

Cornell Commitment/Community Board Participation Program

BACKGROUND:

The Cornell Tradition, Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars, and Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars programs constitute The Cornell Commitment. Our group is working with two of the three Cornell Commitment programs.

The Cornell Tradition, an alumni-supported program, awards 500 fellowships each year to Cornell students who demonstrate significant work experience, a commitment to campus and/or community service, and academic achievement. The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars is a select group of students who demonstrate an outstanding degree of leadership, academic excellence and a commitment to serving the communities in which they live.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Our team's objective was to connect interested students in the two above programs with community not-for-profit organizations as non-voting board members or committee members. This project will help both the student and the local organization by providing the student with the experience of participating in local community work, a better understanding of not-for-profit organizations, and the importance of volunteerism in the community. The board will gain potential insight into how "Generation Y, leading to better understanding of how to reach out to the younger generation via social networking.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS/PROJECT OUTCOMES:

The group contacted approximately 25 not-for-profit organizations to gauge their interest in working with a student. We currently have commitments from the following organizations to utilize a student on their board or committee beginning in September 2010:

Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Alcohol and Drug Council
United Way of Tompkins County – Committee

Paleontology Research Institute
Fine Arts Boosters – Committee
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Organizations that expressed interest in participating:

Tompkins County Public Library
Ithaca Public Education Initiative

Beechtree Care Center