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From the President



WENDY WHEELER, President,
Innovation Center for Community
and Youth Development

Community-Based Service-Learning on the Road

Service-learning is gaining speed! This past month, nearly 2,000 students and educators from around the world gathered in San Jose, California for the 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference.

The [Innovation Center](#) made a strong showing, hosting an exhibit booth at the conference. IC President, Wendy Wheeler, manned the booth; she introduced conference attendees to the IC's own service-learning initiative, [Collective Leadership Works](#), and shared resources to help attendees use service-learning to improve their own hometowns. "The conference was a fabulous opportunity to connect," Wendy said. "We were thrilled to engage with and learn from others from all over the service-learning community."

The Innovation Center's exhibit paid special attention to sharing our unique community-based approach to service-learning. "The Innovation Center's community and collective leadership focus brings a unique dimension to service-learning," she said. "It allows for *all* people to engage together in service."

Engaging all people - youth and adults - in service is one of the many goals of Collective Leadership Works. At the National Service-Learning Conference, Wendy shared project information - including profiles and progress reports from our three project sites - with conference attendees.

The newest addition to our website, pages devoted to service-learning and the Collective Leadership Works initiative, debuted at the conference. Check it out for yourself and learn more about [service-learning innovations](#).

Activity of the Month: Evaluation Warm-Up Cookie Exercise

Service-learning - and all good community change work - places a strong emphasis on reflection. When reflection is intentional - guided by specific goals and questions - it is a powerful way to learn from our experiences, evaluate our progress, and make improvements to future work. This activity, from the Innovation Center's Reflect and Improve toolkit, sets the stage for constructive and meaningful reflection by introducing participants to the basic principles of evaluation. [Go to the activity...](#)

Partner of the Month: Hill Youth Action Team in New Haven, Connecticut

The Hill Youth Action Team - better known as HYAT - is aptly named. The five young people that gather weekly in the Hill neighborhood's public library are doing just that: they're taking action on the issues that matter most in their hometown. In a neighborhood where crime and poverty are too often the reality, HYAT youth are serving and leading their peers and neighbors by tackling pressing community challenges. [Read more...](#)

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Coming Soon: 2010 National Afterschool Alliance Convention in Washington, DC

Join the Innovation Center and the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) as we shake up the nation's capital afterschool-style from April 19-21! The IC's very own Dr. Carla Roach will be presenting a workshop about using collective leadership as a framework for afterschool service-learning. [Learn more...](#)



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