CSM Named to Honor Roll with Distinction

OMAHA, Neb. – For the third year in a row, College of Saint Mary’s (CSM) has made the U.S. President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, as recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service. College of Saint Mary has been on the Honor Roll every year since 2008. There are three categories of recognition: Honor Roll, Honor Roll with Distinction and Presidential Awardees. College of Saint Mary is the only Catholic and private university in Nebraska to be listed on the Honor Roll “with distinction” in 2013.

CSM students, from Spring 2012 to Spring 2013, provided 18,786 hours of service impacting 125 communities and organizations. The majority of these hours are through CSM’s unique service-learning program which incorporates a service component in the educational curriculum. Thirty-nine different courses, involving an average of 555 students, have a service learning component. Some examples are:

- Education majors teach math and science to at-risk girls, ages 6 to 12, while simultaneously developing an understanding, as future teachers, of innovative ways to present these important subjects. This is accomplished in eight-week sessions each semester on the CSM campus.

- RN-BSN students complete service in a variety of underserved (often rural) areas for their Community Health Practicum. As registered nurses, they provide professional services to agencies that often are short in staffing and assistance. They realize the need for compassionate service to others through the use of available resources.

- The Spirituality & Peacebuilding class travels each year to El Paso, TX where they work side by side with impoverished minorities and immigrants.

The Spirituality & Peacebuilding class sent six students to El Paso, TX during spring break, March 9 to 16. Students learn about nonviolent ways of dealing with conflicts, such as conflict mediation, restorative justice and nonviolent resistance. The trip then focuses on traveling to the border of the
United States and Mexico to learn more about immigration and border issues and the violence that is currently so prevalent in Mexico and other parts of Central and South America. Students learn about the living experiences of immigrants, how the judicial and legislative systems are responding to them and what nonprofits along the border are doing to help them. It is a trip that is about consciousness raising in relation to these issues.

Additionally, a group of nine CSM students through Campus Ministry went during spring break to Flagtap, Kentucky, for their Workfest Alternative Spring Break, working deep in the poverty-stricken Appalachian region. They are working on homes in Kentucky by building new and repairing existing ones. Projects the students partook in included roofing, hanging drywall, flooring, painting, siding, window replacement, insulation, underpinning and new home construction.

Each spring as a community, College of Saint Mary staff, students and faculty gather together for a Spirit of Service Day. Now in its 16th year, Spirit of Service Day, scheduled for April 11, 2013 impacts between 30-40 organizations whose focus is primarily women and children.

The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. A total of 690 higher education institutions were named to this year’s Honor Roll. Combined, the Honor Roll awardees engaged 3.1 million students in community service for a total of 118 million services hours. This is 2.5 billion dollars in value to communities across the country.

Quick Facts:

- CSM students, from Spring 2012 to Spring 2013, provided 18,786 hours of service impacting 125 communities
- Thirty-nine different courses, involving an average of 555 students, have a service learning component
- “Spirit of Service” seeks to foster taking hold in class and spreading across campus and into the community

**College of Saint Mary, founded in Omaha in 1923, is the region’s only Catholic college for women. With approximately 1,000 students, CSM is dedicated to the education of women in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership. For more information on CSM, visit CSM.edu.**

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