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National Youth Leadership Council Announces K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practices

St. Paul, Minn., August 25, 2008 — The National Youth Leadership Council is proud to launch the K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice, designed to help teachers and community educators conduct high-quality service-learning projects with young people aged kindergarten through high school.

The service-learning standards come from a nationwide effort involving input from key stakeholder groups, including teachers, service-learning specialists, policy-makers, administrators, and students. They are based on a body of research from the service-learning, education and youth development fields. They offer educators, schools, and community organizations a guide to ensure that service-learning can achieve the academic and civic engagement outcomes that this powerful teaching method promises.

With support from the State Farm Companies Foundation, the service-learning standards were developed by NYLC and its partners in a traditional standards-setting process led by RMC Research Corporation, Denver.

The K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice include eight standards that ensure high-quality service-learning experiences for all involved—teachers, students, schools, and community partners:

- Meaningful service
- Link to curriculum
- Reflection
- Diversity
- Youth voice
- Partnerships
- Progress monitoring
- Duration and intensity

“The road to these standards and indicators began in 1989. We are proud to have synthesized the research and professional judgments into standards that are set forth in simple, attainable, and measurable forms,” stated James Kielsmeier, Ph.D., President and CEO of NYLC. “Completing the K-12 service-learning standards marks a huge milestone for NYLC and for service-learning in general, as they are significant tools in achieving the larger goal: educational improvement, community development and social change.

To learn more about the *K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice*, please visit: www.nylc.org/standards.

About NYLC: For 25 years, NYLC has been at the center of service-learning program and policy development. It annually convenes The National Service-Learning Conference, trains both adults and youth in service-learning, and develops service-learning resources. For more information, please visit www.nylc.org.

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 health.