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## Celebrate Learn and Serve Challenge Week

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**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Board of Education on Monday kicked off the 2008 National Learn and Serve Challenge Week in communities throughout West Virginia. Gov. Joe Manchin has proclaimed this week as Learn and Serve Challenge Week.

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“The West Virginia Board of Education and the Department of Education strongly believe that service learning is a method of teaching and learning that combines academic work with service to the community,” said board President Delores Cook. “Students are able to make meaningful contributions to their communities while building their academic and civic skills.”

The Learn and Serve Challenge is a concentrated week of special events and activities, spotlighting service-learning successes around the country in order to build awareness of students’ contributions to their communities; spread effective service-learning practices; and inspire other schools and communities to launch their own programs and projects.

The challenge also promotes public understanding of Learn and Serve America, the only federal program dedicated to funding service learning and also supports the federal goal to engage 5 million college students in service-learning and ensure that 50 percent of America’s K-12 schools incorporate service-learning into their curricula by 2010.

Service-learning is instrumental in enhancing the quality of life for thousands of West Virginia citizens and fosters civic engagement to bring people of all ages and diverse backgrounds together to meet common needs.

This week has been designated nationally as a week to recognize and commend service-learning efforts throughout K-16 education. As part of the celebration, West Virginia’s teachers are being recognized for their exemplary accomplishments engaging their students in rigorous and relevant learning through service to their communities.

Cook will read the Learn and Serve Challenge Week proclamation publically at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 8, 2008 during the monthly Board of Education meeting in Building 6 of the Capitol Complex. For more information contact the WVDE Communications Office at (304) 558-2699.

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