



UNC
CAROLINA CENTER
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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AASHE Stars

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is a recognized and innovative leader in public service and engagement. UNC regards public service as core to its mission, along with teaching and research. Students, faculty, and staff are all encouraged and supported to engage with local, statewide, and national communities to reach underserved populations and address critical issues. A hallmark of the approach is to infuse the concept of engagement into academic endeavors and to connect the efforts of students, faculty, and staff. To support this approach of engaged scholarship, UNC established the Center for Public Service in 1999. The Center coordinates service opportunities for all interested students.

In 2003, the Center established the Public Service Scholars program to provide developmental opportunities and promote the concept of service beyond traditional volunteerism to include organizational service, policy and advocacy work, fundraising and philanthropy as well as social innovation and entrepreneurship. Students who contribute more than 300 hours of service, take a service learning course, and participate in leadership development workshops are formally recognized on their academic transcripts after submitting a final portfolio. A class of 197 Public Service Scholars graduated in 2010. Since the program's inception, more than 4,000 students have participated in the Public Service Scholars Program and volunteered 684,000 hours.

In addition, more than 2,400 students enrolled in service learning courses during the 2009-2010 school year, completing more than 82,000 hours of service with more than 100 community organizations and connecting the experience to the academic content of the course. The US News and World Report named UNC-Chapel Hill one of the best colleges for service-learning in 2011.

In 2009 UNC was the only tier one research campus in the country to receive one of six Presidential Awards as part of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, and in 2006 UNC was one of just 62 campuses to be named a Community-Engaged University by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Every day UNC-Chapel Hill students, faculty and staff are working to make a difference in communities throughout North Carolina and around the world.

Sincerely,

Lynn Blanchard
Director, Carolina Center for Public Service
UNC Chapel Hill