

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY News Release
July 21, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASU Lodestar Center graduates second Public Allies Arizona class

PHOENIX— The ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation graduated its second Public Allies Arizona class on June 25 at the Desert Botanical Garden.

Public Allies is an AmeriCorps national youth leadership organization that places service-minded young people in apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations throughout the community. It identifies talented young adults from diverse backgrounds and advances their leadership through a 10-month program of full-time, paid apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations, leadership trainings, and team service projects.

“It's funny how rarely you think about the nonprofit sector if you're not embedded in it. Public Allies expanded my awareness and understanding of this third sector and the crucial role that it plays in our society, filling in the gaps left by public and private institutions,” said Public Allies graduate Jocelyn Fong. “Wherever I end up in my career, this knowledge of the nonprofit sector will have had a huge impact on my perspective and on my work.”

Completing its second year in Arizona, Public Allies recognized 20 Allies and the 16 Partner Organization nonprofits where the Allies completed their apprenticeships:

Abigail Aballe, Valley of the Sun United Way
Yasameen Aboozar, Childhelp USA
Matt Besenfelder, Helping Hands Housing Services
Brooke Carpenter, Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix
Elizabeth Celaya, Communities in Schools of Arizona
Ariel Collins, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Jocelyn Fong, Anytown Arizona, Inc.
Alton Gooden, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Ashley Graves, Rehoboth Community Development Corporation
Karen Lee, Aid to Adoption of Special Kids
Denisse Leon, Anytown Arizona, Inc.
Siobhan McCurdy, Alzheimer's Association
Heather Miles, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Erin Moore, Desert Botanical Garden
Rayshad Montgomery, Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Katrina Murray, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
Amber Ringstad, Communities in Schools of Arizona
Armando Salazar, Communities in Schools of Arizona
Sherita Valentine, Beatitudes Center DOAR
Celia Williams, Public Allies Arizona

“Childhelp's experience with the Public Allies program the past two years has been excellent,” said Mark Publow, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives. “We take the idea of this being an

apprenticeship experience with the nonprofit sector seriously, and have enjoyed seeing tremendous growth with our two Allies during their ten months with us. Additionally, Childhelp has benefited greatly through the added staffing and the unique skills and experiences that our Allies have brought to our organization.”

The ceremony included remarks from Dr. Debra Friedman, Dean of the College of Public Programs and Vice President of the Downtown Phoenix Campus; Honorary Ally Award winner Alberto Olivas, Director of Voter Outreach Programs with Maricopa Community Colleges Center for Civic Participation; and nominated Ally speaker Siobhan McCurdy.

“I realized my passion for connecting people through the use of art and design, while learning how people react differently to programs and events when all their senses are used,” said graduate Denisse Leon, who plans to attend the University of Kansas in the fall to pursue a master’s degree in graphic design. “It is through the use of these mediums that I believe a lot of cultural and sociological idiosyncrasies can be changed to create a more inclusive community, and therefore, create social change.”

Additional information about the 2007-2008 year includes:

- Collectively, Allies have served over 34,800 hours.
- Allies have directly impacted more than 14,276 people.
- Allies have recruited more than 2,175 volunteers who have served more than 5,213 hours and impacted more than 12,513 people.
- Allies created more than 437 new community linkages on behalf of their Partner Organizations representing new opportunities for information sharing, partnerships and collaborative projects.
- In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Allies engaged 50 youths in an Art for Justice Youth Writing Workshop in partnership with Make a Difference, Creighton Elementary School District, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Phoenix, and Communities In Schools of Arizona.
- In recognition of Cesar Chavez Day, Allies worked in partnership with the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation and Chicanos Por La Causa to lead over 250 youth from Phoenix Elementary School District #1 on a march to the historic Santa Rita Center and served 250 youth in the Stay in School Celebration Workshops.
- On Make a Difference Day, Allies worked with a Phoenix homeowner to paint her home in collaboration with Rebuilding Together’s Rock & Roll Paint-a-Thon.
- \$94,500 in education award money has been earned by Allies to access higher education or pay off student loans.
- 55 percent of Allies are immediately using their education award to earn bachelor's degrees or begin graduate school this fall. (While some Allies are paying off debt or saving the award for graduate school in the future.)
- Over 60 percent of the graduates were offered full-time employment at their nonprofit after graduation.

The ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation (formerly the ASU Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management), is recognized as a national leader in undergraduate and graduate nonprofit education. The ASU Lodestar Center exists to enhance the quality of life

in communities through the advancement of nonprofit leadership practices and provides knowledge and tools to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, professionals, board members, and volunteers by offering a selection of capacity building workshops, conferences, classes, and programs. For more information, visit: <http://nonprofit.asu.edu>.

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Public Allies Arizona celebrated the graduation of its second class on June 25, 2008, at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Pictured are the 2008 graduates. High resolution photo available: http://www.asu.edu/copp/nonprofit/pr_images/2008PAGraduates.jpg

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