



Region VII After School Programs Technical Assistance Newsletter

Regional System of Field Support Team

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Greetings Everyone,

It is with mixed emotions that I am informing you of my resignation effective December 9, 2005. As some of you may be aware, an unforeseen, but welcoming opportunity causes my relocation into the Santa Cruz area. I am venturing out into new opportunities and will work as an Independent After School Consultant throughout the state.

I would like express how much I truly enjoyed my position as Regional Lead for After School Programs in Region VII. The flexibility, dedication and commitment of all of you made my job very enjoyable!

I do, however, leave you in very capable hands with our current team of Sallie, Ediel, Sandra, Carlos, and one new addition. I would like to introduce you to Maria Magallanes, your new Regional Lead, who brings with her experience in providing assistance to programs in the health field. Prior to coming to our office, Maria worked for the Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles County providing health care advocacy, education, trainings and technical assistance to local community based organizations. Most notably, she served as a liaison between policy makers and local programs.

Maria has a successful track record in program planning, implementation and evaluation. Maria received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Saint Mary's College of California and her Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Southern California. Maria brings with her a tremendous amount of experience and expertise that will prove to be an asset to each and every one of your programs.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, I will be working with Maria for the next two weeks to provide assistance in the Regional Lead Office. I will truly miss my team and my colleagues, but most importantly, my friends here in the Region. I am hopeful that I will have the opportunity to continue to work with your programs again, although in a different capacity.

Best of luck to all of you and your programs!

Please feel free to forward this message as necessary.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

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americalearns

November's Strategy of the Month

This month's strategy is from LaTarsha Bernard, a second year AmeriCorps member with America Reads - Mississippi. LaTarsha developed an engaging, easy to implement arts and crafts strategy to help her students learn about nouns. Check out the strategy below!

We hope the strategy is helpful to the children you serve. Please share your experiences of using this strategy with us at success@americalearns.net.

To your success,
[The America Learns Team](#)
 310.709.4947

We're thrilled that the following organizations have decided to use the Network to accelerate and streamline their reporting work while providing rapid, personalized support to their tutors and mentors.

- Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate Program ([website](#));
- Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools ([website](#)); and
- City Year Detroit ([website](#)).

City Year Detroit is joining seven other national service programs that are already using the Network. Learn more about the Network at <http://americalearns.net/network.htm>.

Organizations evaluating the Network often ask how many reading, interpersonal, and social-emotional development strategies exist in the [Network's](#) National Strategy Database for specific grade levels. Since the question is asked so often, we decided to briefly share that info with you in this newsletter.

We add new strategies to the Network every month based on the daily goals and challenges faced by on-the-ground tutors and mentors nationwide.

Grade	Number of Strategies
Pre-K	90
K	147
1st	186
2nd	171
3rd	190
4th	181
5th	170
6th	142

City Year Detroit is joining seven other national service programs that are already using the Network. Learn more about the Network at <http://americalearns.net/network.htm>.

Around the World with Nouns (Introducing Nouns to Students)

Source:	LaTarsha Bernard, America Reads - Mississippi (website)
Topics:	Grammar
Grade Levels:	Second - Fourth
Arrangement:	One-on-One Small Group
Web site:	http://americalearns.net/strategy.htm

Materials:

- Age-appropriate magazines
- Poster board
- Glue, paste, rubber cement or tape
- Scissors

Situation:

I created this arts and crafts strategy to engage my students while helping them learn that a noun can be a person, place or thing.

Step 1:

Have students cut pictures from magazines that describe either people, places, or things.

Step 2:

Draw three columns on the poster board, and label one column as "People," one as "Places," and one as "Things."

Step 3:

Have students glue their pictures under the right category.

After the pictures have been glued, use the board to introduce and reinforce the concept of a noun. You might say, "Take a look at all these pictures. They describe people, places and things. Whenever we use a person, place or thing in our writing, we can also call that word a noun. For example, if I wrote the sentence, 'Jimmy is happy,' the word 'Jimmy' is a noun because 'Jimmy' is a person. A noun is always a person, a place or a thing."

Step 4:

Add a border around the board and display it in the classroom, hallway or another public place. The students will love this activity!

Other Grammar Strategies (for Network users):

- [Verb-athon!](#)
- [Repairing Run-on Sentences](#)
- [Possessive Words \(Helping Students Understand Apostrophes\)](#)
- [Past, Present & Future \(Learning Verb Tenses\)](#)
- ["I Spy..." \(Reinforcing Subject & Verb Agreement\)](#)

Please cite this strategy if you copy it.

October 2005's America Learns Strategy of the Month: Around the World with Nouns.
<http://americalearns.net/strategy.htm>

Materials Needed:

- Age-appropriate magazines
- Poster board
- Glue, paste, rubber cement or tape
- Scissors

Funding Opportunities

1. FUNDING: Service Learning

Approximately \$40 million in grant funds will be available, subject to congressional appropriation, to support service-learning projects in a variety of settings. The grant funds will be divided between school-based, community-based, higher education, and tribal and U.S. territory programs. The funding is for the 2006-2007 school year, with possible continued funding for two more years.

This competition is particularly focused on ensuring that more youth in disadvantaged circumstances are able to engage in service-learning and on expanding the use of service-learning to more schools, colleges, and community organizations. Funds are available to intermediary organizations and may be used to create curriculum materials; support training and technical assistance activities; and make subgrants to local partnerships to carry out service-learning. Information and application instructions are at [http://nslp.convio.net/site/R?i=9q8BawY0N-nRW6Qh_NgcVA] http://nslp.convio.net/site/R?i=9q8BawY0N-nRW6Qh_NgcVA

Technical assistance on applying for the funding will be available to potential grantees during three scheduled for:

Nov. 21: 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 6: 1 to 2:30 p.m.; and

Dec. 8: 2 to 3:30 p.m., all at Eastern Standard Time.

Call 202.606.7510 to participate.

The deadlines for applications are:

Feb. 2, 2006 - school-based formula;

Mar. 7 - school-based competitive, community-based, and tribal and territory

Feb. 28. - higher education, both for individual and consortia programs.

Website: [http://nslp.convio.net/site/R?i=9q8BawY0N-nRW6Qh_NgcVA] http://nslp.convio.net/site/R?i=9q8BawY0N-nRW6Qh_NgcVA

2. FUNDING: Youth Football Grants

USAAU Football Grants to recognize local agencies for their creative strategies in the development of youth football, as well as innovative methods of using youth football programming as an effective teaching tool and positive motivator of young people.

Approximately \$40 million in grant funds will be available, subject to congressional appropriation, to support service-learning projects in a variety of settings.

Maximum Award: \$500-\$1,250. Two grants per year possible if agency runs a fall and spring program.

Eligibility: member clubs of the Amateur Athletic Union. Deadline: N/A.

http://www.aaunfflagfootball.org/default.asp?a=pg_GetAAUGrant.htm

3. FUNDING: Youth Nutrition & Fitness Grant Program

General Mills Foundation Champions Youth Nutrition and Fitness grant program to encourage communities in the United States to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people, ages 2-20. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations and agencies working with communities that demonstrate the greatest need and likelihood of sustainable impact on young people's nutrition and activity levels through innovative programs.

Maximum Award: \$10,000.

Eligibility: community-based groups.

Deadline: February 1, 2006.

<http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx>

4. FUNDING: EPA Environmental Education Grants Program

This effort supports environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques as described in this notice.

Maximum Award: \$79,000.

Eligibility: Any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, not-for-profit organization as described in Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue

Code, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entity may submit a proposal. A teacher's school district, an educator's nonprofit organization, or a faculty member's college or university may apply, but an individual teacher or faculty member may not apply.

Deadline: November 23, 2005.

http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_sol2006.html

5. FUNDING: The CDC Foundation and CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health

This program offers mini-grants to support physical activity or nutrition-related activities that are part of action plans developed using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide (SHI).

Maximum Award: \$10,000.

EPA:

This effort supports environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizens

Eligibility: elementary schools in any of the 39 selected states. See website for further information.

Deadline: letter of intent via e-mail to mbenjami@ashaweb.org is November 14, 2005. Full application due January 17, 2006.
http://www.ashaweb.org/mini_grants.html

6. FUNDING: Bikes Belong Coalition Grants Program

This program is dedicated to creating a network of communities throughout the United States where people of all ages will have the accommodation and ability to bicycle for recreation and transportation. Its mission is to

put more people on bicycles more often. Maximum Award: \$10,000

Eligibility: The Bikes Belong Coalition welcomes grant applications from organizations and agencies within the United States that are committed to putting more people on bicycles more often.

Deadline: November 28, 2005.

<http://bikesbelong.org/site/page.cfm?PageID=21>

7. FUNDING: The NEA Foundation

Grants are provided for the purpose of engaging in high-quality professional development or implementing project-based learning and break-the-mold innovations that raise student achievement.

Maximum Award: \$5,000.

Eligibility: public school teachers, public school education support professionals, and faculty and staff in public higher education institutions. Deadline: February 1, 2006.

<http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>

8. FUNDING: Women's Sports Foundation GoGirlGo! Grant and Educational Program

Provides financial assistance to sports and physical activity programs seeking to add new or expanded program participation opportunities for an under-served population of girls, particularly economically disadvantaged girls and/or girls from populations with high incidences of health-risk behaviors.

Maximum Award: varies. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) program status or nonprofits with a demonstrated ability to deliver girls' sport/physical activity programming to girls in third to eighth grade. If the program does not have nonprofit status, it may be possible to receive a grant under support of a local fiscal agent.

Deadline: March 15, 2006. Applications will be available December 15, 2005.

<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/funding/results.html>

Grants are provided for the purpose of engaging in high-quality professional development or implementing project-based learning and break-the-mold innovations that raise student achievement

9. FUNDING: Nickelodeon Announces Giveaway Program to Encourage Healthy Play

Children's television network Nickelodeon will distribute more than \$1 million from September 2005 to June 2006. The "Let's Just Play" Giveaway offers kids around the United States the opportunity to take action and enter for a chance to improve their school or community program's fitness resources.

Maximum Award: \$5000.

Eligibility: Kids (6-15 years of age), partnering with teachers and other community-based leaders.

Deadline: rolling, until May 31, 2006.

http://www.nick.com/all_nick/everything_nick/

10. FUNDING: Toolbox for Education Program

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Toolbox for Education program will award grants to parent-teacher organizations and parent-teacher associations for improvement projects at up to one thousand schools across the United States.

Maximum Award: \$5,000.

Eligibility: Parent groups at K-12 schools may apply for grants of up to \$5,000. All K-12 schools in the United States (except Puerto Rico) are eligible. Applicant schools or parent groups must have a group tax ID number or official 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

Deadline: November 1, 2005.

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

11. FUNDING: Tiger Woods Foundation -- Programs for Underserved Children

Organizations must be tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)

Preference is given to applicants in urban areas.

The Tiger Woods Foundation focuses on providing opportunities to children and families who are underserved. The Foundation provides funding in the following areas: education, youth development, geographic focus, and health & welfare.

<http://www.twfound.org/grants/default.sps?itype=7609>

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Toolbox for Education program will award grants to parent-teacher organizations and parent-teacher associations for improvement projects at up to one thousand schools across the United States.

SERVICE-LEARNING ADVANCES

October 2005

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- [Service-Learning News](#) New and Improved Youth Innovation Fund Website Member Profile: Eve Ewing Call for Submissions: *Academic Exchange Quarterly* Service-Learning Issue
- [Funding and Awards](#) State Farm® Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award Service-Learning Grants Supporting Car Safety Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award State Farm® Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award Funding Help for Underserved Children and Families Innovation, Learning, and Leadership Grants CiviConnections Grants Social Entrepreneurship Fellowships Grant Opportunities Supporting Victims of Hurricane Katrina Fundable.org
- [Practice Highlights](#) Support Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Students Needed to Make Story Books for Children in Uganda Using Service-Learning to Bring Community into the Classroom New Book: *Service Learning in Grades K-8: Experiential Learning That Builds Character and Motivation*
- [Resources and Tools](#) Service-Learning Project Directory Student Voices: Youth Civic Engagement Curriculum



In this Edition:

- Service-Learning News
- Funding and Awards
- Practice Highlights
- Resource and Tools

Service-Learning News

New and Improved Youth Innovation Fund Website

Visit the new Youth Innovation Fund website for resources supporting youth civic action and service-learning.

Call for Submissions: *Academic Exchange Quarterly* Service-Learning Issue

Academic Exchange Quarterly has a special issue each spring devoted to service-learning. Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit articles and essays on service-learning in higher education with a special focus on the individual and institutional impacts of established service-learning initiatives. K-12 practitioners are invited to submit articles for consideration.

Service-Learning Grants Supporting Car Safety

Project Ignition, sponsored by State Farm® and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council funds service-learning projects promoting safety awareness among teen drivers through media campaigns.

Eligibility: Teams of teens and young adults in grades 9-12, ages 13 and older.

Awards: \$2,000 for 25 teams, up to \$5,000 for the top 10 teams to attend the National Service-Learning Conference. \$10,000 grant for the school of the winning project.

Deadline: Rolling

Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award

The Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award honors exemplary leaders who have inspired the service-learning field, positively impacted the lives of young people, and motivated others to take up the banner of service.

Deadline: January 23, 2006.

Innovation, Learning, and Leadership Grants

The National Education Association Foundation provides grants to support faculty participating in high-quality professional development or in implementing service-learning.

Eligibility: Public school and higher education teachers, faculty, or staff

Maximum Award: \$2,000 for individuals, \$5,000 for groups.

Deadline: February 1, 2006.

Resources and Tools**Service-Learning Project Directory**

Search this database of Learn and Serve America grantee programs to find other service-learning projects and models.

Student Voices: Youth Civic Engagement Curriculum

The Student Voices Project encourages the civic engagement of young people by bringing the study of local government, policy issues, and political campaigns into the classroom. Working with school districts throughout the country, Student Voices makes the study of government relevant for high school students by helping them examine how issues they consider important are played out in their own governments and election campaigns. The curriculum and resources are available for free to interested teachers, schools, or districts.

For More Information on all of the above you can go to: <http://nslp.convio.net>

The Student Voices Project encourages the civic engagement of young people by bringing the study of local government, policy issues, and political campaigns into the classroom

Boosting vocabulary: For work with students on literacy and homework

Do the students you work with ever say, "I just don't get it?" Often, their confusion indicates low understanding of key vocabulary words in their reading or homework. Share the following information with volunteers, tutors, and mentors to help them support vocabulary development in children and youth.

Vocabulary size (the number of words a student knows, understands, and can use) plays an important role in reading ability and is cited by the National Reading Panel as one of the five key components of reading instruction. When you discover your student struggles with specific words, what can you do?

Useful General Strategies

First, work with the student to speculate on the word's meaning based on the context (sentence or paragraph) and root words; this activity builds important skills for independent reading. Ask questions like:

"Can you think of another word that would make sense here? Are there any parts of this word that you know the meaning of? Based on what we've read so far, what do you think the word might mean?" Make notes about the student's response.

Next, help the student find the word's definition in an age-appropriate dictionary; this activity helps students find word meanings on their own. If the word has more than one meaning, read all definitions and work together to choose the best one. Compare the dictionary meaning with the student's own ideas, noting the differences in a positive way - "You did some good thinking before we looked up this word, and one definition is very close to what you said." Make cards or lists noting the words and definitions you investigate.

Finally, using the cards or lists for reminders, model ways that you use the new vocabulary words, and help the child use them at regular intervals over the next few weeks. Research shows that students retain new vocabulary best when words are personalized and used repeatedly in many different contexts.

Vocabulary Activities

Word cards, made from index cards, can accumulate into a prized collection as a child learns many new words. The tutor can use word cards as a reference for word review. For a description of how to make word cards and a template, go to:

<http://www.nwrel.org/learns/tutor/fall2005/part9.html>

Word trees are useful in helping children identify or map families of words that share the same root, e.g., the root word "port" in transport, report, portable, etc. For a description of how to make word trees and a template, go to:

<http://www.nwrel.org/learns/resources/middleupper/wordtree.pdf>

Word sorts help children create conceptual models for words that appear in the same context but have different meanings, e.g., words about music

- guitar, melody, notes, lyrics, singer, chords, and strum. For a description of how to do word sorts and an example, go to:

<http://www.nwrel.org/learns/resources/middleupper/wordsorts.pdf>

Share the following information with volunteers, tutors, and mentors to help them support vocabulary development in children and youth.

The more children read, the more vocabulary they will gain. Target only the most important vocabulary words for these activities, as a break from reading, without taking too much time away from the important main activity -- reading itself.

Feel free to share these resources with your volunteers or contact the LEARNS partners for more ideas:

LEARNS at NWREL: 800.361.7890 or learns@nwrel.org LEARNS at BSC: 800.930.5664 or learns@bnkst.edu

LEARNS is a partnership of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and the Bank Street College of Education. We are funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service to provide training and technical assistance to projects focused on tutoring, mentoring, literacy, and out-of-school time.

For additional resources and information, visit the National Service Resource Center at www.NationalServiceResources.org, the Effective Practices Information Center at www.NationalServiceResources.org/epicenter

Conferences and Events

Rural Summit for After School Programs

New Date: December 9, 2005

8:30am-4:00pm

Wyndham San Jose, 1350 North First Street, San Jose

If you work in a rural after school program, or are planning on starting a rural after school program, you don't want to miss this event!!

The purpose of this FREE RURAL SUMMIT is to provide real life examples of how rural after school programs have overcome many obstacles unique to rural communities.

The registration form, "summit-7(9)" is attached or to register on-line, go to: http://calsac.org/events_page.asp?eventID=414

AWARDS: Nominate an Afterschool Science Program

The Coalition for Science After School is looking for quality afterschool science programs to include in its "Consumers' Guide for Science After School." Anyone can nominate a program - students, parents, providers, science teachers - by visiting <http://tepd.ucop.edu/scienceguide> (registration is required). Contact afterschool@berkeley.edu for further information.

RESOURCE: A Guide to Promising Practices in Educational Partnerships

In some areas of the country, educational partnerships are vehicles for fundamental education reform. Others are meant only to deliver services to students and faculty to improve education or student outcomes. This guide, based on a national study of education partnerships, includes examples of educational and community needs assessments, approaches to project staffing, recruiting partners and volunteers, staff development, student support services, school-to-work transition programs, and community involvement.

Also available online at ed.gov/pubs/PromPract/index.html/.

View/order this product online: <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/rs/33>

For other WestEd products, please visit

<http://www.wested.org/cs/we/print/docs/we/products.htm>

The more children read, the more vocabulary they will gain. Target only the most important vocabulary words for these activities, as a break from reading, without taking too much time away from the important main activity

Resources

"Astronomycenter.org"

features reviewed resources for teaching about asteroids, astrobiology, the big bang theory, black holes, cosmology, dark matter, galaxies, the Milky Way, telescopes & satellites, planet formation, planetary atmospheres, space exploration, stars, the sun, & more. (NSF)
<http://www.astronomycenter.org/>

"Astrophysics Science Project: Integrating Research & Education (ASPIRE)"

offers lessons for exploring cosmic rays, force, gas particles, kinetic energy, lunar phases, machines, momentum, the night sky, refraction, the scientific method, scientific notation, seasons, seismic waves, stars, the angle of the sun, tides, & waves. Find out about careers; read interviews with scientists. (NSF)
<http://aspire.cosmic-ray.org/>

"Digital Library for Earth System Education"

presents thousands of reviewed resources on atmospheric science, biology, chemistry, climatology, cryology, ecology, environmental science, forestry, geography, geology, mineralogy & petrology, hydrology, mathematics, natural hazards, ocean sciences, physics, soil science, space science, & more. (NSF)
<http://www.dlese.org/dds/index.jsp>

"Engineering Is Elementary"

provides lessons & overviews on acoustical engineering, agricultural engineering (insects), civil engineering (balance & forces), environmental engineering (water), industrial engineering (simple machines), materials engineering (earth materials), mechanical engineering (air & weather). (NSF)
<http://www.mos.org/doc/1545>

"NASA Robotics"

invites students & teachers to start robotics teams, "botball" teams, & enter robotics competitions. Take online courses in robotics. Follow along with scientists who are developing technologies to drill for life on Mars. Find lessons for teaching robotics & related topics. (NASA)
<http://robotics.nasa.gov/home/home.php>

"Astronomycenter.org" features re-viewed resources for teaching about asteroids, astrobiology, the big bang theory, and so much more.

"Nutrition & Physical Activity"

focuses on physical activity & good nutrition. Examine the new food pyramid. Learn about body mass, bone health, cancer, dietary guidelines, fruits & vegetables & weight management, healthy eating tips, heart disease, intensity levels of various activities, obesity, physical activity statistics & recommendations, stairwells, tips for parents, & weight management ideas. (CDC)
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/>

"Oceans Alive"

explores the mountains, abysses, & other physical features of the ocean floor, as well as the movement of the continents, the water cycle, the four oceans, waves & wind, currents, tides, marine life near the surface, & ocean predators & prey. Activities are provided for learning about the water cycle, water currents, web of life, & tides. (NSF)
<http://www.mos.org/oceans/>

Children's television network Nickelodeon (<http://www.nick.com>) has announced the launch of the 2005-2006 "Let's Just Play" Giveaway Program, where the network will distribute more than \$1 million from September 2005 to June 2006.

Nickelodeon Announces Giveaway Program to Encourage Healthy Play!!

Deadline: Rolling, until May 31, 2006

Children's television network Nickelodeon (<http://www.nick.com>) has announced the launch of the 2005-2006 "Let's Just Play" Giveaway Program, where the network will distribute more than \$1 million from September 2005 to June 2006. The "Let's Just Play" Giveaway offers kids around the United States the opportunity to take action and enter for a chance to win \$5,000 to improve their school or community program's fitness resources. The initiative is part of the network's three-year pro-social "Let's Just Play" campaign, which encourages healthy and active lifestyles for kids and families. For ten months, Nickelodeon will award a minimum of 20 winners per month with \$5,000 each to help facilitate play in their community. To enter, kids (6-15 years of age), partnering with teachers and other community-based leaders, must tell Nickelodeon what they need for their public or private school (grades K-9) or community-based after-school organization to help them play better and why, and give three reasons why play is important. Once the entry form is completed and mailed to Nickelodeon, the winners will be randomly selected and announced via Nickelodeon Online at the top of each month, beginning in September.