



Celebrating 15 years

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:30PM  
ON THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 2008**

*Illinois* | **Campus Compact**

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## **Three Illinois partnerships between college campuses and community organizations earn Carter Awards**

***DePaul University, Loyola University and McKendree University honored***

CHICAGO (Nov. 6, 2008)—Three Illinois universities that are members of Illinois Campus Compact and their community partners tonight received the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation Award for their accomplishments in civic engagement.

They are DePaul University and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago's Humboldt Park, Loyola University and Chicago Public School's George B. Swift Specialty School in the Edgewater neighborhood, and McKendree University in Lebanon and Christian Activity Center in nearby East St. Louis.

Miguel A. Satut, program director of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, presented the awards on behalf of the Carter Foundation during the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for Illinois Campus Compact at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at The Palmer House Hilton in Chicago.

As first place award recipients, DePaul University and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center will share equally in a \$15,000 prize. Since 2001, DePaul students have actively learned about social and economic issues facing the Puerto Rican community in Chicago, including urban gentrification, housing, education and literacy. Actual service learning is done on projects in partnership with community organizations and local small businesses.

Second place award-winners Loyola University and the George B. Swift Specialty School received \$7,000 to share equally. Their program, started in 1991, places Loyola University School of Education students at Swift School with the goal of improving student achievement through innovative instructional practices introduced by Loyola student teachers. Swift is an elementary school that serves a diverse student body as well as a fine arts and performing arts magnet school for the Chicago Public School system.

McKendree University and the Christian Activity Center placed third and received \$5,000 to share equally. Established in 1990, this partnership gives McKendree students the opportunity to assist East St. Louis youths through tutoring, college preparation and recreational activities. This program encourages students to explore issues of poverty, social justice and diversity in the local community.

"I congratulate the three honorees of this year's Carter Partnership Award. They were selected from an outstanding field of 14 applicants from across the state," says Kathy Engelken, executive director of Illinois Campus Compact. "Our communities are fortunate to have

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## **Carter Partnership Awards/add one**

enthusiastic students who dedicate time and effort to promote service-learning on their campuses.”

“These awards recognize the wonderful work that these students accomplish outside of their normal class work,” Engelken adds. “We also appreciate and acknowledge the investment of our community partners and faculty mentors for the guidance they provide to our program.”

## **Collaboration in Chicago’s Humboldt Park —a step out of the ivory tower**

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood helps community members explore issues pertaining to the Puerto Rican migration to Chicago. Through the outreach efforts of DePaul’s Steans Center, the PRCC offers the local community assistance on issues such as education, child care, AIDS awareness and prevention, and obesity prevention.

Participating DePaul students learn directly from community activists and local residents of Humboldt Park in a class titled “Perspectives on Community Service” overseen by Professor Howard Rosing. Other class topics include parenting in multicultural systems and public service management. By creating a space outside of a traditional classroom, students gain firsthand experience on how a low-income immigrant community works and the challenges it faces.

In addition, DePaul faculty and staff provide technical support, assist in program development, conduct community-based research, and collaborate with PRCC staff members to present their programs at national and regional conferences.

## **Student-teachers expand resources for at-risk high school students**

Student teachers from Loyola University gain practical experience through their work at Swift School, where they assist teachers in designing and implementing a curriculum that integrates the arts with general education. In addition to improving overall student achievement, they provide guidance on options for post-secondary education and address issues regarding personal health and safety. They also use the performing arts to engage students in participating in collaborative activities such as choir and band.

Swift School faculty benefit from having additional support, which increases their classroom options and allows time for career development. The Loyola students work with Swift School students in very small groups or one on one.

The program has proven to be highly productive and satisfying by providing relevant service-learning opportunities for Loyola School of Education students while providing regular and consistent contact with Swift School students, including assisting special weekend classes and off-campus field trips.

## **Diversity and social justice**

Participants in McKendree University’s partnership with the Christian Activity Center cite the experience as being powerful and eye-opening. University students, who are predominantly white and middle class, interact with African-American youths, most from low-income households.

## **Carter Partnership Awards/add two**

While initially conceived as a program for McKendree students to assist with tutoring and on-site recreational activities, the program also introduces youths at the Center to a university environment that can often seem intimidating. While they learn to navigate the requirements of college life, McKendree students expand their knowledge of social issues, including structural causes of poverty and stereotypical thinking.

### **Finalists drawn from statewide competition**

A selection committee of leaders in higher education, business, government organizations and community groups selected the Carter Award winners from campus-community partnerships across the state of Illinois. Fourteen Illinois Campus Compact members submitted entries for consideration.

### **About Illinois Campus Compact**

Illinois Campus Compact is comprised of 42 university and college presidents who make service-learning and civic engagement a priority on their campuses. As members, presidents lead their faculty, staff and students in seeking ways to benefit communities near their campuses and around the world. The registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization also guides educators in integrating those programs into curricula.

It is part of Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents representing more than a quarter of all higher education institutions and some 6 million students in higher education.

### **About the Carter Partnership Award**

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration is one of the programs organized by the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation. The award is named for President and Mrs. Carter as a tribute to their lifelong efforts to develop and support safe, healthy and caring communities throughout the world. In public office and in their daily lives, they have consistently supported the common good through cooperation, mutual learning and shared responsibility.

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FYI To interview Carter Award recipients and Kathy Engelken, please contact Dileep Gangolli, 847-902-0733.