President Miles Thanks Students for Participation In Alternative Spring Break Activities

March 31, 2009

Many students from Iowa’s public universities recently gave up their spring break vacations to volunteer their time and services to assist Iowans and others across the country. The volunteer effort was most impressive in the Cedar Rapids area, where students from the University of Iowa and Iowa State University assisted homeowners in the cleaning, repair, and reconstruction of many flood-damaged homes still in need of these services nine months following the devastating flood. With their hard work and dedication to this cause, our students served as fine ambassadors of Iowa’s public universities, not only to the residents of Cedar Rapids, but also to the many students from across the country who traveled to Iowa to participate in the volunteer effort.

Our students also provided services for worthy causes outside of the state. University of Iowa law students traveled to New Orleans to clean and rebuild homes, and to assist New Orleans Legal Aid with client intake and other legal services. Iowa State University students provided farm services at a Colorado substance abuse and rehabilitation center, and for an Arkansas non-profit organization dedicated to addressing world hunger and poverty. And University of Northern Iowa students worked with the homeless in Denver and San Francisco.

The Board of Regents extends its sincere thanks to these students for their recognition of and response to these many needs, particularly for the Cedar Rapids flood victims. We hope the volunteer efforts proved to be a very valuable and rewarding experience for our students, that they will be encouraged to participate in alternative spring break programs in future years, and that they will encourage their fellow students to join them in these important service projects.

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