Students and faculty at Northwestern State University will have an opportunity to give back to their community through service learning under four grants worth $30,772 awarded to the university.

The grants are part of a three-year, $1.2 million grant to the University of Louisiana System from the Learn and Serve America division of the Corporation for National and Community Service. These awards are the final phase of the three-year grant program and will be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Northwestern.

The grants and the amounts along with the principal investigators are:
- “Cyberbullying Prevention,” Gerra Perkins and Mary Lynn Williamson, $16,473;
- “Spring Splash into Mathematics Service Learning Project,” Kimberly McAllister and Dee Dee Perot, $5,290;
- “A CASA Christmas: Future Teachers Serving Central Louisiana’s Disadvantaged Youth,” Michelle Morris and Roni Biscoe, $5,009.80;
- “Green Foods: Local Organics and Healthful Living,” Michael Cundall, $4,000.

Northwestern State University received grants worth $30,772 from the University of Louisiana System for four service learning projects which will benefit NSU students and the people of the region. These awards are the final phase of a three-year grant program and will be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Northwestern. From left are Elsie Burkhalter, chair of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System; grant recipient Dr. Michael K. Cundall Jr., assistant director of the Louisiana Scholars’ College and assistant professor of philosophy; Director of Service Learning Steven Gruesbeck, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Dr. Steven G. Horton and UL System President Dr. Randy Moffett.

NSU service learning grant to benefit region

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“Cyberbullying Prevention” targets the problem of cyberbullying and provides NSU students, local administrators, teachers, and school counselors with resources and materials they need to understand and prevent cyberbullying and educates parents and students on the issue.

“This project targets the problem of cyberbullying in central Louisiana. The goal is to provide NSU students as well as local administrators, teachers, and school counselors with the resources and materials to understand what cyberbullying is, ways to prevent it, and how to educate students and parents,” said Perkins, an assistant professor of counselor education.

Over the next year, approximately 60 students in the school counseling and student personnel services programs at Northwestern will host an inservice program and create resources to present to surrounding school parish educators. Approximately 40 local school personnel will be involved through participation in the inservice, feedback to NSU students, public safety announcements and outreach.

“Spring Splash into Mathematics Service Learning Project” involves pairing students in two elementary schools that have low parental involvement with teacher education candidates and provide NSU students with a real learning experience that benefits the teacher candidates and participants.

“The project will allow the College of Education to partner with two local elementary schools to provide materials, support and manpower in hosting ‘Family Mathematics Night’ events in 2009,” said McAlister, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education. “These events are terrific ways to build a community of learners between the elementary/junior high school students, their families, NSU teacher candidates and faculty and local teachers. We are excited about the opportunity for students, teachers, and the community to come together in a fair like atmosphere to experience mathematics being fun and relevant.”

According to McAlister, the planning and facilitating of this project as an addition methods coursework will give NSU teacher candidates another occasion to acquire knowledge and use it in a real learning experience that benefits the teacher candidates and participants.

“A CASA Christmas: Future Teachers Serving Central Louisiana’s Disadvantaged Youth,” will partner approximately 75 students from the university’s education program with CASA to provide them with information about child abuse and neglect, certifying them as CASA advocates and expanding the CASA Christmas present project.

“The project will provide candidates with additional training to help at-risk students. The project also gives our candidates a chance to give back to the community by collecting Christmas presents for children in the foster care system,” said Morris, an assistant professor of education at NSU. “We hope that the project will help our education candidates become better informed about social issues they might face when they are teachers, such as child abuse, neglect, and poverty.”

“Green Foods: Local Organics and Healthful Living,” will provide a public lecture on Saturday, March 7 about locally produced foods, organic foods and healthful eating choices to help inform residents about the health benefits and local availability of organic foods. The lecture is an outreach project for seniors from the Louisiana Scholars’ College. And will feature experts who will discuss the availability of local organic products through venues such as the Cane River Green Market. The seminar will feature local organic producers and have food available made from locally raised meat and produce.

“This lecture will introduce attendees to the variety of locally grown and organically raised produce and meats in the ArkLaTex region,” said Cundall, assistant director of the Scholars’ College and an assistant professor of philosophy. “Talks will address the health benefits of such foods and the when and where such foods are available. Conference participants will leave with a better ability to understand organic foods and where they can get them.”
NSU Leesville Nursing students supporting a sock drive for nursing home residents were, from left, Amber Smith, Latasha Thomas, and Mary Courtney. On the second row are Kayla Robertson and Malissa Huddleston. On the third row are Alexi Candelario, Genny Wilson, Ashley Eleazer, Buck Fellows, administrator, and Deborah Hickman, MSN, RN, CNE. On the back row next to the sock box is Jonathan Willis.

NSU-Leesville students collect socks for nursing home

The Student Nurses Association at NSU Leesville-Fort Polk sponsored a socks drive for the elderly residents at Westwood Manor Nursing Home in DeRidder. With the efforts of the NSU faculty, staff, and student body, 244 pairs of socks were collected. The socks were donated to the nursing home as part of a community service project.

According to Deborah Hickman, MSN, RN, CNE, “Providing the students at NSU with a well rounded education is important to the faculty. That education includes the importance of being a professional, developing critical thinking skills, exhibiting confidence and competence in their nursing skills, and giving back to their communities through community service projects. Westwood Manor Administrator Buck Fellows was excited to receive such a warm, heartfelt, generous donation.”

Northwestern State University Leesville-Fort Polk is located on University Parkway, midway between Leesville and Fort Polk. It is a satellite campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, part of the University of Louisiana system. The Leesville campus offers four-year baccalaureate degrees in psychology, criminal justice, and general studies, as well as associate degrees in nursing, business administration, criminal justice and general studies (child development). A graduate student can earn a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision or in Counseling and Guidance.

For information a prospective student can call the main office at (337) 392-3100, access the website at www.nsula.edu/leesville, or visit the campus at 3329 University Parkway, Leesville.

ROTC park dedication ceremony set for Feb. 26

The 59th Army ROTC Battalion at Northwestern State University will hold a park dedication ceremony and flag raising at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.

“The dedication ceremony and raising of our national colors for the first time on our battalion soil will also commemorate the 125th anniversary of Northwestern,” said LTC Leon Pennington, professor of military science.

In addition, a sculpture monument dedicated to the “Spirit of the Cadet” will be unveiled in the park of the James A. Noe Armory ROTC building.

For more information, contact NSU ROTC at (318) 357-5176.
Academic Coordinator/Instructor Terence L. Vinson, University College, has completed his Doctor of Education with concentrations in developmental education and instructional systems and technology at Grambling State University.

Vinson has been employed at Northwestern for 5-1/2 years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s in education with a concentration in educational technology leadership and + 30 in education leadership with a concentration in education technology leadership at NSU.

Vinson’s dissertation study was “The Relationship That Summer Bridge and Non-Summer Bridge Participation, Demographics and High School Academic Performance Have On First-Year College Students: Effects of Grade Point Average and Retention.” Summer Bridge is a program that targets at-risk students.

“The conclusion of my study indicated there was no significant different between Summer Bridge and Non-Summer Bridge students in terms of grade point average or retention,” Vinson said. “Thus, this conclusion supports the hypothesis that Summer Bridge participation can positively affect a student’s college grade point average and retention rate.”

Vinson’s study substantiates the benefits of Summer Bridge and offers an avenue for Vinson to serve as a presenter for the National Association of Developmental Education.

“Furthermore, with the U.S. Department of Education implementing Access and Success programs and standards, I know Summer Bridge programs throughout the nation will need experts and specialists to develop, enhance and evaluate these programs,” Vinson said.

Vinson also works the Fountain H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Prioritize Education).

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Paul Christopher, assistant professor of low strings, and Dr. Andre Kurti, assistant professor of upper strings, were featured soloists with the Northwestern Chamber Orchestra on January 27.

Christopher will also be performing a guest artist recital at Tulane University in New Orleans on Feb. 11. He will be accompanied by fellow CAPA faculty member Elena Kuroda and graduate bass student Josue Ramirez.

In mid-January, Dr. Juliette Delabbio, director of the Aquaculture Research Center, attended the meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in New Orleans. At the meeting, Dr. Delabbio presented research on crawfish farming which was done in collaboration with Dr. Steven Gabrey of the Biology Department and graduate biology major Pamela Collara.

Dr. Trey Cunningham, Dr. John Dollar, Dr. Michael Moulton and graduate student David Kees from the Health and Human Performance Sport Administration program presented research at the LAHPERD conference in Baton Rouge. The research group presented “High school athletic venues: What if lightning strikes?”

University Archivist Mary Linn Wernet attended the board meeting of the North Louisiana Historical Association in Ruston. The meeting concerned the revision of the part of association’s bylaws.

Dr. Gerra Perkins and Dr. Nelda Wellman, College of Education, recently co-authored an article titled “The impact of high-stakes testing: Recommendations for professional school counselors and other support personnel.” The article was published in the Academic Leadership OnLine Journal, 6(4).

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, recently performed bass trombone with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in Birmingham. The concert featured celebrated entertainer Ben Vereen, who did a tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr., on Jan. 23 on their pops series.

Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education, has been appointed to the State Reading Leadership Team, whose members are selected by Gov. Bobby Jindal by recommendation from State Superintendent Paul G. Pastorek. Dr. Gentry will represent the deans of education at Louisiana colleges and universities on the team, which acts as an advisory committee.
Art professors attend Creative Capital workshop

Art Professors Michael Yankowski and Matt DeFord were invited to participate in a professional development workshop sponsored by the Louisiana Division of the Arts Jan. 23-25.

They were awarded grants to attend a three-day retreat along with 22 other professional Louisiana artists including dancers, writers, musicians, puppeteers, and experimental video artists. The event was presented by Creative Capital of New York, a granting agency that advocates for artists and their value to society and the economy. Topics presented included strategic planning, business plans, Internet presence, communications and time management. The techniques were built on a business model and applied to the fine artist.

Artists participated in lecture presentations, small group breakout sessions, individual slide presentations of their work and one on one advising. They were taught techniques to set and refine artistic and professional goals. They set defined objectives and learned strategies to achieve professional growth.

Creative Capital has been presenting these workshops nationally for 6 years and this is the second time they have been in Louisiana. Over 200 artists have participated and most participants have achieved the goals they set for success, which may be financial, artistic or personal. Instructors were business managers, New York based visual artist, directors and choreographers.

“This was a wonderful opportunity,” said Yankowski, “The experience was intense and exhausting yet extremely rewarding and valuable as it inspired and empowered my future artistic endeavors.” DeFord and Yankowski intend to implement these strategies in their own professional careers and impart much of these strategies to graduating seniors in NSU’s Art program.

As an added bonus, the workshop was held at the Shaw Center for the Arts and they were able to attend a large exhibit of Bronze sculptures by Rodin.

Service-learning conference to focus on civic engagement

The 2009 Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education will be held March 25-27 in Baton Rouge. This year’s theme will be “Civic Engagement at the Crossroads: Rethinking Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities.” Participants will be able to explore the evolving roles of faculty, students, and community partners and the many ways service-learning and civic engagement and can be redefined to meet the needs of the 21st century.

For more information, visit Gulf-South Summit website at http://www.lsu.edu/summit09 for more information, including details on registration and hotel accommodations. Those interested should register by Feb. 6 to avoid late registration fees.

Participants are also encouraged to join nationally recognized LSU Biological Engineering Professor Marybeth Lima on a post-Summit service project: building a playground for Baton Rouge area children on Saturday, March 28. Special building skills are not required.

For her innovative service-learning work, Lima received the 2007 Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning and the 2005 Ernest A. Lynton Award, the nation’s two top service-learning faculty awards. She was a keynote speaker for the 2008 Gulf-South Summit.

Faculty Senate meetings announced

As per University policy the Faculty Senate will meet the third Tuesday of each month. For the Spring 2009 these dates are: Feb. 17, March 17 and April 21.

Meetings will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be held in 221 of the Student Union.

Please send concerns to any of the officers at:

fryd@nsula.edu
cruisej@nsula.edu
howellb@nsula.edu
landryk@nsula.edu

Submitted by Darrell Fry, Senate President 2009
The following individuals received notification of funding for their proposal to the University of Louisiana System, ULS Serves Grant:

Dr. Kimberly McAlister, College of Education, for “Spring/Splash into Math: Service Learning in Schools” for $5,290;

Dr. Michael Cundall, Jr., Louisiana Scholars’ College, for “Local Organics and Healthful Living” for $4,000;

Dr. Michelle Morris, College of Education, for “A CASA Christmas: Future Teachers Serving Central Louisiana’s Youth” for $5,009.80; and

Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education, for “Cyberbullying Prevention” for $16,473.

Ms. Claudia Triche, Department of Social Work, College of Liberal Arts, received notification from the Louisiana Office of Community Services, Department of Social Services, of an additional $62,653 for “Title IV-E Child Welfare Training.”

Mr. Joseph Bisceo III, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of an additional $20,000 from the University of Texas at Austin, for “Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center.”

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Science & Technology, received notification of an award up to $3,000 from the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for “NACCRRRA Military Enhanced Referrals.”

Dr. Tommy Hailey, School of Social Sciences, College of Science & Technology, received notification of an award of $500 from Stephen F. Austin State University for “NPS Mission Dolores Archaeology Digital Exhibit project.”

Ms. Sonia Tinsley, Department of Health & Human Performance, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Board of Regents, for “Coordinated School Health Initiative.” Dr. Bill Dickens is collaborator.

Dr. James Crank, Dr. Lisa Abney, and Ms. Lisa Rougeou, Department of Language and Communications, College of Liberal Arts, submitted two proposals to the University of California – Berkeley for “Continuing Funding Application for Northwestern State University’s Writing Project” and another for “NWP Rural Sites Network Mini-Grant.” Ms. Mary Koleas is collaborator.

Dr. Vickie Gentry, College of Education, submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education TEACH Program, for “Transition to Teaching.” Ms. Donna Perot is collaborator.

Dr. Pamela Simmons, College of Nursing, submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health for “Are we SAFER? Schools of nursing Aligned For Emergency Responsiveness.”

Ms. Maxine Johnson, College of Nursing, submitted a proposal to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the continuation of “NSU Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students.”

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at www.nsula.edu/orsp.
Information collected from two projects that were implemented in specific business courses last semester have been selected for presentation and publication at the Federation of Business Disciplines Conference in Oklahoma City, Okla., this month. The project information will be used to implement revisions to the subject matter taught in the business courses, as well as possible curricula revisions.

Papers submitted by Drs. Walter Creighton, Brenda Hanson, and Margaret Kilcoyne from the College of Business have been selected for publication and presentation at Association of Business Information Systems Conference in conjunction with the Federation of Business Disciplines Conference in Oklahoma City on Feb. 26.

The paper entitled “Can They Really Walk the Talk?” was co-authored with Drs. Glenn Maples and Julie McDonald and Ms. Sue Champion and Ms. Margaret Garland.

Also, Drs. Creighton’s and Kilcoyne’s paper entitled “Communicating with PowerPoint the Right Way” in session “Pedagogy II” has been selected for presentation at the Association of Business Information Systems in conjunction with the Federation of Business Disciplines Conference in Oklahoma City on Feb. 26.

During the ABIS Conference, Dr. Kilcoyne has been asked to serve as a session chair for “Students and Graduates & ABIS Distinguished Paper” session on Feb. 26.

Drs. Hanson, Kilcoyne, Maples, McDonald and Ms. Champion and Ms. Garland had another paper accepted for publication and presentation at the Association of Business Communication – Southwest Conference in Oklahoma City on Feb. 26. This paper is entitled “Social Sites: The Impact on Our Future Cyber Socialites.” Dr. Kilcoyne is currently the historian for ABC-Southwest and has been asked to serve as the treasurer of ABC – Southwest for the 2009-2010 year.

Services for Mrs. Joy Thomasee, mother of Donna Thomasee of the Plant Services department, were held Friday, Dec. 19. Mrs. Thomasee died December 11, 2008. A plant was sent from the Floral Fund.

Mrs. Betty Jane Massia, mother of Warren Massia Jr. of the Information Systems Office, passed away Monday, Dec. 28. Funeral service for Mrs. Massia were held Thursday, Jan. 1 in the Chapel of Blanchard St Denis Funeral Home. Interment was at Coldwater Baptist Church Cemetery in Hagewood. The Floral Fund sent a spray to the services.

Betty Hippler, mother-in-law of Ada Hippler, administrative assistant in Criminal Justice, and mother of Stanley Hippler, former NSU employee, passed away in January. Funeral Services were held Friday, Jan. 16 at Pendleton Assembly of God Church near Many.

Gerald Burke, father of Greg Burke, Athletic Director, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 14. Funeral services were held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Alliance, Ohio, on Jan. 19. The Floral Fund sent a plant to the funeral service.

The Floral Fund also sent plants to services for James Simmons, father of Bob Simmons, assistant professor of engineering technology, and services for Mrs. Loretta Beal, mother of Shelia Thompson, library specialist at Watson Library.

A spray was sent to services for Mrs. Freddie Foster, retired custodial worker and mother of Thomas Foster, custodial service, Field House.

A donation was made to the La. Baptist Children’s Home, P. O. Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211 in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth “BeBe” Lawton, retiree as the assistant to the president.
The Northwestern Theatre and Dance Department will present the 2009 Dance Company Concert with talented students performing original work created by a diverse faculty, as well as a guest artist, in the dance techniques of ballet, tap, modern and jazz. Concerts will take place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13-14 in the A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission will be $10 for adults, $7 for senior citizens and non-NSU students, NSU, LSMSA and BPCC students will be admitted free with a current ID. For more information, call ext. 4483.

NSU Second Season will present “Rabbit Hole,” the story of loss, heartbreak, and forgiveness through daily moments and emotional hurdles as a family moves on after the accidental death of their 4-year old child. A drama of what comes after tragedy, this show captures the awkwardness and pain of thinking people faced with an unthinkable situation and eventually their capacity for survival.

Student Director is Melissa Ralph. The show will be presented Feb. 25-27 at 7:30 p.m. in The Loft at no charge. Seating is limited. This show is not suitable for children under age 17.

### Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course
**Date:** Feb. 2-June 30 (Class meets 2 nights a week. Days may vary due to instructor's work schedule)
**Time:** 6-10 p.m.
**Fee:** $550 plus books (approx. $100)
**Location:** Russell Hall, Rm. 213
**Instructor:** James Harvey

### Instant Piano
**Date:** Feb. 2, Mon
**Time:** 6-9:30 p.m.
**Fee:** $55 + $25 mat. fee (mat. fee paid directly to instructor first night of class)
**Location:** Creative & Performing Arts, Rm. 228
**Instructor:** David Haynes

### Society for Human Resource Management Prep Course
**COURSE TAUGHT IN ALEXANDRIA**
**Date:** Feb. 5-April 23, Thurs
**Time:** 5:30-8:30 p.m.
**Fee:** $825 (includes SHRM Information Binder)
**Location:** The Learning Center for Rapides Parish, Rm. 226
**Instructor:** Ed Taylor

### Creating Christmas Memories
**Date/time:** Feb. 16, Mon (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
Mar. 5, 12, 19, & Apr. 2, Thurs (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
**Fee:** $49 + $45 mat. fee (mat. fee to be paid directly to instructor first class meeting and includes 8x8 album, Christmas paper, stickers, & embellishments)
**Location:** Dodd Hall, Rm. 132 B
**Instructor:** Terrie McCallister

### Basic Floral Design I
**Date:** Feb. 21, 28, & Mar. 7, Sat
**Time:** 1-4 p.m.
**Fee:** $200 tuition plus $100 supply fee
**Location:** The Master’s Bouquet 108 South Dr.
**Instructor:** Dawn Martin (LA State Licensed Florist, member of SAF & LSFA) Over 20 year’s floral experience

### ICD-9 CM Medical Coding Training for Certification (42 hours)
**Date:** Feb. 28 - May 9 (Alternating Sat./schedule is subject to change)
**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
**Fee:** $600 (plus a $26 terminology book if no experience)
**Location:** Dodd Hall, Rm. 113
**Instructor:** Evelyn Prewitt