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Philanthropy Board Awards Grant to Boys & Girls Clubs

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Grant Award (St. Petersburg, Fla.) December 21, 2009 – The first student philanthropy board at USFSP, funded by a grant for leadership and community service initiatives, awarded $5,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast.

It is the first of multiple grants student boards at USFSP will award over the three-year funding period for the Learn and Serve America Higher Education grant from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Students Kori Ramos and Ian Evans presented the grant award Friday, Dec. 11 to Carl Lavendar, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast, and Tammie Hillier, the non-profit’s director of quality assurance and grants management.

The money will support the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast Be Great program, designed to help young people achieve academic success through long-term mentoring, tutoring and goal-setting. The money will support Be Great at the Royal Theater and Northside Boys & Girls Clubs where a total of 150 children in grades 8 to 12 will participate in the mentoring and goal-setting aspects of the program. Through daily discussions with staff and volunteers, the participants will be encouraged to set and achieve academic goals leading to school success and graduation.

USFSP Assistant Professor Morgan Gresham incorporated the philanthropy board into her Technical Writing course. During the Spring 2010 semester, which runs from Jan. 11 to April 30, seven courses will incorporate the student philanthropy board with each board ultimately awarding a $5,000 grant to assist a non-profit meet a critical community need.

"I think having first-hand experience in philanthropy work and responsibility for funding decisions, students gain an understanding of needs that go unaddressed in their community," said Charlie Justice, assistant director for leadership programs at USFSP. "In the long-run this emphasis on leadership and regional stewardship will demonstrate the importance of staying civically involved once they’ve graduated."

USFSP received a Learn and Serve America grant of $395,000, one of 36 grants awarded to organizations throughout the country to engage students in service-learning projects and promote community service while enhancing student academic and civic skills. The grant supports the student philanthropy boards and the Lead Learn Serve program at USFSP.

-USF St. Petersburg-

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