberland Schools Volunteers (CSV), provides four weeks of interactive, classroom lessons in four areas: Blindness/Deafness, Physical and Intellectual Disabilities, Autism and Learning Differences. CSV trains college and community volunteers in delivering the lessons and provides practice sessions. The college and community volunteers then present as a team in various classrooms throughout the district.

In Fall 2009 the OCSL recruited elementary/special education teacher candidate, Doris Moret to serve as its first volunteer with *Just Friends*. Moret was selected for the program based on her initiative to take a pro-active role in her education through opportunities that expand her knowledge and prepare her for the classroom. Since 2006, she has worked with the SCOPE program at Calcutt Middle School in Central Falls where she teaches health science lessons to middle school youth.

Doris volunteered with Just Friends for two semesters where her use of the classroom space to keep the children's attention, eye contact and attention to students' comments, solicitation of feedback, ability to lead and instruct, and warmth and kindness made the lessons come alive to the children. In a post program de-briefing Moret expressed her satisfaction with the experience and plans to use the lessons and activities from the *Just Friends* curriculum in her future classroom. She also agreed to serve as a student leader in Fall 2010 and to recruit several of her peers as co-participants.

## CUMBERLAND HILL ELEMENTARY: TECHNOLOGY ENRICHMENT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Under the direction of the Office of Community Service learning and in collaboration with faculty from the College's Educational Studies Department and Cumberland Hill Elementary School, the 2008-2009 technology enrichment after school program provided Rhode Island College teacher candidates with the opportunity to guide and instruct Cumberland Hill fourth graders in the use of technology.

The eight-week program met on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Cumberland Hill's Media Center. During the after school sessions, a cadre of teacher candidate volunteers from the College's Technology Education and Elementary Education programs guided seven teams of fourth graders in the creation of travel brochures for northeast states using models, direct instruction, and student facilitated learning. The teacher candidate volunteers designed lesson plans that incorporated goals, objectives, reflection and National Educational Technology Standards (NETS · S, NETS · T). Through this community service program

Cumberland Hill fourth graders learned basic desktop publishing skills using Microsoft Publisher, text formatting in Microsoft Word, and how to conduct online research using various search engines. The program culminated with a learning celebration and student showcase where participants proudly presented their brochures and shared their newly acquired knowledge about their states with peers, faculty, and administration. The brochures were then displayed in the media center for the school community to view.

## HOPKINS HILL MATH MATES

From spring 2006 to spring 2008 forty Rhode Island College teacher candidates partnered with two outstanding Hopkins Hill Elementary School (Coventry) teachers to provide a special afterschool program designed to make math fun for fourth and fifth graders.

Through the *Math Mates* program, FSEHD teacher candidate volunteers worked with small groups of Hopkins Hill fourth and fifth graders every Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm where math was fun, exciting, and interactive. Games, team competitions, mind benders, skill building activities, and manipulatives helped to fill the sessions with laughter and chatter. The Hopkins Hill teachers modeled teaching techniques, guided the college mates in providing students with proper support, and supplied them with a wealth of materials and resources to keep and use in their courses.

# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

## 2008, 2009 VOLUNTEER EXPOS

Created and coordinated by the FSEHD OCSL Coordinator, the Expos were recruitment and networking opportunities aimed at strengthening Rhode Island College's links with the community, fostering new community partnerships, and increasing volunteerism.

The annual events were open and promoted to the entire campus and the ten other higher education institutions in Rhode Island. Each Expo attracted over fifty community organizations consisting of after school programs, full service agencies, cause specific organizations, and coalitions that distributed information and conversed with faculty, students, and administration. After the events, the OCSL followed up with the attending organizations and provided the RIC Office of Career Development with contact information to invite the organizations to register with *Destinations*, the campus's online employment and internship posting system.

## READ TO FEED AT FEINSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, COVENTRY

In early November 2009, Mary Lou Bettez of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) contacted the OCSL seeking volunteers for a November 25<sup>th</sup> Read a Thon fundraiser at Feinstein Middle School in Coventry. In response to the request from RIDE, the OCSL recruited Janet Johnson, Associate Professor, English/Secondary Education and nine teacher candidates to serve as volunteer readers. Each participant selected a favorite picture book or chapter from a beloved novel to read to classes of sixth graders. They also engaged the students in a dialogue about reading and discussed their read aloud selection.

## BOOKS ARE WINGS

Books are Wings is a non-profit organization that collects and distributes new and gently used books to primarily low-income, ethnic minority children across the state at school and community events. The book giveaway events include group and individual read aloud's, literature discussions, and activities. In AY 2009-2010 twenty-five teacher candidate volunteers assisted at twelve Books are Wings events located in urban elementary and middle schools and helped to provide over 2,000 free books to children in need.

## RISE (RHODE ISLANDERS SPONSORING EDUCATION)

RISE provides scholarships and mentoring to children of currently and formerly incarcerated parents in order to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, crime and addiction. The key measurement of success for RISE is graduation from high school. To date, forty-four RISE students have graduated from high school. Of the forty-four, twenty-eight have gone on to attend college, including Rhode Island College. Others have pursued job-training programs or enlisted in the military.

In spring 2010 the OCSL connected Math 144 adjunct faculty member, Robbie Alfonsno, with RISE. Robbie and his twenty-two students volunteered as math tutors for eight Saturdays at Community Preparatory School in Providence where they assisted ten to fifteen RISE participants in geometry and algebra.

# FACULTY ASSISTANCE

## JENKS JR. HIGH, COLLEGE CONNECTION CAMPUS VISIT

Dr. Marie Lynch, Special Education, and Susan Pfiel, Principal of Jenks Jr., were seeking support to bring the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with whom Dr. Lynch's practicum students were working to the Rhode Island College campus in an effort to enhance their existing school-college partnership and to provide the Jenks students, many of whom had never been to a college campus nor had aspirations of attending college, with the opportunity to see "college" as a real and attainable goal for the future.

The OCSL provided Lynch with information regarding a mini grant opportunity through RI Campus Compact's *Partnership for Success* initiative. Lynch and Pfiel's mini-grant application was a success and they received \$500.00 to use towards to visit. OCSL handled the logistics including transportation, panel presentation, special tours of the technology lab, student union, athletic center and residence hall, lunch in the dining center, and parting gifts.

Portions of the visit were filmed by RI Campus Compact and will be included in their *Partnerships for Success* promotional video that will be shared with the Governor's PK-16 Council, Rhode Island Foundation, and housed on Campus Compact website.

## MATH WIZARD OF OZ

Associate Professor Donna Christy (Math/Secondary Education) sought assistance from FSEHD Special Projects for a partnership event with RIDE at the Providence Children's Museum. Math Wizards of Oz was half-day of interactive, engaging math activities and games for children and their families using the Wizard of Oz as an overarching theme. The activities/games were divided into different sections all connected by the Yellow Brick Road. The OCSL provided Christy with the eight teacher candidate volunteers who served as activity facilitators, greeters, floaters, costumed characters, and photographers.

# STUDENT CONNECTIONS

## RIC MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

In Spring 2010 the RIC Middle School Association received the Rhode Island College Organization Outreach Award for providing exemplary service to the RIC student community.

The OCSL played a vital role in the Association’s successful community connection efforts by providing consultation services, conducting a series of presentations around community service, facilitating roundtable community service discussions and customizing a list of service sites for their members and peers from other education programs. Most notable was the OCSL’s assistance in coordinating a community panel discussion, *Opportunities Beyond the Classroom* where community-based education providers visited campus to talk about their organizations and career opportunities for education graduates. Providence After School Alliance, Ready to Learn, AmeriCorps VISTA, and RI Family Literacy Initiative were among the eight community presenters.

## MATHBUSTERS: STUDENT HONORS PROJECT

When elementary education honors student Kayla Quadros was looking to initiate a community service after school math enrichment program at HBS she contacted the OCSL to provide guidance and support. OCSL convened a team of FSEHD and HBS faculty and administration to assist with the strategizing, design, and launch of the program. OCSL facilitated several planning meetings, provided resource materials for program design, and offered directions for project development. Under the advisement of OCSL, Quadros surveyed parents, developed a curriculum and piloted her six-week *Mathbusters* program with a fellow student volunteer.

*“I had my first session of "Mathbusters" yesterday and I think it went very well! It was very exciting and the children all seemed to be very happy and enthusiastic throughout the whole lesson. I used a book concerning measurements for the first session and planned a few hands on activities that correlated with the story. The children had the opportunity to work with nonstandard units of measure and relate it back to standard units. In the end, they all received a few random objects, such as a toy car or stuffed animal, and had the opportunity use them as units of measurement in order to measure the heights of their peers. They were all very excited about that. Everyone wanted to be measured and know how many teddy bears tall they were!”*

## AMERICORPS VISTA

### AMERICORPS VISTA

As the College approached its final year for a Rhode Island Campus Compact (RICC) AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, President Carriuolo looked to the FSEHD OCSL to apply for, utilize, and

supervise a new recruit. The OCSL Coordinator submitted a successful application and created a year-long plan to advance community service learning both within the FSEHD and institution-wide.

RICC pre-selected two VISTA candidates and highly recommended Ms. Linda Louise King as match for Rhode Island College. Ms. King began her tenure in the OCSL in July 2009 and completed her year of service on July 30, 2010. Her major project, *If You Can...You Can Serve* is an electronic campus and community partnership tool of statistics, ideas and resources that offers a variety of routes for campus and community members to pursue enjoyable, challenging, and impactful community service learning activities. The PowerPoint presentation contains information and visual representation of Rhode Island College students in service and is accompanied by a supplemental piece specifically geared to faculty looking to design service-learning courses. After final edits, a presentation was made to the campus community in Sapinsley Hall.

*Campus Compact VISTAs assist institutions in advancing service learning on their campuses, build capacity to better serve communities, and increase the number of students engaged in community service and service learning.*

## CROSS-CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS

### FALL 2008, 2009 WELCOME WEEK ACADEMIC YEAR KICK-OFF

*Partners: Residential Life, Student Activities, Sigma Iota Theta*

FSEHD/OCSL Co-Coordinated a week of events and service projects for hall residents and commuter students to orient and welcome them to campus and a new academic year

### 2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SERVICE PROGRAM\*

*Partners: Department of Political Science, Student Activities*

Co-recruited, trained, and conducted monthly service reflection sessions for RIC Scholarships for Service participants and co-administered the federal program.

*\*Corporation for National Service program that provides students who engage in 300 hours of community service with a \$1,000.00 education award*

## SPRING 2010 NON-PROFIT CAREER FAIR

*Partners: Career Development, Department of Communications, American Democracy Project*

Identified and recruited ten education alumni currently employed in the non-profit sector to serve as roundtable presenters

## SPRING 2010 E-CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

*Partners: Political Science, Alumni Affairs, Communications*

Provided planning consultation and resources for the year-long technology and community engagement project that including event ideas, community partner recommendations, resources, and strategic planning

## 2009, 2010 RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SERVICE SUMMITS

*Partners: Residential Life, Student Activities-Emerging Leaders Program*

Assisted in the recruitment and preparation of ten student representatives to the Summits held at Johnson and Wales (09) Bryant University(2010) and provided guidance in the design of their presentation

# COMMITTEES

## PARTNERSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

The recently revitalized FSEHD Partnerships and Placements Committee has been a forum for the Office of Special Projects to advance community service and service learning in the FSEHD. As an active committee member, the OCSL Coordinator has assisted in the development of a committee mission statement that includes a school *and* community focus and has lead the committee in the important task of understanding the function community service and service learning in teacher preparation by sharing knowledge, resources, and research in the field.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

When the Office of Student Activities was looking to create and launch a RIC Student Leadership Awards program they called upon the FSEHD Coordinator of Community Service Learning to provide the community related criteria, event planning expertise, promotional assistance, and co-selection of award recipients. Along with the committee, the Coordinator of the OCSL reviewed over ninety nominations and helped select the award recipients. FSEHD teacher candidates had strong representation among the nominees and Wesley Cruz, Secondary Education, was selected as the recipient of the *Vital Contribution to the Community* award.

## 2010-2011 FORECAST

Planning for AY 2010-2011 has been underway since the start of May. Much of the groundwork for upcoming collaborations and partnerships has been laid and the necessary in-roads have been forged. Teams have been established, meetings taken place, and pilot projects launched. New collaborations include inquiry based science in After School programs with Providence After School Alliance, early learning program at The Children's Shelter of Blackstone Valley, and music enrichment program at Times2 Academy in Providence. Along with the new partnerships, the OCSL will continue its work with Project GOAL, HBS Mentors, and Just Friends in Cumberland.

In addition to the community service programs and partnerships, the OCSL has established five focus areas for the impending academic year. These focus areas will serve as points of departure for all new, existing, and "in motion" activities.

- Effective utilization of technology to increase FSEHD candidate and faculty engagement
- Refining and streamlining service-related data collection and tracking,
- Service collaborations with peer institutions to deepen the impact of student engagement in Rhode Island
- Supporting FSEHD in developing community service and service learning projects
- Developing the FSEHD community service and service learning agenda to form a clear, comprehensive and robust model of experiential education in teacher preparation programs