



TENNESSEAN.COM Tennessee Voices
December 31, 2011
Service groups come to Volunteer State
By Mani S. Hull

The Tennessee Campus Compact (TNCC) is pleased to announce that in 2012 the state of Tennessee will serve as conference host for three national organizations engaged in community service. TNCC and its 29 member colleges and universities look forward to serving as state partner hosts to explore the connections between community and economic development and civic engagement in higher education. The Bonner Foundation has selected Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City to host its annual summer Leadership Institute on June 4-7. The Campus Kitchen has selected Lee University in Cleveland to host its annual conference Oct. 5-6. The Campus Compact Presidents' Leadership Summit, "Developing Vital, Vibrant & Healthy Communities through Democratic Partnerships and Civic Engagement," will be held in Chattanooga on Oct. 15-16.

In addition, TNCC will hold a joint annual Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning with Volunteer TN and other sponsors Feb. 26-28. President Belle Wheelan of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) will be the keynote speaker on Feb. 27. Numerous Tennessee colleges and universities are applying academic service learning toward their quality enhancement plans for reaccreditation. By December 2012, TNCC hopes to finalize the addition of new language to support the scholarship of engagement and service in the SACSCOC Resource Manual and Principals of Accreditation in support of academic service-learning pedagogy and faculty promotion and tenure criteria. Conference details are at www.tncampuscompact.org.

The Tennessee Campus Compact was established in 2008 as the 33rd state campus compact in affiliation with the National Campus Compact Network. It provides leadership in academic service-learning, community-based research, and other forms of civic engagement to improve student learning outcomes while addressing access, diversity, retention and workforce development issues. TNCC collected \$160,000 in membership dues from member campuses, but fielded 148 AmeriCorps VISTAs at a federal value of \$3 million, to build sustainable capacity for student community engagement. TNCC has trained more than 2,300 faculty members in service-learning curriculum integration. A dozen new central units for service-learning have been established, while eight VISTA members transitioned into permanent staff. Seven institutions have gained the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. In 2010-2011, 14 institutions received the Presidents' Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Given the impact that TNCC's programs and services has had in the community, state Rep. Joe Pitts, D-Clarksville, has agreed to work with legislators to pass a resolution in the General Assembly on behalf of the TNCC during its Day on the Hill on March 28.

Dr. Mani S. Hull is founding executive director of the Tennessee Campus Compact. Lipscomb University, a leading contributor to student community engagement and economic growth in Tennessee, has served as TNCC's host institution since spring 2009. Email: mani.hull@lipscomb.edu