



P.O. Box 880474, San Diego, CA 92168 ♦ (619)599-8205
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Meet Our Certified Trainers/Coaches and Model Practitioners

Excel Youth Zone connects you with San Diego and Imperial County's Regional Lead, certified coaches/trainers and model practitioners that support service-learning through any and all aspects of creating and implementing a successful service-learning project.

Regional Lead, Certified Trainers and Model Practitioners:

Excel Youth Zone serves as California Department of Education's Service-Learning Regional Lead for San Diego & Imperial County and provides leadership and collaboration with others to build capacity for service-learning in K-12 schools and after school programs.

Youth Service California (<http://www.yscal.org>) in partnership with the California Department of Education, CalServe unit, (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl/>) is responsible for developing the capacity of each region in California to provide high quality technical assistance and training in service-learning.

Their two specific strategies to achieve this goal are:

- 1) identifying, training, and promoting qualified people willing and able to facilitate high quality service-learning professional development events for teachers, administrators, community-based educators, and others. These individuals are referred to as [Certified Trainers/Coaches](#).
- 2) identifying and showcasing [Model Practitioners](#) – typically teachers – who demonstrate and illustrate what high-quality service-learning looks like.

Certified Trainers/Coaches

Jennifer Hamilton



Program Director/CDE Regional
Service-Learning Lead
Excel Youth Zone

Jennifer Hamilton is a Program Director Excel Youth Zone. Jennifer serves as Regional Service-Learning Lead (http://yscal.org/cm/Service-Learning/Regional_Leads.html) for San Diego and Imperial County, as designated by the California Department of Education (CDE). Jennifer is certified by CDE as a service-learning trainer and coach. She is also the only Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute certified trainer in San Diego. In September 2002, Mrs. Hamilton became a LEAD San Diego graduate.



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During her over six years as a service-learning specialist and Program Director, Jennifer's responsibilities include: managing the youth empowerment and leadership programs; facilitating youth and educator trainings; consulting with educators and administrators; facilitating student created service and leadership projects and philanthropy; budgeting; preparing and managing grants; and supervising staff and AmeriCorps members.

Tiveeda Stovall



Executive Director/Founder,
Excel Youth Zone
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Tiveeda Stovall is the Executive Director/Founder of Excel Youth Zone and is a CDE Certified Trainer of service-learning. Ms. Stovall has served as an adjunct professor of Sociology at a local community college. She has had over 20 years of social work and counseling experience with children, adolescents and families in community, educational and medical settings. She has consulted for schools, public health departments, medical professionals and community organizations on psycho-social issues of youth and families. Originally from Washington DC, Tiveeda Stovall grew up in Colorado and received B.S. in psychology at the University of Colorado Boulder. After moving to California in 1988, Tiveeda Stovall received her Master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Stovall relocated with her family to San Diego County in 1997 where she currently resides. She led the efforts to institutionalize a Service-Learning Department at San Diego Mesa College. Ms. Stovall is the recipient of the 2007 Congresswoman Susan Davis Award for an Adult Actively Engaging Students in Service.

Nancy Hemmings
Service-Learning Specialist,
Community Relations Department of
San Diego Unified School District
http://old.sandi.net/depts/comm_relations/service_learning.html
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Nancy Hemmings has worked over a dozen years to support service-learning through San Diego Unified School District. She is a CDE certified service-learning trainer. As part of the Community Relations Department, Ms. Hemming works with partnership maintenance and partner recruitment, OASIS Intergenerational Program, LEARN & SERVE Service-Learning Program, and program materials.

Valentyna Banner



Third Grade Teacher
Certified Service-Learning Trainer
Nubia Leadership Academy Charter
School
vbanner@sandiego.edu

Valentyna Banner can assist in planning meaningful service-learning experiences that align with content standards. She has experience planning and implementing service-learning projects for grades one through six. Her experience creating a school-wide service-learning curriculum has allowed her to become familiar with numerous service-learning resources. Mrs. Banner has led both service-learning and character building trainings for teachers of all levels.

Elizabeth Meade



University of Phoenix College of
Education Area Chair
Alpine Union School District Character
Education/Service Learning Coordinator
Ejmeade15@aol.com

Elizabeth Meade has taught over twenty-eight years with students from the age of six weeks through graduate level. She spent many years working in the field of child development which strongly influenced her Constructivist teaching philosophy. Elizabeth holds a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.S. and Ed. D. in Curriculum Development and Instruction. She has both CLAD and GATE credentials. Currently, Elizabeth teaches math and science in sixth grade at Joan MacQueen Middle School and serves as the Character Education-Service Learning Coordinator for the Alpine Union School District. Recently, Elizabeth has attained her National Board Certified Teacher status and Administrative Services Credential. She helps staff connect character education and service learning into daily lessons, as well as, create awareness of the need for engagement of students in daily curriculum with the administration.

Model Practitioner

Jennifer Sims
International Baccalaureate Program
Coordinator,

Jennifer Sims is available to help mentor your teachers or organization to create relevant, meaningful learning experiences integrating service



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View Jennifer's Blog
<http://communitynarratives.blogspot.com/>

learning with subject areas and 21st century skills. Her experience as an Elementary classroom teacher, certificated Library Media Teacher K-8, International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator Prek-8, and Volunteer/Business Partnerships Coordinator, qualifies her as a California Department of Education Service Learning Practitioner. She sees service learning as the answer to keeping students engaged and excited. Her middle school students logged over 11,000 service hours in 2007. Jennifer can help link curriculum to standards-based teaching and learning as well as help build bridges between schools and private enterprise.