



Monday, March 06, 2006

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AMERICORPS MEMBER IS AUTHOR OF THE MARC 2006 “AMERICA LEARNS NATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE MONTH”

MISSION HILLS, CA – America Learns announced today that AmeriCorps member Sarah Kurachek’s tutoring strategy, “Human Sculpture Vocabulary,” is the March 2006 America Learns National Strategy of the Month. Sarah’s strategy was selected out of hundreds to be highlighted by America Learns and distributed through its monthly newsletter to thousands of individuals worldwide.

Sarah is currently serving through City of Lakes AmeriCorps in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She joined City of Lakes AmeriCorps after graduating from Duke University in 2004, and now tutors and mentors 15 students in small group and one-on-one settings at Minneapolis North High School. Sarah decided to serve a second year with AmeriCorps to continue building upon the meaningful relationships she and her students have formed.

Sarah’s “Human Sculpture Vocabulary” strategy engages students to learn and use new vocabulary words while fostering stronger group cooperation skills. Students use their bodies to form group sculptures that represent the meaning of words while the tutor guesses the word the sculpture expresses.

“This activity helped the students learn new words and have fun with each other,” Sarah said.

“Sarah has really been able to develop positive relationships with her students and they look up to her as a role model,” said Jennifer Valley, Director, City of Lakes AmeriCorps. “She does great work and this strategy is just one technique which has helped her to connect with students and make learning fun for them. She’s one of our rock stars!”

“Sarah embodies the promise of national service,” said Gary Kosman, founder and CEO, America Learns. “Her engaging strategy is now not only helping students in Minneapolis, but is also benefiting students nationwide through the America Learns Network. Sarah’s passion and creativity demonstrate a core reason America Learns exists – that it is paramount for the one of a kind strategies that volunteers and national service members create to be captured and shared so that students can benefit from them right now and for years to come.”

Sarah’s strategy may be accessed for the remainder of March at <http://americalearns.net/strategy.htm>, and will be permanently available to all America Learns Network members.

America Learns is the leader in helping nonprofit reading tutoring and mentoring programs provide superior support to their students, tutors, mentors and staff. America Learns’ primary service is the National Performance Measurement & Support Network (the “Network”), an easy to use, cost effective Web-based service that helps organizations streamline their reporting and evaluation efforts, build institutional memory, and provide ongoing lesson planning and interpersonal skills support to tutors and mentors. Network members include City Year Chicago, America Reads – Mississippi, Dwight Hall at Yale, and the Cal Corps Public Service Center at UC Berkeley among others. In 2003, Echoing Green, the social venture capital organization that financially backed national service leaders Jumpstart, City Year and Teach for America, awarded two years of seed funding to America Learns out of an applicant pool of nearly 1,000 applicants worldwide. Additional information is available by calling 310-709-4947 or visiting <http://www.americalearns.net>.

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VIEWED ON: Thursday, March 16, 2006

URL: http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/states_news_detail.asp?tbl_pr_id=257