

Gordon Beedle  
Delta College



#### Delta College Service Summit

Gordon Beedle is a graduate of Northern Michigan University where he majored in English and Journalism. He now serves at Delta College where he is involved with service-learning and co-curricular volunteerism.

The Delta College Service Summit was a college-wide event open to all employees and aimed at building a culture of service, while addressing community needs. All together, 75 employees gave their time, along with 65 students in an event that served more than 200 area residents. The Service Summit offered projects all throughout the Great Lakes Bay Area, including projects at Stratford Village Nursing Home in Midland, Lindsay Elementary out of Bay City, Saginaw's Child Abuse and Neglect Council, Delta's sustainability program on the main campus and Delta's Saginaw campus – bike restoration and give-a-way program. Gordon was part of the planning of all the events, and he especially helped as part of the team who wrote the Innovative Education Grant. The Service Summit was a great success.

**A note from his supervisor, Michelle White:** The planning committee, comprised of 8 members representing multiple work groups across campus (faculty, administration, support staff and VISTA), worked together the entire academic year to plan this project, and it was a HUGE success! We plan to sustain this project, and will offer the same type of program April 5, 2011. We know we will attract more volunteers, as many people are already looking forward to next year, so we are excited about the opportunity to serve more members of our community. The 2010-11 MCC AmeriCorps\*VISTA will play an instrumental role in the planning of that event just as Gordon has done this year.

Sierra Demski  
Davenport University



### Into the Streets

Sierra Demski is a Central Michigan University graduate, now serving as a second-year AmeriCorps member at Davenport University. Sierra served her first year as an AmeriCorps member in the National Civilian Community Corps, in which she provided service to non-profit community organizations across the United States. Now, as an AmeriCorps\* VISTA in the Volunteer Center at Davenport, she calls upon her passion for volunteerism and belief in social solidarity to develop a network of relationships within the Davenport and surrounding communities. These ties not only create great community impact but also emphasize a sense of social awareness, responsibility and camaraderie all around.

This year, Sierra has placed an emphasis on expanding the capacity of the three DU days of service--Make a Difference Day, MLK Day and Into the Streets. These volunteer opportunities offer an orientation to community service and issues that affect our local, national and global communities. They are built to address the issues of poverty, social justice, and sustainability. This educational aspect is designed to inspire students to become engaged citizens with an awareness of the impact they can make. For the first DU day of service in October 2009, called 'Make a Difference Day', Sierra recruited twelve students to serve at two community organizations. Recently, for 'Into the Streets', the final day of service for the 2009-2010 academic year, Sierra recruited over 75 students to participate in three community clean-up initiatives. In addition, she implemented an interactive reflection piece to educate the students about eco-friendly initiatives that they could easily accomplish in their own free time. Sierra will continue to broaden the amount of resources provided to students during the days of service in order to spur a sense of personal potential for impact. As the capacity of the days of service continues to grow, it is her hope that the independent community outreach initiatives led by DU students will also increase.

**A Note from her Supervisor, Natalie Wagner:** Into the Streets was a huge success thanks to Sierra's hard work and dedication. She eagerly joined our Green Week committee and also invited local community agencies to set up educational displays on campus, in addition to the day of service. Sierra has done a phenomenal job developing sustainable partnerships and providing opportunities for students to engage in the community.

Tiffany Sims  
Oakland University



### March is Reading Month Book Drive

Tiffany Sims graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in International Business. She was actively involved in the Alternative Breaks Program and participated in three AB trips. Tiffany now serves Michigan Campus Compact as the AmeriCorps\* VISTA at Oakland University where she works with faculty to incorporate service learning into new courses. She also collaborates with student organizations to get students more involved with service work in the local communities. She has developed the Leadership and Volunteer Center at Oakland University to include many volunteer opportunities and programs for students including the VIP program, the Community Service Council and Make it a Point to volunteer programs.

March is Reading Month and Oakland University decided to celebrate reading with a book drive. The Leadership and Volunteer Center teamed up with Sigma Tau Delta, an academic student organization at the university, to collect books for Beyond Basics. Beyond Basics is a non-profit organization that works in Detroit Public Schools to tutor children who are below reading level, work with children to write their own book in the publishing center, and even provide art classes for students. On March 3, the book drive kicked off with Chelsea Grimmer, OU student and program director for Beyond Basics, speaking about the need for books in Detroit Public Schools. She explained the importance of literacy and shared startling facts with the audience about literacy in Detroit. Throughout the month students, staff and faculty at OU donated 616 books. On March 31, members of the Community Service Council and Sigma Tau Delta delivered the books to Beyond Basics. Children in Detroit Public Schools will receive the books as a gift from Beyond Basics after they write their own story in the publishing center. This was the first campus-wide book drive completed by Oakland University and the first time Beyond Basics has received donations from a campus wide book drive. It was just one of the many service projects the service council completed during the semester.

**A note from her supervisor, Chris Jensen:** It has been a pleasure working with Tiffany. Her effort to establish a service council has highlighted the importance of service learning. Tiffany has built the foundation of service on campus for students, staff, and faculty by bridging the gap between the work in student services and academic affairs. We are looking forward to having Tiffany on campus for another year.

**A note from her supervisor, Scott Crabill:** Tiffany's efforts in coordinating events like this, and the creation of the service council, have been crucial for Oakland University's creation of meaningful service learning projects. Through events such as the university-wide book drive, Tiffany has formalized

Oakland University's partnerships with the community and devised a student structure that bridges the gap between student affairs and academic affairs. The creation of the service council is a direct impact upon our campus culture which will continue to shape how students approach service. Tiffany's sincere commitment to giving back and her desire to create an environment of service has earned her respect from students, staff, and faculty. It is great to have such a motivated and committed person so deeply invested in our university.