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TOWN OF MARION

President's Service Award
18-19
COUNCIL:

OFFICERS:

Marshall E. Guy, Mayor
Henry L. Booker, Town Manager
Charles Overbay, Chief-of-Police
Dixie O. Sheets, Dir. of Finance/Clerk
Cecil Hicks, Asst. Town Mgr.
David L. Archer, Recreation Dir.
Charles E. Lincoln, Attorney

P.O. Box 1005

Marion, Virginia 24354

(703) 783-4113

February 23, 1995

Ernest Aker
Samuel S. Burkett
James K. Cornick
David P. Helms
James L. Gates
W. Eugene Hendrick
M. L. Greenwood, Jr.

The President's Service Award
1737 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Nomination for President's Service Award

Gentlemen:

It is with pleasure that the Town of Marion nominates the New River - Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area's AmeriCorps Cluster Group for the President's Service Award. Attached is a copy of a resolution which was unanimously passed by the Marion, Virginia Town Council at its regular meeting on February 23, 1995.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Booker
Henry Booker
Town Manager



Equal Housing Opportunity
Equal Employment Opportunity

OFFICERS:

MARSHALL E. GUY, Mayor
HENRY L. BOOKER, Town Manager
CHARLES OVERBAY, Chief-of-Police
DIXIE O. SHEETS, Dir. of Finance/Clerk
CECIL HICKS, Asst. Town Mgr.
DAVID L. ARCHER, Recreation Dir.
CHARLES F. LINCOLN, Attorney

TOWN of MARION

P. O. Box 1005

MARION, VIRGINIA 24354

(703) 783-4113

FAX (703) 783-8413

COUNCIL:

MEL LEAMAN
SAMUEL S. BURKETT
JAMES K. CORNICK
DAVID P. HELMS
JAMES L. GATES
W. EUGENE HENDRICK
M. L. GREENWOOD, JR.

Resolution 95-57

**A RESOLUTION TO NOMINATE THE
NEW RIVER - HIGHLANDS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA
AMERICORPS CLUSTER GROUP
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

WHEREAS, the New River - Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) through the AmericaCorps Cluster Group, have conducted a Community Forrest Enhancement Project; and

WHEREAS, the AmeriCorps has assigned technical specialists to the Marion area, such specialists working with identifying and labeling the flora along the Riverwalk along the Middle Fork of the Holston River in Marion, Virginia, and helping the Town become recognized as a 'Tree City'; and

WHEREAS, the AmeriCorps has brought to Marion a level of technical proficiency which is not available locally, raised the Town awareness of the value of trees to a municipal environment, and offered suggestions, advise, and guidance which is proving to be invaluable.

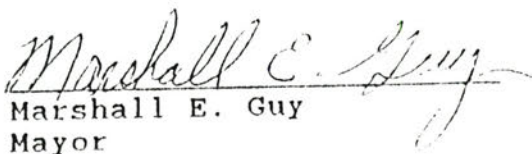
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Marion, Virginia, that the New River - Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area's AmeriCorps Cluster Group be nominated for a President's Service Award in recognition of the many accomplishments in the area of preservation and enhancement of the urban environment.

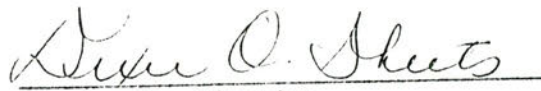
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council express their sincere appreciation to the AmeriCorps of New River - Highlands RC&D for the work that they have done in promoting the concepts of the Community Forrest Project in Marion.

RESOLVED, this 23 day of February, 1995.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:


Marshall E. Guy
Mayor


Dixie O. Sheets
Town Clerk



Equal Housing Opportunity
Equal Employment Opportunity

OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

I. NOMINEE:

Name: New River-Highlands AmeriCorps Cluster Group

(703) 228-2879

If nominee is an individual, indicate Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs.:

(Area Code) Phone Number

If nominee is a group, enter full name of group, organization, project, business, or labor union.

Gary Boring

(703) 228-2879

If nominee is group, enter name of contact person

(Area Code) Phone Number

110 West Spiller Street, Suite C Wytheville, VA

24382

Complete address

City

State

Zip Code

Please check the appropriate classification:

☐ Youth (through age 25)	☐ Civic Organization	☐ School or Educational Institution
☐ Adult	☐ Media	☐ Business
☐ Senior (60 and over)	☐ Religious Organization	☐ Labor Union
☐ Family	☒ Government Agency	☐ Other (please explain)
☐ Nonprofit Organization	☐ Group	

II. AWARD CATEGORY: Please check the appropriate category:

☐ Human Needs
☐ Education
☒ Environment
☐ Public Safety

III. VERIFICATION: In order to qualify, a nominee must have three references who may be contacted to verify the scope and extent of the nominee's activities. References should be persons familiar with the community service activities for which the nomination is made and should not include the nominee or any person related to the nominee.

Name: Shirley Blackwell

(703) 783-8362
(Area Code) Phone Number

Grassroots Conservancy of Smyth County, Inc. (President)

Title and organization, if appropriate

P O Box 224

Marion

VA

24354

Complete address

City

State

Zip Code

Name: Marvin Winters

(703) 783-3791
(Area Code) Phone Number

Superintendent Smyth County Schools

Title and organization, if appropriate

P O Box 987

Marion

VA

24354

Complete address

City

State

Zip Code

Name: Kenneth W. Heath

(703) 783-4113
(Area Code) Phone Number

Program Manager - Marion Downtown Revitalization Association

Title and organization, if appropriate

P O Box 915

Marion

VA

24354

Complete address

City

State

Zip Code

IV. SUMMARY: Please provide a one-sentence statement highlighting the goals of the voluntary community service activity.

Develop teachers guide and interpretative trail for environmental education for students and the general public.

V. NOMINATOR:

Name: Henry Booker

(703) 783-4113

(Area Code) Phone Number

Town Manager, Town of Marion

Title and organization, if appropriate

P.O. Box 1005

Marion

VA

24354

Complete address

City

State

Zip Code

Signature

NARRATIVE

The Middle Fork Holston River flows through parts of three counties in rural southwest Virginia. A number of small towns are located within the watershed and two draw their drinking water supply directly from the river. The majority of the economy is based on manufacturing and agriculture. Many of these industries, as well as residential homes, either directly or indirectly, have been discharging wastes into the river or its tributaries for years. Concern for the water quality in the river began in the 1980's when some taste and odor episodes with the Town of Marion water supply occurred. Water quality monitoring by the Tennessee Valley Authority and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries indicated that the river had elevated levels of bacteria, sediment, nutrients and organic wastes. Local groups, such as the Middle Fork Holston River Water Quality Committee and the Grassroots Conservancy, were formed to address water quality and other environmental concerns. One of the main objectives of these groups was to increase public awareness about the river and other local environmental concerns by increasing education and information availability.

The New River-Highlands AmeriCorp Cluster Group, consisting of five USDA AmeriCorp enrollees, was given a project to increase public awareness of the value of trees to the environment and of the river. Working with The Grassroots Conservancy, seed money was obtained through an Urban & Community Forest Assistance grant to establish an interpretive trail along the Middle Fork Holston River in Marion, VA. and to create and produce teachers guides for use with the trail. The project was divided into two parts. The first part involved designing and constructing the interpretive trail. The trail consists of forty tree identification stations with post and plaques design by the group. Informational kiosks are also being installed with a map of the trail and brochures. The AmeriCorp cluster group is coordinating workdays with other local volunteer groups to complete construction of the trail. A dedication of the trail and a field day celebration is scheduled for late April to coincide with Earth Day or Arbor Day. Other projects on the trail are planned latter in the year.

The second part of the project involves working with local schools to develop a tree guide that can be used by teachers to develop lesson plans on environmental awareness. The New River-Highlands AmeriCorp Cluster Group has met with local teachers with designs and content, and are now editing the guide. The guides are designed to be used with the interpretive trail along the river. Printing of the manuals should begin soon. The group worked with a local merchant who helped donate 265 loose-leaf binders for the guide. Once the guides are printed, sessions will be set up with

local teachers on how to use them. The guides and their use will be evaluated to see if any modifications need to be made.

The New River-Highlands AmeriCorp Cluster Group has worked with a number of local organizations, schools, merchants and local government to get community support. These same organizations have also donated time, money and materials to this project and plan to continue supporting these projects in the future. AmeriCorp enrollees are part of the Corporation for National Service and volunteer a years service in return for a living stipend and an educational voucher.

MARION REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 915

Marion, Virginia 24354

February 23, 1995

Mrs. Shirley Blackwell
The Grassroots Conservancy

Dear Shirley:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of endorsement and support to your AmeriCorps cluster!

While we have not had opportunity to work with your staff on the Community Forest Enhancement Project, we have been involved in the continued development of the Riverwalk Project, and have been impressed with the skills and talents exhibited by your team.

And, one of your AmeriCorps workers, Mindy Clark, continues to volunteer her time to assist our organization as a member of our Design Committee.

Best wishes to your AmeriCorps staff! Good Luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Heath", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ken Heath
Project Manager

GRASSROOTS CONSERVANCY OF SMYTH COUNTY, INC.
P O BOX 224
MARION, VIRGINIA 24354

February 23, 1995

The President's Service Awards
1737 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the members of Grassroots Conservancy of Smyth County, Inc., I would like to recommend the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development AmeriCorps Cluster Group for your award.

This group has worked since September on a tree identification program for our **Riverwalk** and have involved the entire community in this program. The tree identification program will identify approximately 40 trees along the **Riverwalk**. A post will be set close to each tree with a plaque containing the botanical name, a description and a picture of the species. Kiosks will be placed at the beginning and center sections of the trail which will contain brochures as well as general information about the vegetation in this area. By identifying trees along the trail, a pleasant educational service will be provided to the community and we hope it will help teach good environmental and conservation habits.

Smyth County school teachers are working with the cluster group to develop an "outdoor classroom" concept complete with teachers' guides and brochures. The teachers are very enthusiastic and have involved several of their classes and groups in "hands on" work on scheduled Saturday work days. The students and teachers consider the tree identification program "our tree I. D. project."

As construction and implementation of the program goes forward, many groups and individuals are becoming involved. Not only have Grassroots members been active, but also many friends have donated time and effort. The merchants from whom we have purchased supplies have been very supportive. They have donated supplies or granted discounts. All are very interested in the project.

February 23, 1995

We are so impressed with the quality of work the Cluster Group is providing. They see what needs to be done and jump right in and do it! They developed a master plan for the entire program and are proceeding on or ahead of schedule. A field day will be held on completion and several groups have already volunteered to participate in our festivities which will be held on Earth Day. Grassroots plans to continue this tree identification program after its completion. Upkeep of the signs, posts and kiosks will be maintained on a timely basis. Trees will be maintained on a yearly basis and will be monitored and cared for as needed.

An unexpected benefit from the Cluster Group is the goodwill created for **Riverwalk** and the concept of AmeriCorps. Each of them is bright, energetic, and eager to try new ideas. They have made an impressive showing of skill and dedication to duty and we are glad to have an opportunity to work with them. We hope you will give them every consideration for The President's Service Award.

Sincerely,

GRASSROOTS CONSERVANCY OF
SMYTH COUNTY, INC.



Shirley Blackwell,
President

THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF SMYTH COUNTY

MARVIN E. WINTERS, SUPERINTENDENT - JOYCE E. CORNETTE, CLERK

P. O. BOX 987

MARION, VIRGINIA 24354-0987

703-783-3791

FAX: 703-783-3291

JOHN B. STYRON, CHAIRMAN

MACK S. BLKVIN

JAMES H. CAMPBELL

JESSE CHOATE

BLAINE J. DANCY

PHILLIP C. HOPKINS

L.T. OLINGER

February 24, 1995

The President's Service Awards
1737 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

To Whom It May Concern:

The Smyth County School Board and administrative staff on behalf of several thousand students, two hundred teachers, and a grateful community are pleased to endorse the nomination of the AmeriCorp Cluster's Community Forest Enhancement Project for the President's Service Award.

The Community Forest Enhancement Project has done a great deal to advance public awareness and educate citizens of Marion and Smyth County, Virginia, on environmental issues. Project workers have been involved with members of our instructional staff developing a classroom supplemental curriculum, K-12. A comprehensive, learning activity guide has been prepared which features the local environment. Trees have been identified, and identifying plaques have been placed for our use.

This study guide has given our students an opportunity to participate in science studies that feature natural, hands-on learning experiences in an outdoor lab setting. Superb instructional materials have been provided for our teachers to use. Even more importantly our teachers were given the opportunity to learn from the expertise of project members as they helped design the educational component. As a result, teachers have been provided with excellent professional development opportunities to improve their respective knowledge bases and to learn better how to move instructionally from the sterile classroom to a vibrant, natural outdoor learning center.

This project has also done a marvelous job of providing neighborhood cleanup and environmental improvement in Marion. A Riverwalk trail following the banks of the Holston River through the center of town has given Marion a clean, beautiful area for its citizens to enjoy. Students in science clubs at our schools have volunteered to provide labor to help keep the Riverwalk free from litter and debris.

The Community Forest Enhancement Project is a comprehensive community service project that will be of lasting benefit to our town through the beautification of the river, the provision of a sound educational program, and the development of a place of peace and serenity in our midst.

Sincerely,

Marvin E. Winters

Marvin E. Winters, Superintendent
Smyth County Schools

MEW:rt

TREE IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

DECEMBER 8, 1994 4:00 PM

1. What do you hope to accomplish with the program, aside from tree identification?
2. How much material do you want? (i.e. simple, medium, total; common or Latin names, simple or complex and technically worded identifications.)
3. How big do you want the teacher's workbook? (i.e. Dimensions [keeping in mind ease of use in the field], number of pages, amount of information, type of paper [slick, plain, etc.], type of binding [book, notebook, spiral, etc.])
4. Do you have any ideas about identification post design (as far as the ability to conceal written information while showing pictures of leaf, trunk bark and shape) for the testing stage of the trail?
5. What grade levels will this information be geared towards?
6. In addition to testing materials, what types of teaching materials would you be interested in?

7. How can you incorporate learning about careers involving use of wood into your tree ID curriculum?
8. What is your experience (or anecdotes) with learning about trees? How can you convey enthusiasm to your students about the project?
9. Do you wish or think you will require some sort of course or training on tree identification?
10. Do you have any general suggestions about this project?

Mindy
783-6436

CAN YOU HELP?

→ Tues. Jan. 31 order posts
Mon. Feb 13 posts
delivered to Town Yard

→ Sat. Feb. 18 Work Day # 1
10 AM - 2 PM (Town Yard)
Cutting, routing, staining

→ Sat. Feb. 25 Work Day # 2
10 AM - 2 PM. Continued
Post Prep, or rain date

→ Sat. Mar. 4 Work Day # 3
9 AM - 3 PM. Digging holes,
installing posts, tamping

→ Sat. Mar. 11 Work Day # 4
cont'd digging or rain date

→ Sat. Mar. 18 Work Day # 5
Finish up.

Sat. Mar. 25 Rain date

**FAX MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ROOM 5238-S**

PHONE#: 202/720/2847

FAX#: 202/690/0639

DATE: 6/22/95

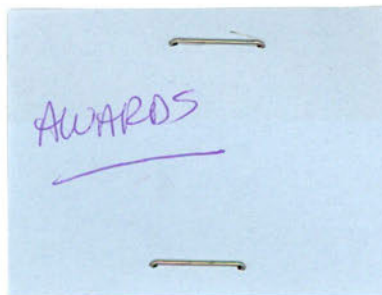
TO: Donna Hines

FAX: 720-4614

FROM: Paula Jones

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

COMMENTS: _____



NRCS AMERICORPS AWARDS

The following projects have been models for excellence.

1. **Louisiana** - Recognized the 7 member Rural Development Team for its success in a statewide dry hydrant effort and its partnership with the University of Wisconsin in assessing the effectiveness of the Farm*A*Syst program. Also for the service provided to victims of flooding who needed helping hands in restoring safe healthy living conditions.
2. **South Carolina** - Recognizes the Rural Development Team as a model for team design and member support. In addition, the work performed by AmeriCorps Members in conducting street inventories has led to the upgrading of the 911 system in a South Carolina community.
3. **Oklahoma** - Recognized for the focus and accomplishment in windbreak restoration. OK had set a goal of planting 5,000 new trees in the windbreaks. Midway through the project year 20,000 trees had been planted, far exceeding the initial target. In addition, this work has rekindled one of the country's legacy, the CCC Civil Conservation Corps. The CCC gave AmeriCorps members honorary CCC memberships and has provided support for their work.
4. **Chicago** - Recognized for the approach used for Member development and for the accomplishments of Members in playing a lead role as liaisons with community organizations. (Empowerment)
5. **Texas** - Recognized for their work in providing protection to reverse shoreline erosion. These members provided the energy and commitment to serve, the partnership between NRCS and Houston Power. In taking it from dream to reality. Also for their quick response in assisting during the most recent flooding.
6. **California** - Rural development team for responding to the serious flooding conditions.
7. **Kansas** - The Environmental Corps for the impressive progress made towards restoring State Parks to the pre flood conditions of 1993.

8. **Michigan - Rural Development team** for being a model of community service harnessed to protect the drinking water in the state. This project is being modeled by others as a way to have AmeriCorps make a big impact on a single program.

9. **Arkansas - Holly Grove** ^{Project} The important work that is being done to help a community recover from displacement due to flooding. This community devastated is being relocated with the help of AmeriCorps.



MEMORANDUM

AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

November 6, 1995

TO: AmeriCorps State/National Grantees
FROM: Diana Rodriguez Algra
RE: The Gleitsman Foundation

We are forwarding to you a nomination request from the Gleitsman Foundation. The Gleitsman Foundation award is dedicated in memory of Michael Schwerner, an impassioned civil rights activist, for full-time undergraduate students who have displayed a leadership role in efforts to solve issues relating to their schools and communities. Please find attached the nomination form. This form is due no later than January 15, 1996.

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-4906

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

The
GLEITSMAN FOUNDATION

October 18, 1995

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dixon Q. Dern
Alan L. Gleitsman
Cheri Rosché
Margery A. Tabankin

Ms. Catherine Melton
Executive Director
Commission on National & Community Service
1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525-0001

CITIZEN ACTIVIST AWARD

BOARD OF JUDGES

Dr. Robert Coles
Ted Danson
Morris S. Dees, Jr.
Alan L. Gleitsman
Candy Lightner
Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Gloria Steinem

Dear Catherine,

We are beginning to seek nominations for the 1996 **Michael Schwerner Activist Awards** and hope that you will nominate one or more full-time undergraduate college students whose efforts and achievements should be considered by our Board of Judges.

We are looking for those students who in the spirit of citizen activism have taken a leadership role in efforts to solve issues relating to the school itself, the surrounding community or larger concerns, and by challenging inequity and injustice are promoting positive solutions for social change.

INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVIST AWARD

BOARD OF JUDGES

Fang Lizhi
Alan L. Gleitsman
Javier Perez de Cuellar
Adolfo Perez Esquivel
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

This year's winners were Patrick Baltazar (Loyola University Chicago), Anni Kirkland (Davidson College), Dung Minh Nguyen (Emory University), Abdol-Ali Soltani (Stanford University) and Allison Williams (University of Mississippi).

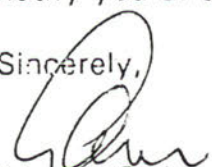
Through a series of awards honoring the exceptional achievement of those activists who are fighting to change the social fabric of our country and the world we are trying to stimulate grass-roots activism. Hopefully, **The Michael Schwerner Activist Awards** will help to kindle the flame of activism in young people, thereby encouraging fresh approaches to cure age-old problems still confronting us.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Kerry Kennedy Cuomo
Jehan Sadat
Walter Sisulu

Please help us in this effort by nominating those students whose activism you admire (feel free to make additional copies of the form) and returning your nominations to us by January 15, 1995. We will notify you of the winners in the spring.

Sincerely,


Alan L. Gleitsman
Enclosure

The

GLEITSMAN FOUNDATION

NOMINATION FORM

THE MICHAEL SCHWERNER ACTIVIST AWARD

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” . . . Margaret Mead

The Gleitsman Foundation encourages individual commitment and leadership by recognizing the exceptional achievement of those who have initiated positive social change. We are seeking those individuals whose energy and courage have inspired others to join with them in confronting and challenging inequities wherever they may appear.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Michael Schwerner (Cornell, Class of 1961), an impassioned civil rights activist who was kidnapped and murdered in Mississippi (along with co-workers James Chaney and Andrew Goodman) in June, 1964.

In recognition of the profound role which the young people of today will have on the social fabric of the country of tomorrow, five awards of \$1,000 each will be presented annually to the full-time undergraduate college students in the United States who best fulfill the spirit of citizen activism and promote positive solutions for social change. Nominees may focus their activities on campus-related causes or such broader concerns as social and economic justice, human rights, environmentalism, and the battles against racism, sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia and other oppression.

We thank you for helping us to recognize these student-catalysts who are, even now, shaping the world they and their children will inherit. By encouraging these students, you are not only endorsing their special contributions, but reminding their fellow citizens that they too can challenge injustice and implement change.

MICHAEL SCHWERNER ACTIVIST AWARD HONOREES

1993---

TRACY CLAY, Stanford University
MARK J. COOPER, Florida International University
CHRISTOPHER N. FOX, Yale University
VALERIE GINTIS, Hampshire College
EVAN J. MANVEL, Haverford College

1994---

DAVID BENJAMIN, Harvard University
SUSANNE DUTTON, Connecticut College
DEBBIE KANE, The University of Central Florida
JOHN McDANIEL, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
HUNTER SCHOFIELD, Appalachian State University

1995---

PATRICK BALTAZAR, Loyola University Chicago
ANNI KIRKLAND, Davidson College
DUNG MINH NGUYEN, Emory University
ABDOL-ALI SOLTANI, Stanford University
ALLISON SUZANNE WILLIAMS, University of Mississippi

BOARD OF JUDGES

Campus Compact
Nancy C. Rhodes, Director

Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL)
Jennifer Bastress, Executive Director

National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness
Julie A. Miles, Director

Student Environmental Action Coalition
Liz Gres, Director

United State Student Association (USSA)
Jeanette Galanis, President

YouthAction
Eli Il Yong Lee, Director

Alan L. Gleitsman, The Gleitsman Foundation

What steps did the nominee take to bring about change? _____

MICHAEL SCHWERNER ACTIVIST AWARD HONOREES

1993---

TRACY CLAY, Stanford University
MARK J. COOPER, Florida International University
CHRISTOPHER N. FOX, Yale University
VALERIE GINTIS, Hampshire College
EVAN J. MANVEL, Haverford College

1994---

DAVID BENJAMIN, Harvard University
SUSANNE DUTTON, Connecticut College
DEBBIE KANE, The University of Central Florida
JOHN McDANIEL, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
HUNTER SCHOFIELD, Appalachian State University

1995---

PATRICK BALTAZAR, Loyola University Chicago
ANNI KIRKLAND, Davidson College
DUNG MINH NGUYEN, Emory University
ABDOL-ALI SOLTANI, Stanford University
ALLISON SUZANNE WILLIAMS, University of Mississippi

BOARD OF JUDGES

Campus Compact
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Eli Il Yong Lee, Director

Alan L. Gleitsman, The Gleitsman Foundation