

**Tiffany Sims
Oakland University**

(Picture)

Spring into Service

Tiffany Sims, AmeriCorps*VISTA serving at Oakland University trained 8 Leadership Consultants through the Leadership and Volunteer Center to plan service projects for student organizations. The Leadership Consultant program was developed during the Winter 2011 semester to increase participation in leadership and service at Oakland University. Tiffany facilitated the training and met with each consultant prior to and after their service projects. She gave advice and direction to the students as they were planning the service projects.

“Spring into Service” at Oakland University. Spring at Oakland University started with eight Leadership Consultants (LC’s) planning service projects in March and April. Through the LC’s work 45 students were engaged in service contributing 147.5 hours of service to the local community at a value of \$3075.38

These service projects included campus beautification, spring cleaning at the Michigan Animal Rescue League in Pontiac, spring cleaning at Leader Dogs for the Blind, tree planting with Greening of Detroit, support for Beyond Basics upcoming fundraiser by making craft tiles, and a Spring Cleaning Extravaganza which allowed students to donate their clothes, small appliances and kitchen items to the Salvation Army.

A Note from Her Supervisor, Chris Jenson: As the Leadership Consultants (LCs) were charged with the duty to create and recruit students for a service project, Tiffany provided the resources to connect students to the community need. The magnitude of this project and of her legacy at Oakland University will be felt by the numerous students who continue to reach out to the community on their own and persist on serving their community after graduation. As Tiffany finishes her second year as an AmeriCorps*VISTA serving at Oakland University, she has paved the way for students to serve in the community and to support in the mission of building capacity and sustainability for service at Oakland University.

**Amy Inzina and Sophie Tullier
Kirtland Community College**

(Pic)

Early Childhood Conference

Sophie Tullier is a 2010 graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park where she majored and graduated with honors in Geography. While at UMD, Sophie held leadership positions in the Alternative Breaks program, enrolled in service-learning courses, and participated in a semester long community service program, Terps for Change, tutoring at a bilingual middle school in D.C. These experiences made Sophie sought out her current placement at Kirtland Community College so that she could continue to engage students in service and leverage college resources to provide opportunities for community members. Her time at Kirtland has focused on creating awareness and engaging students in issues of domestic and sexual violence, homelessness, and early childhood education through her work with two community partners, River House, Inc. and the C.O.O.R./Iosco Great Start Collaborative. *Amy Inzina* is a 2009 graduate of Ashland University, where she majored and graduated in Criminal Justice and History with a minor in Creative Writing. While at Ashland University, Amy was involved with Community Care-the community service organization on campus,

where she held leadership positions in Habitat for Humanity's Spring Break Trip, and was involved in putting on events focusing on the issue of hunger in the community and on campus. Amy's placement on Kirtland Community College is her second year of AmeriCorps, first serving with City Year Cleveland. At Kirtland, Amy promotes services offered at Kirtland Community College to low income students, and services that the surrounding communities can offer low income students.

Sophie and Amy teamed up with the Great Start Collaborative to plan an early childhood conference for parents and providers which Kirtland Community College hosted. Sophie assisted in the recruitment of presenters, advertising the event to Kirtland student-parents, as well as other details involved in the implementation of the conference from recruiting student volunteers to blowing up balloons the day before. Amy's role in the conference involved different details involved in the implementation of the conference as well from creating flyers promoting the event, promoting the event to the local media outlets to recruiting local businesses that deal with early childhood education to have vendor tables at lunch that could provide additional resources to parents and providers. When the conference on April 16th was held, it was a huge success! Together, the conference committee was able to provide free childcare, free transportation from a number of locations throughout the five counties the collaborative serves, as well as a number of door prizes for those in attendance. There were over 100 adults registered, with over 50 children in the on-campus childcare center while their parents participated in the conference. The 16 Breakout Sessions covered topics including Bullying, Controlled Silliness, Toddlers, Breastfeeding, Early Literacy, Advocacy, and a number of others. The Keynote Speaker was the internationally acclaimed presenter and author Dr. Dan Hodgins, who delivered an excellent presentation on Brain Development. The evaluations of the event were overwhelmingly positive. Attendees loved the location of Kirtland, the variety of topics, and the experience of the presenters in their field. Many of the evaluations said they loved it so much they would be sure to come back next year and recommend it to their friends.

Notes from their Supervisors: "Sophie's extensive experience and thoroughness really paid off for the Great Start conference. This was the first year and Sophie worked diligently to make sure all the little details didn't turn into BIG problems. Participants commented on the well run conference and I am sure it will be a new tradition here in Northern Michigan thanks to the hard work our VISTA's. **–Nick Holton**

"The staff and faculty at Kirtland Community College has been very fortunate to work directly with Amy Inzina as our AmeriCorps VISTA this past year. She has done an exceptional job in providing awareness on services offered to low income students as well as coordinating events on campus focusing on the issue of hunger in our community. Her previous experience was beneficial in coordinating activities for the Kirtland campus." **–Michelle Vyskocil**