

Contact: Sarah Ullmer
Youth Initiatives Mgr.
sullmer@nylc.org
(651) 999-7361

National Youth Board Funds Minnesota-based Summer Youth Training

Mendota Heights, MN, February 23, 2009 — Young people are helping their peers address the academic achievement gap in Minnesota and across the country. Through an innovative youth-led grant-making program, the State Farm® Youth Advisory Board is granting approximately \$85,000 to the St. Paul-based National Youth Leadership Council for the second consecutive year to support these initiatives nationwide. It is one of three grants awarded in Minnesota, part of a \$5 million-a-year initiative in which young people identify and lead community improvements across the nation and in Canada.

Approximately 50 high school-aged youths will gather in Mound, Minn. July 19-25 for the NYLC training which will emphasize leadership through service-learning — an educational approach in which young people address community needs, applying their academic skills to local issues. One outcome of this year’s programming will be an interactive training tool on youth-led approaches to addressing the achievement gap, designed to help spawn more such initiatives across the country.

As NYLC Youth Initiatives Manager Sarah Ullmer says, “This funding enables the experience at NYLT to have a real ripple effect.” She hopes the tool will reach communities nationwide.

State Farm will present the three Minnesota grants, including one to Kimball Community Education and another to Students Today — Leaders Forever, at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2008, at the State Farm Twin Cities Operations Center, 1285 Northland Drive in Mendota Heights. These organizations are among 73 of the 500 that applied to receive funding in the United States and Canada.

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is composed of 30 young people, ages 17-20, who were chosen through a competitive process to oversee the initiative. They identify funding areas, review and rank funding proposals, and will now provide technical assistance, communication, and oversight to site to the grantees.

About NYLC: For 25 years, NYLC has led the service-learning movement from its St. Paul offices, training adults and youths, supporting public policy initiatives, developing curricula, and convening the field each year at the National Service-Learning Conference.

About Service-Learning: Service-learning is a teaching method which integrates academics with hands-on projects that address pressing community issues and problems. To learn more about NYLC and service-learning visit www.nylc.org.

###