Augustana Receives Presidential Recognition for Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has named Augustana to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.

The CNCS, which has administered the Honor Roll since 2006, admitted a total of 641 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from literacy and neighborhood revitalization to supporting at-risk youth. Of those, 511 were named to the Honor Roll.

“As members of the class of 2011 cross the stage to pick up their diplomas, more and more will be going into the world with a commitment to public service and the knowledge that they can make a difference in their communities and their own lives through service to others, thanks to the leadership of these institutions,” said Patrick A. Corvington, chief executive officer of CNCS. “Congratulations to Augustana College and its students, faculty and staff for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities. We salute all the Honor Roll awardees for embracing their civic mission and providing opportunities for their students to tackle tough national challenges through service."

At Augustana, in between classes and coursework, students, faculty and staff have worked to give back to their community and help people in need:

• This spring, the Augustana community collected 1,700 pounds of food for Feeding South Dakota.

• During Spring Break, students worked on a construction project at Joy Ranch, a new camp organized by Lutherans Outdoors, in Watertown.

• In May, through a partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, students participated in a soup kitchen ministry that serves 1,000 homeless people each week on the lower eastside of Manhattan in New York City.

• In April, Augustana Dance Marathon, a student-led group, raised more than $10,000 for Children’s Miracle Network.

• Students and staff assembled aid and school kits for victims of the catastrophic earthquakes in Japan and Haiti and this fall, international students and Serving And Learning Together (SALT), a 30-member student-led group dedicated to service, raised more than $1,000 for Pakistani flood relief efforts.

• Through a SALT-led effort, Augustana students and staff donated 1,000 gifts to Children’s Inn, Children’s Home, Heartland House, and LSS Immigration Refugee Services during the 2010 holiday season. They also sponsored and donated gifts to 50 individuals new to the U.S.

• For the past two years, student residents at Hillsboro House, one of Augustana’s 16 Theme Houses, have been serving Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sioux Empire. As “big brothers,” they have served as role models to area youth by organizing trips to the Great Plains Zoo, Washington Pavilion and Skyforce games; helping with home work; and lending a kind ear to talk about life.

• In the fall, students worked with children, visited schools and served food to those in need on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

• In October, 475 student and staff volunteers served 29 local support agencies and service projects and collected 3,049 pounds of groceries for Feeding South Dakota in support of the College’s 16th annual Community Service Day. Among other support activities, volunteers spent time repairing and painting buildings, caring for animals and collecting trash.

• The Augie Garden, a student-led initiative funded through a grant administered by the Augustana Service-Learning Program, donates its harvests to The Banquet, a nonprofit agency that serves meals and provides food to people in need.

“The Augustana values such as community and service are central to our culture and serve as the compass that guides our community,” said Rob Oliver, president. “Time and time again, our students, faculty and staff have demonstrated their commitment to making tomorrow’s world even better than today. This award recognizes those who tirelessly give of themselves to improve the lives of others and the community we call home.”

Textbook Rental Program Coming to Bookstore

The Augustana College Bookstore now gives students a new lease on their sometimes budget-focused, hectic lives by offering a new, multi-channel textbook rental program designed to deliver maximum savings and convenience.

The textbook rental program allows students to rent select textbooks for less than 50 percent of the cost of purchasing a new printed textbook. Plus, as an added convenience, students can rent their books either in the store or from the store’s website, www.augiebookstore.com.

The Augustana Student Association (ASA) voted unanimously to offer the program. “Every college student lives on a budget. Leasing textbooks is an exceptional cost-saving opportunity for students,” said Joel Thompson, class of 2011 and past ASA president. “Students will be able to rent textbooks for less than 50 percent of the cost of purchasing a new book – that will free up money for other important college-related costs, such as meal plans or parking permits.”

Other program features include:

• Students can pay the rental fees using any form of tender currently accepted by the bookstore (excluding PayPal). For security purposes, a valid credit card must also be provided regardless of the tender used for the rental fee.

• Students can highlight or mark the rented books just as they would if they purchased a new book – that will free up money for other important college-related costs, such as meal plans or parking permits.

• Students can convert their rental to a purchase during the first two weeks of class.

• The rental period is for the duration of the term/semester. Books are due back by the last day of finals. Students can return books in person or mail them to the book store.

• Courtesy emails will go out as the end of the term/semester approaches reminding students to return their books. Books not returned (or returned in unusable condition) will be subject to replacement and processing fees.
Grant Will Promote Student Teaching in High-Needs Classrooms

Thirty Augustana education majors who volunteer to conduct their student teaching in high-needs classrooms will now be eligible to receive a $2,000 voucher good toward their outstanding student loans or graduate school.

The vouchers are part of Augustana’s Service Learning Program, an initiative designed to integrate community service and civic engagement with academic study.

The program is funded by a new $60,000 grant from AmeriCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children, improving communities and preserving the environment.

“One of the best ways to prepare tomorrow’s teachers is to place them in high-needs classrooms during their student teaching practicums,” said Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, professor of Education. “By doing so, they’ll have the opportunity to work with a wide range of students, including those who have learning challenges or who are affected by low socio-economic conditions,” said Dr. Feinstein.

In addition to student teaching, grant recipients will also be required to journal or blog about their experiences.

“Writing about their experiences will help our students connect what they learned in their academic classrooms to Augie to real life,” said Feinstein.

Five students were honored with Covenant Awards during the 2010-2011 academic year. The Augustana Covenant Awards were established to recognize students who exhibit the College’s five core values – Christian, Liberal Arts, Excellence, Community and Service. Recipients are chosen by a committee of faculty and staff.

**Thomas Alexander**, class of 2011, from Belview, Minn., was awarded the Covenant Award for Liberal Arts.

A communications studies and physics major, he served as founding president of the newly formed Augustana Society of Physics Students (SPS) and as a member of Lambda Pi Eta. He was a member of the Augustana Band since his freshman year and was a member of Serving and Learning Together (SALT). He also served as a peer advisor in Stavig Residence Hall.

**Kim Hibma**, class of 2011, of Worthington, Minn., was awarded the Covenant Award for Christian Faith.

An elementary and special education major, Hibma was described as a caring, responsible and hard-working individual who is both grounded and self-assured. Active in church life, Hibma works with area youth and served as a leader in Augustana’s Campus Outreach Ministries since her freshman year. She seeks to be a Christian role model for others.

**Jenny Lockhart**, class of 2011, an English and journalism major from New Underwood, S.D., was awarded the Covenant Award for Community.

During her senior year, Lockhart served as editor-in-chief of *The Mirror*, Augustana’s student newspaper. During her time at Augustana, she served as co-chair of New Student Orientation, chair of the Band Fest Committee, vice president and treasurer for Augie Dems, vice president for the Augustana Women’s Association and worked as a teaching assistant for Civitas, the College’s Honors Program, and as a tutor for the Augustana Writing Center. She also participated in three international learning initiatives, studying in London, Glasgow and Northern India.

**Rachel Hurley**, class of 2011, a biology and ACS chemistry major from Canton, S.D., was awarded the Covenant Award for Excellence.

While at Augustana, Hurley was involved in numerous activities including the Augustana Band and Wind Ensemble, New Student Orientation, Outreach Ministries, Pre-Med Club and the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society.

**Kayla Rockwell**, class of 2011, a business administration and classics major from Sioux Falls, received the Covenant Award for Service.

Rockwell was described by her nominators as someone with a keen sense of social justice “who is always thinking of others, who is always present and eager to help, and whose work goes unnoticed – and that’s the way she likes it.”

**2010-11 Covenant Award Winners**

The Augustana Theatre and Music Departments concluded their 2011 season with William Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale” at the on-campus Edith Mortenson Center Theatre in May. Directed by Jayna Fitzsimmons, “The Winter’s Tale” is one of Shakespeare’s most intriguing romances – a classic tale of jealousy, love, loss and reconciliation. The cast included: Lindsay Bleile (Iowa City, S.D., ’14), Matt Cook (Adrian, Minn., ’11), Carl Ellwein (Frederic, S.D., ’13), Logan Enze (Sioux Falls, S.D., ’13), Rebecca Fahey (Pierre, S.D., ’14), Deanna Forry (Springfield, Minn., ’11), Leah Hilsabeck (Milford, Iowa, ’11), Mo Hurley (Sioux Falls, S.D., ’14), Debbi Jones (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Katleen Kenney (Box Elder, S.D., ’11), Evan Livermore (Pierre, S.D., ’14), Ally Jo Lloyd (Mapleton, Iowa, ’12), Ryan Marks (Estherville, Iowa, ’14), Megan McDonald (Sioux Falls, S.D., ’12), Scott Missling (Minnetonka, Minn., ’13), Miranda Nelson (Hendricks, Minn., ’12), Casey Ring (North St. Paul, Minn., ’11), Martha Stai (Inwood, Iowa, ’11), Mariya Swella (Yucca Valley, Calif., ’14), Josh Thies (Sioux Falls, S.D., ’13), Zack Truelson (Sioux Falls, S.D., ’14), and Elizabeth Yackel-Juleen (Windom, Minn., ’11).