

2006-2008

MARY ANN SHAW CENTER FOR PUBLIC AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE LITERACY INITIATIVES

Impact Report

Empowering Minds One Page at a Time



From the Directors' Desk

The SU Literacy Corps (SULC), Syracuse University's America Reads program founded in 1997, is the cornerstone of the Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service (CPCS) Literacy Initiatives. As a collaboration of the Chancellor's Office, the Office of Academic Affairs, the School of Education, and the Syracuse City School District (SCSD), the SULC operates under the direct supervision of CPCS. SULC tutors provide assistance with academic skills and act as role models for students. Tutors work 8 to 10 hours per week and are supported by the Federal Work Study program, the Office of Academic Affairs, and outside funding sources. Tutors are trained in an emergent reader model developed for the Franklin School for the Arts in 1994 by Kathleen Hinchman, chair of reading and language arts in the School of Education, in partnership with professional staff from the SCSD, CPCS, and the Chancellor's Office. Hinchman and other professional staff from SU, CPCS, and the SCSD continue to provide support, consultation,

and ongoing training for SULC tutors. According to SCSD teachers who assess the impact of the tutoring, 89 percent of students show improvement in performance where performance means academic skills and abilities, social attitudes, self-esteem, or involvement/investment in the classroom environment.

By sharing these stories, we hope you will get a sense of how CPCS is working with and in the community to address literacy challenges through CPCS Literacy Initiatives.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kirwin Heintz
Director

Roberta J. Gillen
Assistant Director of CPCS
Literacy Initiatives



During summer '07, a total of 32 SU Literacy Corps tutors worked with 571 children at nine schools and community-based organizations for a total of 5,945 tutoring hours.

Recognition for Civic Engagement

Syracuse University was selected for recognition as one of three 2007 Presidential Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Awardees in the Special Focus Area, "Youth from Disadvantaged Circumstances." Specifically, programs that provide "service



that supports improved high school graduation and college readiness of youth from disadvantaged circumstances" were considered for recognition. This awards program is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Community-wide Literacy Efforts

The Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service co-sponsored the First Annual Ruth J. Colvin Literacy Symposium on April 17, 2007. CPCS director Pamela K. Heintz spearheaded months of planning and organizing with the symposium co-sponsors: the Family Literacy Alliance of Greater Syracuse, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse, Pro-Literacy, the Syracuse City School District, the School of Education, Onondaga Community College, Onondaga County, and the Central New York Community Foundation. The symposium

brings together educators and community leaders with a shared vision of eradicating illiteracy in our community.

CPCS is a partner in the Central New York Community Foundation's Literacy Planning Team, working closely with other community literacy service providers, and nonprofit, corporate, public, and individual community partners to "establish a community-wide partnership to promote the vision of 100 percent literacy through 100 percent community engagement."

SU Literacy Corps Tutors at Work

In 2006-07, the SULC mobilized 238 SU student tutors who worked with 53 programs at 39 sites throughout Syracuse. Tutors provided more than 32,000 hours

of tutoring to more than 6,000 students from pre-kindergarten through high school.



Lizette Silva '09 (A&S) reads a story to children in the MANOS program at Seymour School.

David Hannon '08 (VPA), dressed as Harry Potter, reads to children at McKinley Brighton School. SU tutors work with students one-to-one and in small group settings. In addition to tutoring, they serve as role models, dress up as book characters, and speak to children on the importance of goal setting, higher education, and life skills.

Christina Coons '09 (College of Human Ecology) helps students with homework in the summer inclusion program at Lincoln Middle School.

Collaborative Literacy Initiatives

The trusting relationships CPCS has forged with our community partners through the SU Literacy Corps have afforded us the opportunity to collaborate on an array of specialized literacy initiatives, including ones with the Whitman School of Management, the School of Architecture, the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, the Maxwell School of Public Administration, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Honors Program, the Writing Program, and the M.F.A. Creative Writing Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. SU students in these initiatives work at Huntington School, Henninger High School, Bellevue Middle School Academy, Hughes Magnet School, Blodgett

School, Danforth Middle School, H.W. Smith School, Levy Middle School, Fowler High School, Nottingham High School, Onondaga Nation School, and Dr. King Magnet School. In a typical academic year, CPCS Literacy Initiatives involve more than 100 SU students working with SCSD children throughout the district. Some of the programs provide one-to-one mentoring/tutoring, while others involve group projects focused on life skills, financial literacy, science and math projects, career exploration, creative arts, and spatial literacy. Many of these initiatives also involve bringing SCSD children to campus. In April 2007, CPCS assisted four of the literacy initiatives in bringing more than 100 SCSD students to SU for a variety of on-campus learning experiences.

Balancing the Books

The Balancing the Books (BTB) program, a collaboration begun in 1998 between CPCS, the Whitman School of Management (WSM), and Huntington School, gives WSM students the opportunity to mentor middle school children. BTB, which includes financial literacy tutoring and life skills programming, expanded in fall 2004 to include Henninger High School students and in 2006 to include students at Bellevue Middle School Academy. Support from JPMorgan Chase, the dean of Whitman, and CPCS sustains this unique and highly recognized program.



Clint Tankersley, associate dean in the Whitman School of Management, speaks to Balancing the Books participants during their 2007 trip to campus.

SRC/LCS Tutoring Program

The SRC/LCS Tutoring Program is a collaboration with Syracuse Research Corporation (SRC), the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science (LCS), and CPCS. LCS students work with middle school students at Blodgett School. The program introduces students to engineering/science through educational and fun activities that include hands-on experiments and visits to SU. This year, SRC increased its support for this program in order to provide \$3,500 worth of science equipment to Blodgett School.



SRC President and CEO Bob Roberts presents Blodgett School Principal Melissa Evans and science teachers Jessica Kaufman and Mary Ryan with \$3,500 worth of science equipment.

Literacy Community Connections

Because of its long-standing partnership with the Syracuse City School District and knowledge of community needs, CPCS continues to serve as a literacy advisor for faculty, staff, and students on literacy based projects. When Douglas Jack '07, an honors architecture student, approached CPCS with his



Douglas Jack

idea about developing a design project working with teenagers for his thesis project, *Design Outfit an Interdisciplinary Think and Act Tank*, CPCS helped him make the necessary connections at Henninger High School and continued to advise and support him throughout the yearlong interdisciplinary design project.

First Book-Syracuse University

Since 2001, CPCS has been a Campus Advisory Board (CAB) for First Book, a national nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. Since becoming a CAB, CPCS Literacy Initiatives has distributed more than 30,000 new books to children in Syracuse and Onondaga County through local nonprofit organizations.



SU Literacy Corps tutor Katie Kranz '09 (A&S) and CPCS leadership intern Anthony Mendoza '11 (WSM) distribute free books to children who attended Greek or Treat in honor of Make a Difference Day.



SULC tutors Tyler McAndrew '09 (A&S) and Meghan Dilks '08 (A&S), former SULC tutor Jamie Thompson G'06, and CPCS leadership intern Amanda Stessen '10 (VPA) participate in the *Light a Candle for Literacy* parade and festival on June 2, 2007.

Tutors Make a Difference

Throughout the year, tutors take time out of their busy tutoring schedules to participate in service activities at their tutoring sites. They have planted flowers, painted murals, packaged books that were sent to New Orleans, and organized storage rooms, to name a few of their special projects.



SU Literacy Corps tutor Terricha Bradley '08 (NEW) paints a mural at Huntington School for Make a Difference Day 2007.



SU Literacy Corps tutor Tarrell Hoskey '10 (College of Human Ecology) and Katy O'Connor and Courtney Campbell of Vincent House display school supplies donated by local businesses for the *Question of the Week* program.

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- Syracuse Research Corporation
- Kathy Hinchman and the School of Education for consistent consultation
- Faculty and staff from the Syracuse City School District for continued support for training and site supervision
- Faculty and staff from the LaFayette Central School District
- Community-based organizations and individual community members

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Dana Roberts '08 (A&S)

Marion Entwistle Leadership Interns

Phylicia Baron '11 (EDU)

Paul Belton '10 (LCS)

Kimberly Harris '09 (A&S)

Stacy Keenan G'07 (LAW)

Robert Magliaro '08 (A&S)

Anthony Mendoza '11 (WSM)

Whitman Leadership Interns

Chelsea Stevenson '08 (WSM)

Jason Choi '09 (WSM)

Danny Weiss '08 (WSM)

*Youth Empowerment Program
Leadership Interns*

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Amanda Stessen '10 (VPA)

Syracuse Research Corporation

Leadership Intern

Nicholas Stowe '08 (LCS)

Literacy Leadership Interns

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Ginny Cohen '08 (A&S)

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Melissa Escano '09 (A&S)

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