



For Immediate Release
May 12, 2011

Contact: Kelly Zimmerman
OLOL Corporate Communications
225-765-8665 or 225-223-1194
kelly.zimmerman@ololrmc.com

OLOL College Receives Presidential Recognition as one of the Nation's Top Colleges for Community Service

Baton Rouge, LA – As colleges across the country honor their graduates this commencement season, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored Our Lady of the Lake College as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. OLOL College was admitted to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.

"We are pleased to be recognized for the fourth time with this prestigious designation," said Sandra S. Harper, Ph.D., Our Lady of the Lake College President. "This acknowledges our students' dedication to civic engagement and service inspired by the strong Franciscan values that this institution was founded upon. Working closely with our outstanding local community partners, we hope to help find solutions to community problems."

Recognition on the President's Community Service Honor Roll is the second major acknowledgment this year of Our Lady of the Lake College's commitment to service. In January 2011 the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named OLOL College to an elite list of institutions designated with the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification. This classification put OLOL College into a select group of 311 higher education institutions in the United States recognized for their student's engaged service in the community through service-learning and civic engagement initiatives.

"As members of the class of 2011 cross the stage to pick up their diplomas, more and more will be going into the world with a commitment to public service and the knowledge that they can make a difference in their communities and their own lives through service to others, thanks to the leadership of these institutions," said Patrick A. Corvington, Chief Executive Officer of



CNCS. "Congratulations to Our Lady of the Lake College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities. We salute all the Honor Roll awardees for embracing their civic mission and providing opportunities for their students to tackle tough national challenges through service."

OLOL College encourages service in two ways: through special community service projects and through service-learning initiatives. Participation in community service is encouraged for all students, faculty and staff on campus. Some of the many community service projects from the past year include revitalizing Broadmoor Middle School during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, collecting food for victims of the Haiti earthquake, and participating in a playground build at Brusly Elementary. Service-learning is offered through many OLOL College classes as a way for students to serve their communities while strengthening their academic skills. Examples of service-learning projects include nursing students who offer glucose and blood pressure screenings at area health fairs, respiratory therapy students who teach elementary classes about the health risks associated with smoking, and physical therapy students who lead exercise sessions with Alzheimer patients.

Individual Our Lady of the Lake College students have contributed significant time and effort to community service and because of it have established a reputation for service both locally and nationally. For example, senior W. Chandler LeBoeuf was named recently in the first group of Newman Civic Fellows recognized by Campus Compact, a national coalition of college and university presidents committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. Nursing student Hannah Swim received local media interest for her work donating her tips as a waitress to the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. And Brennen Comeaux, a student in the Human Medicine program at OLOL College, led a campus group dedicated to reducing the number of Louisiana youth who smoke and supporting the passage of restrictions on public smoking in Louisiana.

Facts about Our Lady of the Lake College's Service in 2010

- In 2010 the number of students participating in civic engagement and service-learning projects increased substantially. Student time donated to the community totaled 18,763 hours—the most recorded in the College's history and 39% more than the previous year.



- In a service-learning survey at the College, students reported that community service increased their sensitivity and compassion for others different from themselves.
- In the same survey, ninety percent of faculty respondents said that the service-learning experience helped students better understand course content and indicated that students learned more from this experience as compared to the same time being spent in the classroom.
- OLOL College student participants in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) reported higher than national average levels of engagement in contributing to the welfare of their community, and their feedback showed an overall positive trend reporting higher satisfaction with their entire educational experience.
- OLOL College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the years 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

A total of 851 institutions applied for the 2010 Honor Roll, a nine percent increase over last year, a sign of the growing interest by colleges and universities in highlighting their efforts to engage students in making a difference in the community.

On campuses across the country, millions of college students are engaged in innovative projects to meet local needs. In 2009, 3.2 million college students dedicated more than 307 million hours of service to communities across the country, service valued at more than \$6.4 billion.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which has administered the Honor Roll since 2006, chooses institutions for recognition based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. Go to www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll for a full list of Honor Roll recipients.



Offering master's, baccalaureate, and associate degrees, Our Lady of the Lake College is a four-year, independent institution, providing a strong foundation in the liberal arts and continuing its highly-regarded health sciences and nursing programs. Established in 1923 as a nursing school by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady (FMOL), Our Lady of the Lake College holds to a Franciscan tradition of service, offer a healing and spiritual presence for the community and especially those most in need. To learn more about Our Lady of the Lake College, please visit www.ololcollege.edu.

For additional information, please call Elaine Crowe, Communications Coordinator, at 225-768-1700.

###