

# OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., *Governor* • Isaac E. Randolph Jr., *Executive Director*

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism Reflects the Best in Volunteer Service**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 27, 2008) "Learning from Yesterday; Preparing for Tomorrow" was the theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone at the Crossing. Participants from a variety of volunteer and service-learning disciplines attended to learn and network with the State's best and brightest practitioners in the field. Governor Mitch Daniels welcomed the 595 conference attendees in attendance at the opening ceremony along with Executive Directors Ike Randolph of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and Jackie McCracken of Indiana Campus Compact, who served as conference co-hosts. The agencies' collaboration, the first in Conference history, was a partnership that welcomed members of both academia and service volunteerism from across the State.

Conference attendees engaged in over 80 breakout sessions designed to strengthen their leadership skills, network with peers, and discuss new strategies for civic engagement, service-learning and volunteer service. The breakout sessions were presented in seven conference tracks that covered areas such as; Communication and Marketing, Youth Development, Volunteer Management, Capacity Building, and Higher Education Service-Learning. Workshops featured sessions designed for introductory and intermediate-advanced learners.



Attendees get a chance to chat with keynote speaker Henry Lozano (left) before the Awards Luncheon.

The Awards luncheon held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and hosted by Angela Cain, Director of Community Affairs of Indianapolis news channel WTHR, featured keynote speaker Henry C. Lozano, Director of USA Freedom Corps. In his position within President Bush's cabinet, Mr. Lozano is tasked with implementing our country's vision for volunteerism and service in America. Mr. Lozano along with Mr. Randolph presented the Governor's Awards for Volunteer Service. Noted as Indiana's most prestigious awards celebrating the accomplishments

of dedicated volunteers and practitioners, honorees were selected from the six categories of youth, service-learning, faith-based, volunteerism, national service and lifetime achievement.

Governor's Award for Volunteer Service honorees were:

- Community Volunteerism Dr. Rajih Haddawi, Bloomington
- Faith-Based Contribution Naomi Mynatt, Danville
- National Service TaShawna Williams, Indianapolis
- Service-Learning Kathy Buck, Amanda Snyder, Christin Meador, and Marcia Kirk, Indianapolis
- Youth Service Christina Pena, Ligonier
- Lifetime Achievement Helen Espinosa, Huntington

Indiana Campus Compact (ICC) also presented awards at the luncheon to honor students, faculty, and staff from Indiana colleges and universities. The award winners were selected for their efforts to build stronger service-learning and civic engagement programs on their campuses and in their local communities.

ICC award winners were:

- M. Ange Cooksey, Indiana University East – Brian Douglas Hiltunen Award  
The award recognizes one faculty member who has provided outstanding contributions to the scholarship of engagement in higher education.
- Judy Back, Purdue University North Central – Community Service Director Award  
The award recognizes those who facilitate and inspire service learning to create the campus and community connection.
- Tim Polakowski, Manchester College – Richard J. Wood Award  
The award recognizes one student who has demonstrated a determination to build long-term partnerships that positively impact community problems.

Dr. Alan Harre, President of Valparaiso University, was also honored for his leadership on the board of Indiana Campus Compact. Harre received the Presidential Award, which recognizes the President or Chancellor of an ICC college or university for outstanding commitment to the fields of service-learning and civic engagement and advocacy for higher education's involvement on behalf of local communities.

2008 marks ICC's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A celebration was held at the conference on the evening of Tuesday, March 25 to commemorate 15 years of building campus and community partnerships. College and university presidents, students, and faculty who founded ICC spoke about the organization's humble beginnings. ICC has grown from a six-campus consortium in 1993 to a membership of 44 campuses throughout the state today.

Attendees returned on Wednesday to continue participation in the second day of conference sessions and engage in the various networking opportunities held throughout venue; including a networking lunch and a national service meeting.

In keeping with the conference theme of community service, attendees joined with local corporate partners in support of "a peanut butter and jelly drive" benefiting three homeless shelters from across the state. The Vincent House of Fort Wayne, Horizon House of Indianapolis, and the Haven House of Jeffersonville, were the beneficiaries of the over 350 jars of peanut butter and jelly donated by participants and the stores of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Madhar Food mart, Walgreens, the



Attendees enjoy one of over 80 breakout sessions offered at the conference.

French Connection Food Mart and Double 8. The donations will assist the shelters in meeting the nutritional needs of their residents with over 4020 sandwiches!

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The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives promotes service and volunteerism in the State of Indiana. Working together with other government agencies, AmeriCorps\*State programs, volunteer centers, and faith-based and community organizations, the OFBCI helps Hoosiers to develop and implement solutions in their own communities. Visit our website at [www.ofbci.in.gov](http://www.ofbci.in.gov).

Indiana Campus Compact (ICC) is a network of 44 Indiana colleges and universities working with students, faculty, and staff to promote service-learning and civic engagement. Their mission is to educate citizens, prepare tomorrow's leaders, and contribute to the quality of life of America's communities. This year marks ICC's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To learn more, visit [www.indianacampuscompact.org](http://www.indianacampuscompact.org).