GPC makes national honor roll for its community-service initiatives

June 2011

The service-learning project that had Georgia Perimeter ESL students tutoring Bhutanese refugees was cited in the national honor roll recognition.

by Rebecca Rakoczy

Georgia Perimeter College has received the nation’s highest honor for its commitment to community service.

GPC was named in May to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

Specifically, the college was recognized for its service-learning projects, including those in which Beth Wallace’s ESL students tutored Bhutanese refugees at the Clarkston Community Center. Also cited were Mary Ann Errico and Audrey Bennet’s English/reading students who tutored Hillside Elementary School students in reading and Dr. Pamela Gore’s multiple science-oriented, service-learning projects with her students at Stone Mountain Park.

Georgia Perimeter was the only two-year college in Georgia to receive the honor. Selection factors include the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service learning is embedded in the curriculum, and the school’s commitment to long-term, campus-community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

“This award underlines our continuing commitment to be a leader in academic learning through service,” says GPC’s president, Dr. Anthony Tricoli. “Through the efforts of our outstanding faculty and our Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning Center, our students are engaged in meaningful service learning and civic engagement projects that transform them into educated, active, caring citizens.”

Colleges such as GPC are making differences in their communities because of their commitment to service learning, notes Patrick Covington, chief executive officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the awards.

“As members of the class of 2011 cross the stage to pick up their diplomas, more and more will be going into the world with a commitment to public service and the knowledge that they can make a difference in their communities and their own lives through service to others, thanks to the leadership of these institutions,” says Covington.