



Michigan | Campus Compact

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Four Outstanding Programs Vie for \$10,000 Award

Carter Partnership Award Finalists Chosen

May 10, 2007 - Lansing, MI – Four outstanding campus-community partnerships are finalists for Michigan’s 2007 Carter Partnership Award. The \$10,000 Award will be given on June 20, 2007, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit at the annual Governor’s Service Awards Dinner. The winner will be announced that evening from among the four finalists.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration recognizes college/university and community groups that work together in exceptional ways to improve people’s lives and help college students learn the value of community service in the process. The \$10,000 award will be divided equally by the partners to support their program.

The four finalists are: Alma College and Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force, Eastern Michigan University and the Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, The University of Michigan – Dearborn and The Scott Correctional Facility for Women, and Madonna University and All Saints Neighborhood Center – Neighborhood Centers, Inc. A detailed description of each partnership follows.

Alma College – Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force

The Pine River was declared a Superfund site in the 1970s after a PBB and DDT chemical disaster in St. Louis, MI. In 1998, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined the river was not undergoing the expected “natural Attenuation” of the chemical DDT. After learning of the EPA’s recognition of emergency removal and remedial action of DDT contamination, Alma College and the community collaborated to form the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force, an EPA sanctioned Community Advisory Group (CAG) which serves as a conduit between the community and the EPA to monitor the Superfund cleanup and other activities involving the Pine River. The college and the community work together to ensure the exchange of ideas between the EPA, the MDEQ, the local media and members of the greater community regarding information and ideas concerning the Pine River are heard by all parties. Because of the successful collaboration, the group has become the largest CAG in the United States and serves as a model for the EPA of community participation in local environmental problems.

Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels

For more than 30 years, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (YMOW) and Eastern Michigan University have partnered to deliver prepared meals and human contact to the homebound elderly, disabled and ill residents of the city and township of Ypsilanti and eastern Pittsfield and York Township of southeastern Michigan. Meal services began January 14, 1974 to 16 homebound individuals. In 1977, EMU's dining services began to handle the meal preparation. Today, YMOW owns five vans and delivers nearly 300 hot meals each day, Monday through Saturday. EMU's involvement has grown beyond providing meals. Students routinely volunteer their services through numerous academic service-learning courses and the VISION program, the university hosts an annual fundraiser, and a number of administrators and staff serve on the Board of Directors.

Madonna University and All Saints Neighborhood Center – Neighborhood Centers, Inc. – Partnership for Community Cohesion

The Partnership for Community Cohesion is a partnership between All Saints Catholic Church and Madonna University. In 1999, the All Saints Catholic Church assumed control of a recently-closed church building and turned it into a community center. Madonna University initially provided tables, chairs, desks, computers and software, and soon followed with a host of service-learning activities such as literacy tutoring, health and wellness programming, day care provision for ESL class attendees, neighborhood surveys and asset-mapping, and a residential camp at Madonna for Center youth participants. Partnership work outside of service-learning includes the provision of technical assistance by University representatives on the design of early childhood and family-based programs, client tracking systems, computer literacy training, and the establishment of a computer lab at the Center.

University of Michigan – Dearborn College Level Course Offered at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women

The University of Michigan – Dearborn (UMD) began offering college level classes at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women during the 2003-2004 academic year. The university certified courses are taught by UMD professors on a volunteer basis. Classes offered to the women are Soc 200 Understanding Society; Comp 106 Intro to College Level Writing; Hist/WGS 370 Women in America: The Historical Perspective; and Soc 467 Drugs, Crime and Justice. UMD students also volunteer as academic mentors to the students at Scott through the Women in Learning and Leadership (WILL) program. These mentors give special attention to the students in the program to ensure constructive participation and optimal learning.

A selection panel composed of representatives from community, higher education, business, and government organizations selected the four finalists and will choose the winner of the Award. The committee is independent of Michigan Campus Compact, the Award host. The committee made its selection of the four finalists based on the combined merits of each program and gave careful consideration to how closely the program applicants matched the award criteria. The award criteria consisted of the following:

- Collaboration between a Michigan college or university (public or private) and the community for at least two years.
- A history of shared power and decision-making.

- Impact on the lives of families and communities through increased economic opportunity, resourceful social and civic networks, or responsive public systems.
- Data-informed planning and decision-making.
- An optimal blend of learning, research, and/or service for higher education participants.
- Efforts to enlist other collaborators (e.g. businesses, civic organizations, government agencies, faith-based institutions, etc.).
- Documentation of measurable outcomes.
- Promise of sustainability.

The Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement. MCC was chosen by the Award founders to host the Award in Michigan. The purpose of the award mirrors the purpose of the Michigan Campus Compact.

“The Michigan Campus Compact presentation of the Carter Partnership Award has again drawn a group of partnering organizations that truly capture the virtue of civic giving,” said Amy Smitter, Executive Director. “We thank the 2007 sponsors of this award for allowing us to recognize these four quality partnerships.”

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For more information about the Award finalists, please contact Allison Treppa at 517.492.2426 or atreppa@connectmichiganalliance.org.