

learning and serving through
SERVICE LEARNING



connecting campus and community

THE SERVICE LEARNING

SENTINEL

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MEDFORD SCHOLARS SELECTED

Recipients of the Jacob Medford Service Learning Scholarship (pictured top row at right) are Christina Smith, Tabitha Taylor, Edward Johnson, Molly Murtola and Karen-Elaine Smith. Jacob (Jake) Medford was a Sophomore at WCU when his life was tragically ended in a hit and run car accident in the summer of 2002. Jake was committed to the fellowship of friendship and serving those in need. His twin brother, Zack and parents Sarah and Ronnie Davis (pictured center bottom row at right), decided that contributing for endowed service scholarships would be a fitting memorial to Jake. The scholarship perpetuates WCU's commitment of lifting the local community and enhancing student learning. Scholarship recipients will engage students in community service and civic engagement discussions, and serve as ambassadors of the Service Learning Department.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT CULLOWHEE VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Cullowhee Valley Elementary School hosted its annual Fall Festival on September 19, 2003. Children and adults enjoyed participating in a variety of games, rides and face painting. There were dunking booths and prizes to be won. WCU's track team (pictured at right) blew up balloons and escorted chil-



Bottom row from left: Jane Adams-Dunford, Asst. VC for Student Affairs, Zack Medford, Sarah and Ronnie Davis, and Robert Caruso, VC for Student Affairs. Top row, Wayne Robinson and recipients of the Jacob Medford Service Learning Scholarship.

dren on and off rides. The athletic department was represented by volunteers from the basketball, baseball, track and volleyball teams, Members of fraternities, sororities, and WCU faculty and staff assisted in the planning and facilitation of festivities. The festival is a PTA fundraiser to supplement the school's budget.



Members of the WCU's track team helping with Cullowhee Valley Elementary School's Annual Fall Festival.

FACULTY EMBRACE SERVICE LEARNING

Members of the faculty have incorporated service learning as a teaching tool into their course curriculums. Leah Hampton and her Freshmen Seminar class, along with Margie Kiser (Learning Community Instructor) assisted Kathy Dugan, the Director of the Cherokee Cooperative Extension program prepare for the Cherokee Reservation's Annual Fall Arts and Craft Festival. Enthusiastic students worked shoulder to shoulder with festival facilitators, painting, decorating, cleaning, and learning about Native American arts and culture.

Service learning infuses classroom instruction with short term community service at non-profit agencies, enhancing the learning process through hands-on experience. Students are given the option to accept a service learning project or complete another required assignment. After logging a specified number of hours at the project, students submit reflective papers about their experience and its relevance to the course. A service learning chat room is available to students and faculty to discuss interaction with clients and staff associated with non-profit agencies.

The support of university deans, department chairs, and in particular, instructors on the cutting edge of education from a variety of disciplines have made the first stage of the service learning initiative a success. Several instructors encourage their students to engage in community service and are given extra class credit. Instructors who utilize service learning as a part of their curriculum are: Claudia Bryant, Bruce Carroll, Chris Cooper, Michael Despeaux, Mimi Fenton, Fred Fisher, Vera Guice, Barbara Hardie, Dianne Hauser, Terry Nienhuis, Bill Papin, Ann Rogers, George Thompson, Linda Venturo, Karen White, Leah Hampton, and several other faculty who encourage their students to engage in community service.



Leah Hampton, instructor (far right), and two of her students paint a fountain in preparation for Cherokee Arts Festival.

FACULTY FELLOWS

The Faculty Fellows program is an initiative linking the University's commitment to academic excellence and service to humanity. This program seeks to provide opportunities for instructors to explore and implement service-learning into existing courses and first year seminars.

Four Faculty Fellows will be selected, one from each college within the university in the immediate future. Faculty Fellows will be given class release time for their participation in the

IT'S YOURS - USE IT

A co-curricular transcript is generated for students who participate in service learning and volunteer activities. The transcript is a compilation of community service hours logged related to a class and individual interest. Such a transcript can be a handsome supplement to job and scholarship applications. This is a service available to all students through the Service Learning Department. Take advantage of the service by using it to enhance your academic and career goals. Complete a Service Learning/Community Service Application and submit it to the Service Learning Department.

http://www.wcu.edu/studentd/service_learning
Telephone number: 828-227-3059

program.