

PRESS RELEASE: COLLEGE CHALLENGE

NYC SERVICE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF INAUGURAL COLLEGE CHALLENGE

18 partner colleges and universities participated in first College Challenge.

Over 4,000 college students logged hours of service.

The City's Chief Service Officer, Diahann Billings-Burford, announced the winners of the College Challenge today. Launched in January, the College Challenge began with a breakfast between the Mayor and representatives from eighteen participating colleges and universities from across New York City. Participating colleges and universities designated a liaison to promote both the College Challenge and service on their campus. All participants mobilized their students to log their service hours on NYC Service's website and submitted a Service Portfolio which highlighted the state of service on their campus.

"It is invigorating to see the healthy state of service on our college campuses," said CSO Billings-Burford. "The college students of today will become the leaders of tomorrow, and it's inspiring and heartening to see such a commitment to serving the communities in which they live and study. I also applaud the administrators of our partner colleges and universities, who show a strong dedication to serving New York City."

Candidates were evaluated on service hours logged by their students, along with a Service Portfolio assembled by each school. The ten students who logged the most service hours will be offered an internship with a City agency this summer, and all partners will be invited to Gracie Mansion in June.

The following College Challenge partners have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to service and the College Challenge:

Distinguished Award in Service: St Johns University

The Distinguished Award in Service is a measure of excellent campus mobilization to participate in service and creating a campus environment to foster service.

Distinguished Award in Service: College of Staten Island

The Distinguished Award in Service for strong campus mobilization, an extensive network of community partnerships and a willingness to make the Challenge a central part of the campus' plan for service.

Honorable Mention: Barnard College

The Honorable Mention for strong campus mobilization and a foundation of institutional infrastructure that promotes the value of service to students and alumni.

Special Recognition to: The New School

For the widest array of service events both on and off campus.

Special Recognition to: Fordham University

For innovative means of using service both through professional school programs that integrate service learning and the Global Outreach program that provides alternative breaks.

Special Recognition to: Queens College

For contributions by faculty in the academic area of service and service learning, providing service opportunities outside of New York and relief for Haiti.

NYC Service would like to thank each of the following colleges and universities for taking part in this unique initiative:

Brooklyn College, President Dr. Karen L. Gould
Barnard College, President Debora L. Spar
Berkeley College, President Dario A. Cortes, PhD
Bronx Community College, President Carolyn G. Williams, PhD
College of Staten Island, President Tomas D. Morales, PhD
Columbia University, President Lee C. Bollinger
Fordham University, President Joseph M. McShane, S.J
Hunter College, President Jennifer J. Raab
Lehman College, President Ricardo R. Fernandez
Marymount Manhattan College, President Judson R. Shaver, PhD
New York School of Interior Design, President Dr. Christopher J. Cyphers
New York University, President John Sexton
Pace University, President Stephen J. Friedman
Pratt Institute, President Thomas F. Schutte
Queens College, President James L. Muyskens
St. Johns University, President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, CM
The New School, President Robert Kerrey
Wagner College, President Richard Guarasci

About NYC Service

NYC Service was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet his State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama's national call to volunteerism. The program has three core goals: channel the power of volunteers to address the impacts of the current economic downturn, make New York the easiest city in America in which to serve, and ensure every young person in New York City is taught about civic engagement and has an opportunity to serve. NYC Service aims to drive volunteer resources to six impact areas where New York City's needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, education, health, emergency preparedness and the environment. New Yorkers can find opportunities to serve their communities by visiting www.nyc.gov or by calling 311.