



# Living Character

The signature Hope focus on putting faith and learning into practice by making a difference in the world has earned national recognition.

Hope is one of only 115 colleges and universities across the country named to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's "2010 Community Engagement Classification" at the beginning of January, a reflection of the college's institution-wide emphasis on service and service-learning.

Dean of Students Dr. Richard Frost, who coordinated Hope's application for the recognition, said that he especially appreciates

the selection because it affirms the way that community engagement and service is expressed as a core value at Hope. Even though educating students "for lives of leadership and service in a global society" is part of the college's mission statement, he noted that it happens through the efforts of hundreds of individuals—students, faculty and members of the staff—who choose to come together in multiple ways to make a difference, whether tutoring area children, raising funds for the American Cancer Society or helping provide a village in Africa with clean water.

"Hope College being the recipient of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification is an authentic reflection of the college's commitment to service to others," Dr. Frost said.

"It's a commitment that is reflected strongly in the academic community, the mission of Campus Ministries and the co-curricular energy of student organizations," he said. "What's most heartening and unique is that this does not emanate from a place of centrality, but from our own hearts and Christian convictions that call us to serve one another."

The Carnegie Foundation's listing highlights colleges and universities that demonstrate excellent community engagement locally or beyond, showing alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices. First offered in 2006, the classification enables the foundation to address elements of institutional mission and distinctiveness not represented in the national data on colleges and universities.



Some service efforts are as simple as taking rake in hand on a Saturday morning and helping the residents of the neighborhood around campus with their leaves.



Hope's selection to the "2010 Community Engagement Classification" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reflects the college's institution-wide emphasis on service and service-learning, a signature characteristic of the college that takes many

"Through a classification that acknowledges significant commitment to and demonstration of community engagement, the Foundation encourages colleges and universities to become more deeply engaged, to improve teaching and learning and to generate socially responsive knowledge to

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forms. The many student-led efforts include the annual fall Relay for Life on behalf of the American Cancer Society. More than 750 signed up to walk the Dow Center track during the overnight event this year (and to enjoy fellowship and activities in between), raising more than \$35,000.

benefit communities," said Carnegie President Anthony Bryk. "We are very pleased with the movement we are seeing in this direction."

Participation in the classification is elective, based on applications submitted by the colleges and universities describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community. Of the institutions that



Each year, more than 150 students commit to serving as tutors with the Children's After School Achievement (CASA) program, working one-on-one from September through April with an elementary-age student.

the foundation invited to apply this year, 305 registered to receive the application and 154 applied. The 115 that were selected include 66 public institutions and 49 private institutions across 34 states. Hope is one of 25 baccalaureate colleges selected this year, and one of four institutions from Michigan on the 2010 list, which was announced on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

The foundation has named a total of 311 institutions to the classification since the program debuted in 2006.

Service and outreach activities originated at Hope take place across the nation and abroad as well as locally, and include initiatives connected to course-work, coordinated by Hope offices and departments, and initiated by students as volunteer efforts. Among other examples:

- Fourth-semester Spanish students volunteer as ESL teachers working with area adults through a program coordinated with Latin Americans United for Progress, writing essays about their experience to connect their service to their own learning.
- The Center for Faithful Leadership, an academic program, involves students in coursework and other activities that have included providing consulting services for area organizations and teaching leadership principles to high school students.
- The Children's After School Achievement (CASA) program and TRIO Hope College Upward Bound program work with the area schools in providing tutoring and other activities for elementary-age children and high school students, with Hope students serving as tutors.
- Hundreds of students work together to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life each fall and for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital through the Dance Marathon each spring.
- Students travel throughout the country and to Central America and the Caribbean through spring break service and immersion trips coordinated by Campus Ministries and other programs.
- The college's chapter of Engineers Without Borders and faculty and students in the department of nursing have traveled to Africa multiple times for a project focused on water quality and community health in Nkuv, Cameroon.

The Dance Marathon held each March unites more than 500 students in raising funds for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The 24 hours that the marathon runs in the Dow Center culminate planning and dedicated effort that begin in the opening weeks of the school year. This year's event, held on Friday-Saturday, March 11-12, raised \$90,390.69, bringing Dance Marathon's 12-year total to more than \$920,000 "For the Kids."



Individuals and student organizations find numerous other ways to serve and connect as well, from mentoring children one-on-one to cleaning area beaches.

A variety of the efforts at Hope have received recognition through the years. The college's "Time to Serve" program—which involves freshmen in service projects early in their first semester to help introduce them to needs and opportunities in the community—received a 2001 Distinguished Service Award from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc. The Nkuv, Cameroon, project was named one of four finalists for Michigan's 2008 Carter Partnership Award. This past June, CASA received the statewide "Outstanding Mentoring Program Award" in the 2010 Governor's Service Award program. Hope's chapter of the Mortar Board college honor society consistently receives multiple "Project Excellence Awards" each year for its service projects, and in July received the national organization's highest honor for exemplifying the society's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service in the most outstanding manner.

