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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Sommer  
517-492-2412  
[lsommer@mnaonline.org](mailto:lsommer@mnaonline.org)

## **Three Outstanding Programs Vie for \$10,000 Award** *Finalists to be Announced at the Institute*

**FEBRUARY 11, 2009 - LANSING, MI** – Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is pleased to announce three outstanding campus-community partnerships as finalists for Michigan’s 2009 Carter Partnership Award. The three finalists will be announced during the 13<sup>th</sup> annual *Institute: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement*, on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership for Campus-Community Collaboration is given annually by MCC to one partnership involving a Michigan college or university and a community group with the \$10,000 prize divided equally between the campus and community partners for working together in exceptional ways to improve people’s lives and enhance learning in the process. The \$10,000 award will be presented during the annual Governor’s Service Awards in June 2009, on a date yet to be determined. The winner will be announced that evening from among the three finalists.

The three Carter Partnership Award finalists are: Grand Valley State University – Westtown Jubilee Housing; Kellogg Community College – HandsOn Battle Creek; and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor – Ozone House, SOS Community Services and COPE Alternative School. A detailed description of each partnership follows.

### **Grand Valley State University – Westtown Jubilee Housing**

This is a partnership that centers on energy efficient housing for low income families living in the West Side of Grand Rapids. Westtown Jubilee Housing and the GVSU School of Engineering partnership is a covenantal collaboration in which Westtown Jubilee provides a supply of housing projects with energy management needs and challenges and the School of Engineering provides innovative solutions for those challenges. Within the partnership, engineering students and faculty provide leadership and labor to enhance the energy performance of these homes. It benefits community members directly and it also provides an opportunity for engineering students to become better citizens by using service as an education tool.

### **Kellogg Community College – HandsOn Battle Creek**

This partnership originated as an idea for a service-learning course at Kellogg Community College (KCC) that would bring the campus and community together. “Learning through Service” pairs KCC students with more than 40 nonprofit agencies in West Michigan, connecting them with limitless service opportunities. The goal is to work together efficiently with equal benefit to the community and the student, and continue to maintain this level of engagement. Because of its diversity, “Learning through Service” gives students an array of volunteer opportunities to choose from, making it easy for students to become passionate about their project and therefore feel connected to the community.

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**Finalists cont.**

**University of Michigan-Ann Arbor – Ozone House, SOS Community Service and COPE Alternative School**

“Telling It” is a collaboration between University of Michigan’s Residential College and three organizations serving runaway, homeless and high-risk youth in the county by pairing college students with children and teens ages 7-18 who represent the most economically disadvantaged, and most at-risk youth of Washtenaw County. What separates this service-learning experience from traditional art classes programs is the holistic emphasis on youth voice and experience, where young people can build a self-concept and can focus on their humanity, instead of need. This partnership also affords the opportunity for University of Michigan students to receive unparalleled hands-on training in arts-based work in communities for social justice. Over the years, “Telling It” has engaged more than 150 college students to help more than 200 young people increase their literacy skills, self-esteem and likelihood of graduating school to pursue higher education.

A selection panel composed of representatives from community, higher education, business, and government organizations selected the four finalists and will choose the winner of the award. The committee is independent of Michigan Campus Compact, the organizers of the award. The committee made its selection of the three finalists based on the combined merits of each program and gave careful consideration to how closely the program applicants matched the award guidelines. The award guidelines consisted of the following:

- Collaboration between a Michigan college or university (public or private) and the community for at least two years.
- A history of shared power and decision-making.
- Impact on the lives of families and communities through increased economic opportunity, resourceful social and civic networks, or responsive public systems.
- Data-informed planning and decision-making.
- An optimal blend of learning, research, and/or service for higher education participants.
- Efforts to enlist other collaborators (e.g. businesses, civic organizations, government agencies, faith-based institutions, etc.).
- Documentation of measurable outcomes.
- Promise of sustainability.

Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. We promote the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.

For more information about the award finalists, please contact Shelley Long at 517-492-2432 or [slong@mnaonline.org](mailto:slong@mnaonline.org).

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