Speaking at the 2005 University Extension and Engagement Symposium, Erin Possiel, a senior Botany and Spanish double-major, reflected the aspirations of students who challenge NC State to “create a Wolfpack culture of engagement.” Expressing their support for continuously improving NC State’s civic engagement, Erin shared with the Chancellor that “our leadership and scholarship opportunities with the Service-Learning Program have shown us that teaching and learning can be at the very heart of NC State’s public service mission.”

The symposium gave Chancellor Oblinger the opportunity to announce that NC State is one of a select group of colleges and universities across the county to be featured in the Princeton Review’s new publication, *Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement*. “Education at these schools,” says the Review, “isn’t only about private gain – it’s about the public good.” Chancellor Oblinger expressed pride in this recognition, and predicted, “with the release of *Colleges with a Conscience* ... we can expect even more young people from across the state and beyond to look to NC State as the place where they can best learn and serve, lead and innovate.”

Dr. Mike Davis, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, works to involve undergraduates in community-based public service engagement through a new honors engagement course. He recalls how a recent student commencement speaker, Jason Grissom, spoke eloquently of one of the most important outcomes of an engaged university: a young person’s enhanced understanding of his or her potential as an agent of change in the world and a deeper meaning of learning.

“[As a first year student,]” Jason said, “college seemed like little more than a prerequisite for getting a good job, a place to get a card stamped so that you would then be allowed to go out and make your mark on the world. But on the other side of the NC State experience, that set of misconceptions that I came here with make me want to laugh out loud. You see, the NC State experience has nothing to do with slipping by unnoticed on your way to receive your diploma. It has everything to do with raising your hand, with stepping up, with identifying problems and working toward solutions. It has to do with creating communities and with making connections and with being the change you wish to see in the world. The NC State experience is working together with a group of people who have no choice but to do great things. So while our undergraduate careers will end with us well-prepared academically, it is more important to me that they end with us well-prepared to be responsible citizens and members of the community. I love this University for a great many reasons, but mostly because the NC State experience is about finding the greatness within us and letting it come out. Because of our time here, slipping by unnoticed will never be part of our picture.”
“Campus Pals” Make a Real Difference in the Lives of Raleigh Youth

For a group of students who attend Stough Elementary School in Raleigh, being on the wait list for a Big Brother or Big Sister isn’t such a bad thing. Through the NC State Campus Pals Program, these 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are paired with NC State students who serve as mentors, teachers and friends.

A partnership between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wake County and the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics & Public Service, the Campus Pals Program is designed to provide elementary school students with a meaningful adult relationship, while also exposing these children to the college environment.

This year’s activities included a lively “Campus Pals American Idol” Program, October Fall Fest, a trip to the African American Cultural Center, several craft projects, and a night of field games.

http://www.ncsu.edu/csleps/

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Innovative Program Helps NC State Students Become Effective Youth Advocates

Lee Residence Hall on the NC State campus is home to a unique program called the Students Advocating for Youth (SAY) Living and Learning Village. A partnership between the College of Education and University Housing, the program is committed to providing NC State students with the resources, skills and support to become successful youth advocates and critical thinkers.

In addition to taking courses on child advocacy issues, the students complete up to 30 hours of community work each year and engage in other service activities in Wake County. Current participating organizations include the Washington Boys & Girls Club, Centennial Campus Middle School, and Project SOAR at Fuquay-Varina High School.

The SAY program’s newest partner is Wake Teen Medical Services, thanks to a collaboration with the NC State Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service. SAY also has on-campus partnerships with the NC State Teaching Fellows program, the NC State Women’s Center, the Women in Science and Engineering Program, NC State Dance Marathon, and NC State Habitat for Humanity.

http://www.ncsu.edu/housing/communities/say

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NC State French Club Students Play Role in 2005 French Festival

Hundreds of Wake County middle and high school students came to NC State in March to participate in the annual French Festival, sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. At the center of the action were NC State French Club students, serving as hosts, competition judges, event photographers and monitors.

As Student Assistants for the Festival, these NC State students helped coordinate activities for 620 students in grades 6-12 and their teachers. Festival participants competed in a variety of events, from poetry recitation to singing, to demonstrate their French language skills and knowledge of French and Francophone cultures.

The 2005 French Festival was a successful collaboration between NC State French faculty and students and Wake County schools, and it also opened doors for NC State students to sharpen their leadership skills and play an important role in a major community event.

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McKimmon Center Launches Student Ambassador Program

In a pilot program created this year, Ayo Adeyeye, a junior English major, and Jon Rolle, a Business Administration major (pictured), became the first McKimmon Center Student Ambassadors. A partnership between the McKimmon Center for Extension & Continuing Education and the NC State University Honors Program, this new Ambassadors program will enable NC State students to gain an in-depth understanding of the University’s continuing education and professional development programs.

Through interaction with Office of Professional Development mentors, the McKimmon Center Ambassadors participate in program development, budgeting, promotion, logistics, customer service, program implementation, and evaluation. The student ambassadors earn an hourly wage plus academic credit hours.

By engaging in the daily operations of Office of Professional Development, student ambassadors will become valuable advocates for the resources available at NC State University for lifelong learners.

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http://sasw.chass.ncsu.edu/fl/
For most college students, spring break is an escape from the pressures of school work – a time to kick back and relax. But for a unique group of NC State students this past March, spring break involved immersion in new cultures and service to communities across the globe. As participants in the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program, delivered through the NC State Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service, 96 students rolled up their sleeves to build Habitat for Humanity homes in Ecuador, tutor Navajo children in Arizona, and prepare meals for terminal AIDS patients in Colorado.

Brady Fish, a junior Psychology major, worked in a Dominican Republic orphanage, along with 20 other NC State students. They taught English to the children, read to them, engaged the children in learning activities, and helped with “fix-it” projects around the orphanage. Like many ASB students, Brady learned to see the world through new eyes.

Sean Flaherty, a junior Political Science major said of his experience, “The educational value of ASB is astronomical. It’s so important to get experience outside of the U.S. and witness the level of poverty in other countries. It was a real eye-opener and helped me see how we might change our lifestyles for the better.”

At the beginning of his junior year, Jason Beale was completing a minor in economics and had grown increasingly interested in applications in the field. Like many upperclassmen, he began to contemplate his career after NC State and decided that applied economics could be a focus for his post-baccalaureate study.

Through the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), Jason conducted a project that involved identifying and researching nonwoven, bio-, and medical textile companies at the cutting edge of their respective fields for recruitment by the University and its economic development partners to Centennial Campus and elsewhere in North Carolina. Currently, Jason is researching business incubators in North Carolina as part of a feasibility study for our neighbors in Gaston County.

These mentored research projects with the EDP have changed Jason’s life. He is one of the newest hires of Credit Suisse First Boston, a leading global financial services firm that the EDP and NC State helped recruit to the Research Triangle Region.
SBTDC Summer MBA Intern Program Opens Doors to World of Biotechnology

The North Carolina Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC), housed at NC State University, offers a summer intern program that matches MBA students with North Carolina biotechnology companies. The internships give these students one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage in cutting-edge biotechnology work.

Syntherica Corporation, a participant in the summer MBA program, recently received a $1.26 million National Institutes of Health – Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to develop a more efficient test for the detection of PCBs, one of the most widespread environmental contaminants in the US.

The SBTDC contributed to Syntherica’s success by providing assistance through the MBA intern program.

“This program does a wonderful job of introducing new business talent to the biotechnology community while providing additional resources that most young companies could not otherwise afford,” said Mike Henz, Director of Business Development for Syntherica.

http://www.sbtdc.org/

NC State Teaching Fellows Help Shape the Future of Education in North Carolina

The Teaching Fellows Program has produced hundreds of effective leaders for North Carolina’s public schools since its creation in 1986. At NC State, the program focuses not only on creating future educators, but engaged citizens who value service to their communities.

Through the College of Education, the Teaching Fellows Program awards selected students $6,500 each year for four years to support their college education and to help them obtain their teaching license. In return, Fellows agree to teach four years in North Carolina public schools.

NC State Teaching Fellows are visible ambassadors for the program in local schools. For example, many of our fresh-
Ever been frustrated trying to find the perfect how-to book for a new project? The resources are often too technical or don’t address your specific need – even the vocabulary seems foreign. You wish someone would write the information in straightforward language you can understand.

That’s the message grad student Kelly Mance heard repeatedly in her work with low literacy, limited resource landowners. As a result, Mance created the Tree Tips and Woods Wise booklets for the Sustainable Woodlands Project.

“These booklets address topics landowners need to know in a way that empowers them to talk effectively with those who offer the services they need,” says Mance, a graduate student in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources.

Topics include: how to work with a consulting forester, what are ‘goods from the woods,’ how to sell timber or lease hunting rights, and more.

Educational materials are only one part of the Sustainable Woodlands Project. Under the leadership of Dr. Erin Sills and Dr. Sarah Warren of the College of Natural Resources, students also conducted surveys and held outreach meetings with limited resource landowners in eastern North Carolina and Virginia. Mance says, “It feels good to know the work we’re doing in the Sustainable Woodlands Project will make a real difference in people’s lives.”

Grad Student Teams with Sea Grant Extension Program in Nags Head

Chelsea Sebastian, a graduate student pursuing her Master’s Degree in International Studies, is working with scientists from North Carolina’s Sea Grant Extension Program and SEACOOS (SouthEast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System) to design and implement a coastal observing system on Jeanette’s Pier in Nags Head, N.C.

Meteorological instruments, a video web-camera and an educational kiosk on Jeanette’s Pier provide real-time information on ocean and weather conditions for coastal managers, commercial fishing captains, recreational anglers, and visitors to the Outer Banks. Sebastian hopes the project will provide useful information, identify coastal informational needs, and define preferred modes of information delivery.
From the High Tiders of the Outer Banks to mountain communities along the Blue Ridge, North Carolina is rich in diverse dialects. The University’s linguistics program places students on the frontlines of dialect research and engagement with local communities throughout North Carolina. These research partnerships include documentary productions, museum exhibits, and the development of dialect awareness curricula for schools across the state.

For example, NC State students produced a documentary for the town of Princeville in which residents recalled their flood stories from Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The documentary, Princeville Remembers the Flood (2004), was featured at Princeville’s annual celebration as the first town incorporated by Blacks in the United States.

Students also teach pilot courses on dialects in North Carolina for middle school students in different regions of the state, including Avery County, Graham County, Harkers Island, and Ocracoke Island. In fact, for the last 12 years, NC State students have spent their spring break teaching a week-long course of study to middle school students on Ocracoke Island that has become a fixture in their curriculum.

www.ncsu.edu/linguistics/
Certification School Provides Hands-On Opportunities for Engineering Students

The Concrete Field Technician Certification School in the NC State Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering is designed to certify industry professionals. But, it also provides an opportunity for the department’s students to gain real-world experience in their field.

In a partnership with the NC Department of Transportation, the Senior Construction Extension Specialists hold a three-day Concrete School to certify concrete field testing technicians from firms in North Carolina and beyond.

Undergraduate and graduate students serve as ‘supplemental examiners’ in the School, assisting with classroom instruction and examination of testing procedures required for certification. The students gain their certification by completing the School, and as a result, they are authorized to work with the Extension Specialists as examiners.

Since the School was established three years ago, more than 25 NC State students have participated, gaining valuable hands-on experience and certification. As a result of this unique opportunity, many of the students are hired by consulting firms for summer, part-time, and full-time employment in part based on holding the testing certification.

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Service-Learning Extends Education Beyond the Classroom

Some of the most intense educational experiences at NC State take place outside the walls of our classrooms. Service-learning projects allow students to learn through action, whether in their local communities or in the far reaches of the world.

Take Brandon Whitney for example. Tough questions about global poverty and the environment were beginning to shape his future interests, so he decided to pursue these topics in a self-designed seven month service-learning project. The senior biological sciences and political science double major immersed himself in two poor, rural villages in Ecuador, where he worked with environmental education in schools, eco-tourism projects, and reforestation nurseries and collected data on medicinal uses of local plants during his junior year. It was one of the defining experiences of his life. He has since graduated and is now attending graduate school at Yale studying conservation and sustainable development, per his experiences during this project.

Students demonstrating concrete air content testing procedures at the Constructed Facilities Laboratory on Centennial Campus

Students in Brandon Whitney’s environmental education project in Ecuador.
**NC State Students Provide Practical, Professional Support through Innovative Work Program**

It’s a win-win situation: NC State students get real-world experience and businesses get help when they need it. Extension Student Workers-on-Demand, offered by the Industrial Extension Service (IES) at NC State, allows companies to request students to work on specific projects at any time of year.

In 2004, nearly a dozen businesses employed NC State engineering students through the Extension Students Workers-on-Demand program. The students complete projects with specific goals and timetables. They are classified as NC State employees, so companies don’t have to worry about social security, tax withholdings or worker’s compensation.

“These companies benefit by getting affordable help when needed,” said Joe Davis, Ph.D., head of the program and IES specialist for industrial engineering and ergonomics. “In turn, our students benefit from this program because they gain meaningful work experience while also finding a way to help pay college expenses.”

Engineering graduate Max Bailey worked with employees of Husqvarna, a Charlotte company that manufactures chainsaws, trimmers and blowers. After several years of rapid growth, the company needed help with a number of tasks. Max fulfilled the company’s requirements, and he did such terrific work that they offered him a position.

Companies can request Extension Student Workers-on-Demand by completing a simple form at http://www4.ncsu.edu/~jrdavis.

Julie David, a senior majoring in nutrition, discovered service-learning in a leadership and ethics seminar at NC State. As a result of this experience, she became a reflection leader for similar service-learning enhanced classes. She co-authored a book chapter about NC State’s reflection leader model and has made presentations with service-learning faculty at local, national, and international conferences. Through leading reflection in two nutrition courses, Julie has refined her professional interests toward nutrition education and intervention. She embarks on her future with a deep understanding of the value of integrating leadership, scholarship and service in all that she does.

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Julie David, second from left, with faculty mentor Patti Clayton, national service-learning scholar Edward Zlotkowski and national-service learning student leader James Williams.

**www.ncsu.edu/fctl/Initiatives/Service-Learning**

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Students Gain Real-World Experience through NC Cooperative Extension Internships

Through North Carolina Cooperative Extension's county centers, NC State students are finding practical ways to connect their classroom learning — and their fresh ideas and enthusiasm — with real-world problems facing communities statewide.

Over the last five years, 35 Cooperative Extension county centers have hosted 114 student interns from NC State, as well as other universities, colleges and high schools. Students also have been at the heart of Extension's Gateway County initiative, a pilot begun two years ago to help connect communities with NC State expertise.

In Manteo, for example, design students helped create a master plan to guide growth while maintaining the coastal town's character. In Lenoir County, where Hurricane Floyd's economic impact is still being felt, design students helped develop a plan for a Mountains to Sea Trail leg to promote economy-boosting historical tourism. And in Martin County, students in education and design focused on a sustainable development project to promote tourism while also finding ways to get the county’s young people to return to their community after college.

“Having students involved in Cooperative Extension internships and Gateway projects is a win-win both for communities and for NC State,” said State Extension Director Jon F. Ort. Communities get problem-solving solutions and fresh ideas, backed by research, and the university wins by being able to give students the opportunity to take what they’ve learned in the classroom and see how they can apply it to real-world problems.”

www.ces.ncsu.edu/counties/

Extension intern Lindsay Wescott with Martha Warner, Brunswick County Extension Director (Photo by Lindsay Wescott, Perspectives Magazine)

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College of Education
When Johnny Wynne, new dean of N.C. State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, launched his spring 2005 tour to meet with CALS alumni across the state, the CALS Ambassadors were right there with him, helping to host the events and bring news of the College to its alumni and friends.

Tabitha Ikpechukwu, a sophomore in biological sciences, and Connie Justice, a sophomore in agricultural business management, greeted visitors and shared their own experiences at NC State.

Though so much has changed since many of the alumni present graduated, much is still the same, Justice told the audience: “I walk on the same bricks you walked on at NC State.”

The CALS Ambassadors are 26 student leaders who promote NC State and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to prospective students and assist with College functions, alumni events and Career Services activities. The ambassadors are the student voice of the College and serve as a liaison between the campus and the community.

Representing a variety of CALS majors, the ambassadors work with high-school science classes, agriculture-oriented classes, career or college fairs, 4-H meetings and school assemblies. Community outreach can include presentations to leadership workshops, business groups and civic organization meetings. And, as Justice and Ikpechukwu and fellow ambassadors are doing this spring, introducing the College’s new dean to its alumni.

www.cals.ncsu.edu/ambassadors/
NC State University is dedicated to equality of opportunity. The University does not condone discrimination against students, employees, or applicants in any form. NC State commits itself to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation.