

Our Views: Congratulations to young volunteer

March 10, 2006
Opinion page staff

Much of the attention on Louisiana's recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita has focused on the role of politicians and professional bureaucrats in advancing the state's comeback.

But scores of volunteers also are making significant contributions to the recovery effort, as we were recently reminded when President Bush honored a Southern University student for his service in the recovery effort.

During a recent trip to New Orleans, Bush presented Theo Richards of Baton Rouge with a National Service Award to acknowledge Richards' work in City Year Louisiana.

City Year, a national youth service organization, unites youths 17 to 24 years old for a year of community service and leadership development. City Year Louisiana includes 50 volunteers from across the United States who are helping with Louisiana's recovery by serving the needs of families affected by the hurricanes.

The 20-year-old Richards is enrolled at Southern, but he's taken a year off to serve with City Year. As part of the organization, Richards has worked with displaced students and faculty at Scotlandville Middle School. He assists teachers and helps youngsters with academic tutoring and mentoring. Richards also has worked with community service projects in New Orleans such as building playgrounds and cleaning schools.

We commend Richards for his service to Louisiana and congratulate him on his honor. We are also grateful to the many other volunteers who are aiding this recovery.