



WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Culture / Arts / Performance

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### **New York University**

Community & Economic Development, Culture/Arts/Performance, Health/Nutrition, Special Needs, International Service

### **Service Abroad**

The Office of Global Education and the Office of Community Service have collaborated to ensure that New York University (NYU) students are actively engaged in meaningful service in Florence, London, Prague, and Accra. The staffs at NYU's global centers have developed relationships with local agencies where students gain a richer appreciation of their host communities. NYU in Ghana has become our flagship for international service with 85% of the students participating in ongoing service at organizations including The West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF), Osu Children's Home, New Horizons School for the Developmentally Disabled, and Habitat for Humanity.

Students dedicate countless hours to the completion of significant projects. For example, NYU student Katherine Otto coordinated an AIDS awareness poster competition which engaged school children in art projects to raise awareness about the disease and fight prejudice against those suffering from it. The winning posters were displayed at an art exhibit/fundraiser which brought in over \$25,000 to support WAAF. At the New Horizons School for the Developmentally Disabled, another NYU student, Kristen Rhea Van Liew, launched a joint dance program with students from the University of Ghana. The recital raised \$5,000 for the school and provided the students with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

For More Information:

Gloria Cahill  
Director, Office of Community Service  
New York University  
25 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 503  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 998-2349  
[gloria.cahill@nyu.edu](mailto:gloria.cahill@nyu.edu)



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### **Occidental College**

At-Risk Youth, Culture/Arts/Performance, Education

### **Arts for Appreciation and Achievement**

Created and run by students, the goal of Occidental College's Arts for Appreciation and Achievement (AAA) is to instill in elementary school children an appreciation and life-long affinity for the performing arts, as well as to increase their academic achievement and desire to continue their education beyond high school. Now in its third year, AAA introduces nearly 150 Garvanza students to ballet, Afro-Haitian, hula, and jazz dance, theater, and music by creating curriculums containing elements of history, technique, audio/visual reinforcements, memory and critical thinking games, creative expression, and opportunities to see professional performances. Courses are taught by 20 Occidental College students each year, and are offered through the after-school program provided by LA's Best (a public-private school enrichment program) for one hour per week each semester.

Occidental students volunteered approximately 100 hours last year. The program's operation through Occidental's Center for Community Based Learning, and collaboration with the college's Education, Music and Theatre departments, Afro-Haitian Dance Company, and student performing arts clubs in addition to contacts with Pasadena Dance Theatre and the Francisco Martinez Dance Company, have made it possible for the program to experience continued growth and expansion with each year. AAA's contributions have been credited by Garvanza for helping to nearly double the amount of children participating in LA's Best.

For More Information:

Maria Avila  
Center for Community Based Learning  
Occidental College  
1600 Campus Road  
7200 York Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90041  
(323) 259-1496  
[mavila@oxy.edu](mailto:mavila@oxy.edu)



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### **Swarthmore College**

Community & Economic Development, Culture/Arts/Performance

### **Chester Mural Project**

The Chester Mural Collective uses public art to express community voices, beautify and rejuvenate the City of Chester, and provide free art education to community residents. Eleven students, five faculty, and five staff members from Swarthmore College are involved in organizing and creating the murals themselves and a free community arts program for children and adults that creates new opportunities for local artists.

Murals draw attention to the profound beauty and devastation of the city, remind people of the talent and creativity of residents, and reflect its history. The project will continue to be supported by community partners and Swarthmore College students.

For More Information:

Patricia James

Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility

Swarthmore College

500 College Avenue

Swarthmore, PA 19081

(610) 328-7320

[pjames1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:pjames1@swarthmore.edu)



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### **Syracuse University**

At-Risk Youth, Community & Economic Development, Culture/Arts/Performance, Education, Health/Nutrition

### **South Side Initiatives**

South Side Initiatives (SSI), are on going projects which look at an entire range of economic, health, education, and safety issues. In 2005-06, SSI involved more than 200 students from Syracuse University. SSI represents many new partnerships that have been forged on the Syracuse's South Side, an area with untapped potential that has been struggling through a period of economic decline. Activities include: the Genesis Health Project, which works with neighborhood churches to educate congregants about healthier lifestyles in the city's African American community; a campaign that works with local barbershops to educate African American men about prostate cancer and the importance of early screening for the disease; satellite locations for two African American performing and visual arts organizations with ties to the University; a billboard project that partnered SU advertising students with neighborhood teens and a Syracuse University artist to create a series of billboards featuring inspiring messages of hope.

The focus of the projects is on the direct involvement of residents, citizens, and businesses within the identified geographic area and thus they are closely involved with identifying needs, creating strategies, and implementing solutions.

For More Information:  
Pamela Kirwin Heintz  
Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service  
Syracuse University  
237 Schine Student Center  
Syracuse, NY 13244  
(315) 443-3051  
[pkheintz@syr.edu](mailto:pkheintz@syr.edu)