

# meaningful

## DISCOVERY AND PLANNING

*Project 701, tied to the McMaster School, allows students the opportunity to be involved at higher levels of service*



*The Backpack Buddy project is one of the first approved initiatives of Project 701 at Defiance College. Staff member Ashton Judis '10, left, service and leadership program coordinator, and student Kelly Coble of Cloverdale, Ohio, are among those involved in the project that provides 300 backpacks filled with food for qualifying local youngsters to take home every weekend.*

Defiance College has taken service one step further than other colleges with a student-run nonprofit organization called Project 701. (Named for the College's address on Clinton St.)

Students in Project 701 engage in the more meaningful discovery and planning of service projects, putting classroom knowledge to work as project managers and leaders, learning how to administer the business side of a service organization.

Project 701 was created during the 2009-10 academic year with Articles of Incorporation approved and signed by the Ohio Secretary of State. It resides under the umbrella of the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity and is governed by a board of directors consisting of students, administrators, faculty, staff and alumni.

Defiance College president Mark C. Gordon said Project 701 will provide a new type of community service and engagement in which service is fully integrated into the academic experience, providing both contacts and job experience. "Our students are receiving leadership opportunities that challenge them to apply their expertise in a professional manner in a real-world context," he said.

Such experiences will enhance internship and employment opportunities. When applying for their first job out of college, students will be able to say that they already have personal experience serving as the director or financial officer or project manager of a

nonprofit organization. Many will be able to show that they have created business plans, developed successful service projects, or managed and trained incoming students.

According to Tina Mohring, grants officer for Defiance College and chairperson of the Project 701 board, seven projects have been approved thus far to offer students real-life experience in their major areas of interest. They include:

- ◆ A fair trade outlet. Students will develop a fair trade store on campus after researching appropriate imported goods and the logistics of locating a site and running a business.
- ◆ A computer repair service run by students majoring in digital forensic science. Services offered to the public will be virus removal, limited data recovery, hardware upgrades and repairs, data wiping and back-up services, and operating system optimization.
- ◆ The Backpack Buddy project, already in operation. Students assist community organizations in stuffing backpacks with food for local qualifying youngsters to take home on weekends. DC students direct the weekly logistics of ordering food, organizing and stuffing 300 backpacks to feed 450 children, and delivering them to Defiance Elementary School.

- ◆ Free monthly health clinics. With assistance from Project 701 students, local physicians will provide free services to community members in need. Pre-med and nursing students will be able to shadow doctors at the clinic.
- ◆ A micro-lending project providing micro loans to small businesses in Jamaica.
- ◆ A dance marathon held annually to raise funds for Mercy Children's Hospital.
- ◆ A project to research the causes of Defiance County's higher than normal mortality rate from breast cancer. Students will develop a program to address the causes and write a grant proposal for funding.

Student applications were accepted and reviewed for management positions, and it was recently announced that Brittany Michaels of Edgerton, Ohio, has been named executive director of Project 701. Lynn Haller, Antwerp, Ohio, has been named chief financial officer. Director positions for project development and project support are still to be named. Each individual project will have a project manager, assistant manager, and faculty or staff adviser.

The Project 701 board approved development of a grant writing work-group to seek out and submit grants for overall funding of the operation of Project 701 and existing projects. Mohring explained if any DC student wishes to start a new project, the group would look for grants to support it. It is a goal that all Defiance students be involved in a project sometime during their degree program. Students in a spring semester business course will be working on a 501 (c) (3) application for recognition of tax-exempt, public charity status. ◆



*Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner met with Defiance College students earlier this year to present them with approved documents establishing Articles of Incorporation for Project 701, a new, student-run nonprofit organization. Pictured with Brunner are DC students Steven Switz, New London, Ohio, and Shanna Chueyane, Columbia, Md.*

## Construction has begun on the new Athletic Center

Work has begun on Defiance College's new athletic center. Since ground was broken in October, general contractor Mel Lutzer Company of Napoleon has begun construction at the site west of Webster Street and north of Grand Avenue.

The project calls for an 84,000 square foot facility of steel and masonry which will feature a six-lane NCAA approved track and an expanded fitness center that will promote campus-wide physical and social vitality. The facility will become the recreational hub of the campus, meeting the needs of Yellow Jacket sports and student fitness.

Construction of the new complex will catapult DC's athletic facilities to a new level and will greatly enhance the experience for all students. The fitness and recreational benefits offered by the new center will make it a valuable asset in recruitment and retention of all students and will provide an outstanding venue for northwest Ohio athletic events.

Academically, the center will assist the academic programs of Athletic Training, Sport Management and Wellness and Corporate Fitness to achieve a new level of success.

Rich Pejeau, vice president for institutional advancement, notes that opportunities still exist for financial contributions to the project. An enhanced version brings the projected cost to \$4.2 million. Pejeau says that the College currently has nearly \$3.8 million in commitments. ◆



*Progress on construction can be followed by visiting the webcam at [www.defianceathletics.com/facilities/fhconstruction](http://www.defianceathletics.com/facilities/fhconstruction).*