

# THE CAMPUS ECHO

## EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE



Issue 32

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Feb. 14, 1994

## N.C.C.U. Students Lend Helping Hand

**Terry Boykin**  
**Staff Writer**

NCCU students have a new opportunity to serve their community through an organization called Student Action with Farmworkers. SAF's service learning program, "Into the Fields: SAF Summer Internship and Leadership Development" has awarded NCCU a mini-grant to create its own program on social justice and farmworker issues.

The program began this semester with a class on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00. Each night, a dif-

ferent lecturer will present information on various farmworker issues. Although the class will be hosted by NCCU, Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill students will also be attending.

The class is open to all interested students, but is mandatory for those who wish to do an internship this summer through SAF. Credit hours given for the class depend on the individual student's involvement: attending class and attending lectures is worth one hour, but adding field work and an agreement to intern is worth three hours.

The actual internship is worth three hours of extra academic credit and pays \$1,000.

The class teaches students about the quality of life of farmworkers, barriers they face in law, safety, and health, and possible roles for students that can improve these conditions. The internships are in various areas, including education, legal services, health services and community organizing.

Why is all this needed? According to SAF, during the agricultural season about 45,000

migrant farmworkers come into North Carolina and join about 300,000 seasonal farmworkers who live here year-round. While approximately 80 percent of the migrants are Hispanic, nearly 80 percent of the seasonal workers are black.

SAF statistics show that farmworkers have a life expectancy of only 49 years due to accidents, poor health and poor living conditions. They are some of the hardest working people in America, yet they are also some of the poorest.

Progress has been made

to correct these conditions. Recently, North Carolina farmworkers were instrumental in getting quick implementation of new pesticide safety rules, according to SAF. In large part, this was possible because of the work of groups that like those interns will work with. You can make a difference.

The class is still open, and the deadline for internship applications is March 1. See Dr. Parrish at Room 135 in the Health Education building or call 560-6404. For more information, you can also call SAF at 660-3652.

## Community Service Program Offers Way To Repay Student Loans

**Nakia Kittrel**  
**Staff Writer**

On Sept. 21, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act that will permit students to repay student loans by performing community service.

The act is intended to engage Americans in meeting critical needs

through direct community-based service and "strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people," Clinton said.

The act establishes AmeriCorps, a program which will allow people to earn education benefits in exchange for grassroots community service. The effort is intended to rebuild America through service.

AmeriCorps builds

upon the network of existing national and state service programs by supporting locally driven projects that meet high national standards of performance.

AmeriCorps supports both full-time and part time service. Participants will receive a stipend and possible benefits during their term of service which can range from one

year of full-time to two years of part-time service.

Participants do a 1700-hour term of full-time service over nine months to a year or do a part-time term of 900 hours (over 1 to 3 years).

It may sound like a lot, but it averages only 25 hours per month for three years (the maximum for a full-time college student), but supporters argue that

the time is reasonable if you consider how long it would take you to pay back your student loans. The program allows you to do good and stay out of debt, supporters claim.

For more information on the program, contact the Corporation for National and Community Service, 1100 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.

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