

NEWS

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MAKES THE GRADE

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

STORRS, C.T., October 25, 2006 – The University of Connecticut was one of many higher education institutions to recently have been honored by the President Bush's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The University's Office of Community Outreach was honored with Distinction for General Community Service as well as receiving a Katrina Compassion Award for Excellence in Hurricane Relief Service.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll serves to applaud as well as make more publicly known national colleges' and universities' exceptional efforts in bettering their communities through service. Merits were given by the Honor Roll in cooperation with Campus Compact, an alliance of more than 1,000 American college and university presidents acting to promote service learning within higher education communities and their surrounding areas.

*Matt Farley quote about service learning

The University and Community Outreach's relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina included three primary means of service. The UConn Relief Corps (URC) is a group formed by

students who had previously participated in a trip to Mississippi in 2005. The URC coordinated a trip to New Orleans during Spring Break as well as a subsequent trip in May of 2006; the trips encompassed 93 students and 3,700 hours of service.

Secondly, Community Outreach's Alternative Spring Break program, which incorporates service, reflection and education into week or weekend-long service projects, included two trips to the Gulf Coast in 2006. During the Winter Alternative Break trip to Mississippi, students worked to remove debris from damaged homes within five communities. The Spring Alternative Break trip was to New Orleans, and was a joint effort with the UConn Human Rights Institute. This trip saved homeowners approximately \$52,000, as students gutted 13 local houses.

The Hurricane Katrina Relief Student Organization is a coalition of students representing a diverse range of student organizations at UConn. Community Outreach staff supported and advised students in fundraising efforts, which included the collection of donations from UConn fans, change drop locations and a meal donation program.

*Community Outreach boiler plate