

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

U of M Named to National Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service has named the University of Memphis to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, one of 635 colleges to receive the honor.

"This award is national validation that the University of Memphis is one of the nation's leading metropolitan research universities," said David Cox, executive assistant to U of M President Shirley Raines for partnerships and administration. "We are a very engaged campus. Our high level of involvement with community-based projects and service-learning always places our University among the top tier of engaged institutions."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

At the U of M, an estimated 9,445 students participated in community service projects, including academic service-learning, in 2008. They performed some 155,818 hours of volunteer service work. Among their many projects, they tutored elementary school students, worked at after-school programs, and collected clothing and canned goods for the needy. U of M students raised money and awareness for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through Up 'til Dawn and helped build and rehabilitate homes through Habitat for Humanity. They also held blood drives and collected cell phones for victims of domestic abuse.

Eleven other Tennessee colleges made the 2008 Honor Roll. Other universities recognized on the Honor Roll include Alabama, Central Florida, Florida, Georgia, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, North Carolina, and Yale.

The U of M did not apply for the Honor Roll in 2007, but was recognized for its relief efforts for hurricane victims in 2006.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service-learning and volunteering to college students. In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to the Corporation's Volunteering in America 2007 study. Expanding campus incentives for service is part of a larger initiative to spur higher levels of volunteering by America's college students. The Corporation is working with a coalition of federal agencies, higher education and student associations, and nonprofit organizations to achieve this goal.