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National Service-Learning Conference Comes to Nashville

St. Paul, Minn.—The 20th Annual National Service-Learning Conference, sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council and State Farm® in partnership with Volunteer Tennessee, is coming to Nashville March 18-21, 2009.

The three-day event will attract approximately 2,700 attendees from across the United States and many other countries, and will feature internationally recognized keynote speakers such as Dame Elizabeth Hoodless, Executive Director of Britain's Community Service Volunteers; HIV/AIDS researchers James Hildreth and Arthur Ammann; and Peter Benson, Director of Search Institute.

Participants, roughly one-third of whom are young people, will participate in dozens of workshops focused on service-learning, an educational strategy that gets young people addressing community needs, and teachers using an innovative approach into the curriculum. "It's a powerful educational strategy that is transforming schools," says NYLC founder and CEO Jim Kielsmeier. "Students are addressing real needs, teachers are excited about their curriculum, and communities are being strengthened."

Nashville itself will become a service-learning laboratory of sorts during the conference, hosting service-learning projects in numerous sites and offering tours of involved schools and community-based organizations. "It's a great opportunity to showcase all that is underway in Nashville and to get involved locally," says Volunteer Tennessee Executive Director Jim Snell.

For more information, visit www.nylc.org/conference.

About NYLC

NYLC has been at the center of community service and service-learning programs and policy development since 1983. It convenes The National Service-Learning Conference, offers adult and youth trainings, runs model programs, directs service-learning research, and develops service-learning resources.

About Service-Learning

Service-learning is a teaching method that enriches learning by engaging students in meaningful service to their schools and communities by integrating the process with established learning objectives. It emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving, and tackles real issues such as hunger, the environment, and the educational achievement gap.