

April/May 2016

Contact Us



The Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is dedicated to Creighton University's commitment to excellence in teaching and student learning by offering faculty and staff the opportunity to:

*Imagine...*the Opportunities.  
*Reflect...*on Best Practices.  
*Collaborate...*with Campus Colleagues.  
*Transform...*Student Learning.

Creighton University exists for students and learning. Faculty and staff pursue an excellence in teaching and student learning that extends beyond the brick and mortar of our classrooms into the communities in which we live, to include service learning.

Contact AEA to learn more about service learning processes, faculty development programming,

Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 

## 2016 REPORT ON PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Creighton University has participated in the [President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) since it launched in 2006 and recognized "With Distinction" in 2014 (previously 2007).

Thank you to the many individuals from different offices, colleges and schools who helped compile the data for our submission to the President's Honor Roll for Community Service.

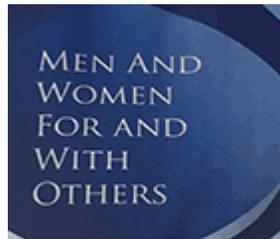
Creighton University proudly reported **more than 1.25 million total student service hours for the reporting year (2014-2015)**. The actual number is 1,337,460 hours. The report shows that **4,799 Creighton students engaged in academic, co-curricular or community service; 72% (3,470) of Creighton students engaged in some form of academic service-learning and 3,734 students participated in more than 20 hours of service in a given semester.**

For more information, contact [Mary Ann Danielson](#) at 402.280.2535

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assessment, course design, effective teaching methods, and/or the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

Find past issues of this newsletter [here](#).



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature the **Give and Go: Move Out 2016** and the **Water Quality Program 2016**.

The [Sustainability Council](#), [Department of Residence Life](#) and the [Inter Residence Hall Government](#) partner with [Keep America Beautiful](#) and [Goodwill](#) in the national **Give and Go: Move Out 2016** program. The program is designed to put to "good re-use" items students don't want as they leave campus for the summer. During May 4-7, special donation bins will be strategically placed across campus for students to use while cleaning out their residence hall rooms.



Also, a special thank you to **John and Shirley Walker** and others for all the work they have done over the years with their "**Creightonians Helping the Less Fortunate**" program. For more than 10 years, they developed a robust program to collect, sort and donate materials left behind by the students in the residence halls at the end of the school year. By doing this, they saved many thousands of pounds of materials from the landfills while providing much-needed goods to charities across Omaha. You can read more about the Walkers and their program in this [article from the Omaha World-Herald](#).

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**The Water Quality Program 2016** is lead by the [Institute for Latin American Concern](#) (ILAC) and will be held May 9 through June 3.

Students visit rural *campos* to analyze water samples and correct problems with water filters. Following the analysis, students return to the *campo* to explain the results and educate the Dominicans about correct usage and maintenance habits.

By working with the Dominicans, this program has the ability to impact the current and future health of rural communities.

Students experience service that is not about serving the community, but rather about serving with the community and creating a shared sense of dignity and accomplishment.



For more information contact:  
Professor [Gary Michels](#), Ph.D.,  
(Chemistry).

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#### METRO-AREA COALITION FOR SERVICE-LEARNING NEWS

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Creighton is a member of the **Metropolitan-Area Coalition for Service-Learning (MACSL)**, along with representatives from the College of Saint Mary, Metropolitan Community College, Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Iowa Western Community College.

The coalition seeks to: (1) increase collaboration and share selected service-learning programming among seven metro-area universities; (2) offer coordinated programming on a selected topic each semester; and (3) bring university and college resources together in educating students and the public about selected significant local, national and international issues.

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Biology senior, **Tyler Jones** was awarded the First Place Undergraduate Prize of \$250 for the poster he presented, "[Effects of Varying Nitrate Levels on Water Preference of Physa](#)" at the **Sustainability Launchpad Earth Day Event 2016** program held on April 22. Jones joined in the conversation with state and local water experts in the discussion of challenges and opportunities relevant to urban sustainability.



The program was co-sponsored by the Center for Urban Sustainability at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and MACSL.

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#### CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

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#### [NORTH OMAHA - CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS](#)

University Mission and Ministry is offering a North Omaha - Context and Connections immersion experience, hosted by the Schlegel Center for



Service and Justice and led by Ken Reed-Bouley.

Join colleagues in learning more about Creighton's neighborhood, especially the North Omaha Village Zone, visit community sites and speak with local leaders. Highlights will include: lunch at Big Mama's and visiting Love's Jazz and Arts Center.

**[Register to attend the North Omaha: Context and Connections](#) program on Fri., May 20; 8-1:30; SCSJ Suite 2067.**

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### CHEMISTRY FIELD DAY



[Chemistry](#) majors and faculty showcased their passion for science during the Chemistry Field Day, held April 17, to about 100 metro-area high school students. The goal of the day is to inspire the younger students pursue an education in science. Throughout the day, 21 Creighton student team competed in lab and academic contests in various science rooms on campus. [Read Omaha World-Herald article.](#)

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### SAND IN THE CITY



Creighton University will have a team once again this year for "[Sand in the City](#)". This is a fundraiser for the [Nebraska Children's Home Society](#). The team will be sand sculpting and competing with local area businesses on June 10. The sculptures will be open to the public for viewing and voting June 11-12. More information contact [Chris Karasek](#).

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### RECOMMENDED READING

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The [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#) (AAC&U) [Diversity & Democracy](#) publication offers insights on civic learning for shared futures. In the Winter 2016 issue, volume 19, no. 1, the article, [Traversing Divides: Service Learning in the Writing Center](#) reveals how service learning connects

course content to the community in tangible, experiential ways.

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The [Association of Jesuit College and Universities \(AJCU\) \*Connections-April 2016\*](#) focuses on faculty, staff, students and alumni at school after Jesuit school who are compelled to express in their initiatives the vision made so compelling by Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si'* (Latin for "Praise Be to You"). The *Laudato Si'* response goes beyond the on-campus initiatives described in these articles. [Read publication.](#)

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#### UPCOMING NEWS TO SHARE

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#### SHARE YOUR NEWS

It is energizing to witness the students become "men and women for others" on their educational journey at Creighton University. To that, AEA would like to continue in the spirit, by inviting you to share information on service that will be taking place in your division/college/school during the spring 2016 semester, focusing on:



- campus events (are you hosting any campus event which incorporates service-learning activity?)
- course work (are you incorporating a service-learning event or activity to your fall schedule)
- recommended reading (any service-learning article that you've recently read that would benefit the Creighton community)
- upcoming conferences (any upcoming conference in your area related to service-learning?)
- community connections (any outside organization/non-profits you are working with on upcoming events which may need volunteers?)

To submit information or if you have questions, contact [Mary Emmer](#) at 402.280.1190.

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#### REQUEST FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

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[International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement](#) (IARSLCE) is accepting nominations for the following 2016 awards. A new award category being recognized this year is the Community-Engaged Research Team Recognition. **Nominations due May 24.** Awardees will be recognized at the 2016 IARSLCE conference, Sept. 26-28, New Orleans, LA. [Conference information.](#)

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The [International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement](#) (IJRSLCE) announce that the deadline for submitting manuscripts for the 2016 volume of IJRSLCE has been extended. **The new deadline is May 27.** [More information.](#)

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#### COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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#### ADOPT-A-PARK

[Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc.](#), has been working for over 50 years with litter reduction, beautification and environmental education. Volunteers are needed to help clean, beautify and maintain a park location near your association, school or home. Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. will supply bags, equipment or gloves if needed. [For more information.](#)

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#### DISASTER ACTION TEAM



[American Red Cross](#) Disaster Action Team volunteers respond to single-family fires 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Volunteers work on an on-call basis, according to their schedules. The Disaster Action Team provides support for affected families, as well as emergency workers on scene. To learn more, contact [Nathan Woodruff](#), 402.441.6391, operations manager, at Red Cross in Omaha.

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#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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[Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), June 27-29, Detroit, MI.

[International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IARSLCE\)](#), Sept. 26-28, New Orleans, LA.

[Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference](#), Oct. 11-12, Omaha, NE.

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