



MEDIA RELEASE

CITY ACADEMY HONORS STUDENTS FOR SERVICE LEARNING WORK IN CELEBRATION OF 20TH ANNUAL NATIONAL & GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALT LAKE CITY, UT APRIL 7, 2008 - City Academy, a Utah Public Charter School serving students in grades 7-12, will honor the year long service learning work of its students as part the 20th Annual National and Global Youth Service Day, Thursday, April 17 at 12:00pm, at the school - 555 East 200 South Salt Lake City. Millions of youth in the United States and in 116 other countries are planning community service projects and special events to celebrate the 20th annual Youth Service Day during April.

Guest speakers at City Academy's Celebration Program will include City Academy Board Member Gary Daynes, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Westminster College, Utah State Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck, and Madeline Hartley, City Academy service learning scholar.

100% of City Academy's students are engaged in service learning all year long and in many areas. Course studies often involve service projects to apply the knowledge and skills learned in a given course. Science students, for example, learn the concepts of chemistry through the study and manufacturing of bio-diesel for its school bus. Students in Social Studies classes embark upon service projects for a marginalized community after assessing its needs. Students in English classes make books and take them to local elementary schools where they read their books to young children.

Additionally, students participate in school-wide service projects such as the annual Giving Tree Project at the Winter Holidays and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Food Drive for Utah Food Banks. The City Academy after school program also offers opportunities for students to do service projects for local organizations.

Each City Academy student serves on a school committee, the work of which is student driven. Through research and problem solving, the committees address issues that directly impact the school community. Students also learn how their work applies to life outside the school through their committee projects. Issues such as organic gardening, sustainability, wellness, nutrition, literacy and civics are addressed through student committee projects.

City Academy has service learning Internship program in which students serve "on the job" at selected non-profit agencies and apply the knowledge they have learned in their academic education. Interns have worked at agencies such as The Boys and Girls Club, The Children's Center, HEAL Utah, Human Rights Education Center, No More Homeless Pets, Planned Parenthood, Red Butte Gardens, Salt Lake City Library, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Utah AIDS Foundation, Utah Federation for Youth, Wasatch Community Gardens, and the YWCA.

"We strive to create a model community for the citizens in our school," states Deanna Taylor, Service Learning Coordinator for the school. "City Academy students graduate from the school as enlightened and engaged citizens with the critical thinking and problem solving skills that will enable them to be active and pro-active members of our communities – locally, nationally, and globally."

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