

NLWJC- Kagan

Counsel - Box 009 - Folder 010

Service Initiative

Educational Service Mtg 5- -96

Poss directions -

↑: y service - low wh/study
= coord wh/study w/ nat'l service

Penn St
Pers respns / civil respns.
Nat serv - signature item

Bauer : Recalibrate w/s program? →
serv / study prog

Steve Waldman : 1. National Service Scholars
↳ variation - use own
proposal for scholarships
as vehicle.

Leg proposal - 2. Wh-Study - ↑ in #
1/2 of ↑ → ^{people doing} service jobs
(increasing) 5% → 10% → 15%
2nd yr. 3rd yr.

(what does this
require?)

Leg list of WS program -
oriented to service

Gene Tell colleges to reach out -
/ Core practice - intervene/
/ tutor etc. Mentoring
Challenge institutions -
/ Great examples out there
/ of this sort of thing.

fall - 100 best sch
spring - every h.s. w/
nat service scholar
Direction to American Pr.
Toward set up to do h.s. service
national competition -

3-part

h.s. piece - senior
challenge college -
Eugene Long
work - study piece

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 8, 1994

Dr. Thomas Stauffer
President
Golden Gate University
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Dr. Stauffer:

As you begin a new academic year, I wish you, your faculty, and your students a good and productive year. Higher education in America is truly a pillar of our strength, valued and admired around the world.

As you consider ways to continue strengthening your programs, I am asking for your help in inspiring an ethic of service across our nation.

The spirit of citizenship has long moved America's colleges and universities. From the dawn of our republic, leaders in higher education have understood that the strength of our democracy depends on the education of our people -- not only in the arts and sciences, but also in the art of citizenship. In recent years, colleges and universities have increasingly involved themselves in community service. I believe that participating even more fully in the movement to foster national and community service will yield rich dividends for your institution, faculty, and students. My domestic agenda expands opportunity and encourages responsibility, especially through AmeriCorps, our national service program. While AmeriCorps will do much to inspire a new spirit of citizenship, there is still much more to be done.

I welcome your institution's participation in this important effort to promote civic education. Here are six possibilities:

1. **Support AmeriCorps.** AmeriCorps, our national service program that was created last year with bipartisan support in Congress, will be launched on September 12. As many as 20,000 AmeriCorps Members will begin serving in communities across this country in programs that address needs in education, the environment, public safety, and human needs.

By participating in the AmeriCorps program, institutions of higher education can strengthen ties to their communities and enhance their students' civic education. Colleges and universities can develop AmeriCorps programs to engage students in service on a full- or part-time basis, and can apply for program support to the Corporation for National Service. Perhaps your college could join a few pathfinders and match the AmeriCorps education award.

2. **Include community service as a significant criterion for college admission.** Service and higher education require many of the same qualities, including perseverance, responsibility, and decency. At institutions that have selective admissions, including service will send a bold message to high school guidance counselors, parents, and students that high academic and civic standards count.
3. **Redirect your work study money.** The Higher Education Act Amendments currently require that at least 5 percent of your work study funds be available to eligible students who wish to perform community service. I ask you to enable even more of our young people to pay their way through school by serving in the broader community. Not only will your students serve those who most need help, but they also will enhance their own education in incomparable ways.
4. **Let every student serve.** Many students want to serve and need your assistance in finding meaningful ways to apply their energy and talent. This presents a unique challenge if you serve a large number of part-time students, many of whom have additional family and work responsibilities. Yet this new spirit of community involvement must embrace these non-traditional students as well. Many students already actively participate in your communities, and finding formal ways to celebrate the value of such experiences may help blend these students' academic and personal lives.
5. **Bring service into the classroom.** Service can be much more than an extracurricular activity. If carefully designed, it can be a powerful educational experience. By bringing the community into the classroom and the classroom into the community, you will enable your students to apply the lessons they have learned to the critical issues that affect our communities. You also can reward faculty who engage in service.
6. **Smooth the path from school to service.** Too often, students who want to take public service jobs are unable to find them, or they work in fields that fail to fulfill their desire to serve. Our student loan programs have been redesigned to meet these students' needs. For your part, colleges and universities can connect recent graduates with alumni already working in service organizations.

The Corporation for National Service is preparing a brochure for current and prospective college students that will include examples from some of the best community service programs at institutions of higher education throughout the country. We need your ideas, and students everywhere will be eager to learn of your efforts. Please write to Eli Segal at the Corporation for National Service, 1100 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525.

Thank you for what you are doing to strengthen American higher education. I welcome your involvement in inspiring an ethic of service.

Sincerely,



Ideas for Penn State Speech

National Service Scholars: The President could challenge communities to set up scholarship funds for young Americans who do significant volunteer service. For every dollar the community raises, the government will kick in a dollar, up to a total of \$1,000. Communities, through institutions like Kiwanis, Lions Clubs and the Salvation Army, could set some of their own terms but the basics could be: high school students who work an average of 10 hours a week for a year for a charity, doing meaningful service, would get a scholarship upon graduation.

Since communities would be putting in half the money, they would have incentive to make sure the volunteer work was meaningful. We could set as a goal that in every high school in America at next year's graduation, the principal will proudly present at least one National Service Scholar. We give scholarships for athletes and saxophone players. It's time we gave scholarships for service.

Challenge Colleges to Use Work Study Jobs for Service – Expand the size of work study but challenge colleges and universities to return the program to its original mission: having people work their way through school by doing service to their communities. At minimum, Clinton could say that the new money should go towards service but he should challenge them to have a much greater share do so. The current law allows for bonus money for schools that emphasize service. We could increase that bonus.

Challenge College Admissions Offices to Give Preferences to Those Who've Served – This is a William F. Buckley idea. It would be a simple way to send a message, and encourage volunteering, without spending more money. Across the land, kids wanting to get into elite schools would be worrying about whether they'd done enough service to impress the admissions directors.

Challenge Colleges to Match the AmeriCorps Scholarships -- Several colleges in Rhode Island have banded together and made a pledge: if you earn an AmeriCorps scholarship through a full year of service to community and country, we will match it. The President could hold that up as a model and challenge other schools to do the same thing.

Trumpet Existing Service Learning and College-Based Volunteer Programs – There are already an extraordinary number of service programs on college campuses. We should use these as jumping off point to talk about how much can be accomplished if we truly mobilized the power of 50 million students. The key here is to talk about service not as an end in itself but a tool to solving social problems. The speech can detail the many ways that's already happening.