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**Youth Tech Team from Utah Wins National Award:
2018 Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Jan. 22, 2018) —The National Youth Leadership Council, in partnership with UPS, is excited to announce that the recipient of 2018 Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award is a youth group from [Entheos Academy](#) in Kearns, Utah who developed an engineering curriculum called “The Incredible Machine.” The award recognizes service-learning programs and projects that demonstrate outstanding youth leadership in identifying an authentic community need, planning the service, and putting that plan into action.

High school students Cassandra Ivie and Hala Louvier led a team of about 20 young people in developing a curriculum designed to train others to teach STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math skills) to students in rural Utah.

“It is critical for STEM education tools to be available in elementary and junior high education so that students can see themselves as competent in these fields prior to the stages of early adolescent stereotyping,” the two attest — especially in rural areas of Utah, where it is difficult to find educators with experience in engineering.

Ever since their early fascination with engineering, the team has planned and taught STEM classes to other youths. Their awareness of rural needs grew as they became 4-H Ambassadors, and traveled the state teaching leadership skills. The curriculum, which is designed for elementary and middle school students led by teens or teachers with limited engineering experience, features chemical, mechanical, civil, electrical, and software engineering, and culminates in a project that uses these approaches to develop an “incredible” Rube Goldberg-like machine.

As NYLC CEO Amy Meuers describes the pedagogy: “For students to grow into civically informed and engaged citizens they must have the opportunity to work outside the classroom. Service-learning connects communities and classrooms, inspiring students to make positive contributions to the world.”

To participate in NYLC's national awards ceremony, and learn more about service-learning, [register](#) for the 2018 National Service-Learning Conference to be held in St. Paul, Minn. March 11-13.

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For 35 years, the [National Youth Leadership Council](#) has been leading the field of service-learning from its St. Paul, Minn. base, supporting teachers, students, administrators, state-level, and college systems in making civic engagement central to academic instruction.