Preparing Students to Serve and Learn

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Workshop Objectives

- Discuss why it is important to prepare students for service-learning
- Understand what you are preparing them for
- Learn some techniques for preparing students for service-learning
Why is it important to prepare students?

- Gives students some guidance as to what they can expect and what is expected of them

- Helps create a positive experience in the community

- Helps students understand the importance of service as it relates to specific course objectives

- Sets the stage for deeper learning from the service experience
What are you preparing students for?

- **Learning**
  - Project details, expectations and process
  - Self awareness
  - Community awareness
  - About course content and how it is connected to the service experience

- **Serving Others**
  - Respectfully, responsibly and professionally
Preparing students for: Understanding the project

- Help students understand:
  - The content of the project – the details of what they will be doing, including when and where
  - The process of the project – how they will go about doing the project including assignments and deadlines
Activities – Understanding the Project

- Build in a detailed description of the project and related assignments on your syllabus
- Designate a class period to teach students about the project(s) and how it fits into class assignments
- Invite Community Partners to campus to discuss what students will be doing at their agencies
- Utilize the *Service-Learning 101 For Students* power point available on the CIC website
Preparing students for:
Awareness of self

- Help students understand:
  - What service means to them
  - The skills, knowledge and talents they already possess that can be contributed to the service project
  - What they still need to learn in order to complete the project
  - The prejudices, biases, assumptions, stereotypes, etc. they may be bringing with them to the service project
Activities – Self Awareness

- Student Interest Inventory Worksheet (handout)
- Student Preparation Worksheet (handout)
- Defining Service with a Reflection Activity (handout)
- Reflection activities (handout)
  - Using Case Studies to Prepare for Service – p. 70 in Practitioner’s Guide to Reflection
Preparing students for:
Awareness of the Community

- Help students understand:
  - The agency in which they will be serving
  - The people whom they will be serving
  - The community and its assets
Activities – Community Awareness

- Bring Community Partners to campus
- Take students on a tour of your community partners’ agencies
- Neighborhood scan – identifying assets and resources in the community
- Reflection activities (handout)
Preparing students for:
Understanding the Relationship between Service and Learning Outcomes

- Help students understand:
  - The service goals
  - The learning goals
  - That both need to be accomplished

- This starts with you having a clear sense of the learning and service goals and objectives
  - And involving community partners and students in this process
Service and Learning Goals/Objectives

- High Learning
- Low Learning
- High Service
- Low Service

Quadrants:

I. Low Service - Low Learning
II. High Service - Low Learning
III. Low Service - High Learning
IV. High Service - High Learning
Service and Learning Goals/Objectives

- **Service Goals**
  - Benefits to students:
  - Benefits to community partners:

- **Learning Goals** *(knowledge, skills, abilities)*
  - Students will know:
  - Students will understand:
  - Students will be able to:

- See “Service and Learning Goals and Objectives” - handout
Service and Learning

Goals/Objectives

- Connect your objectives to competencies and skills desired by your discipline, university, college, department and/or program.

- Unit 3 in your “toolkit”
Activities – Understanding Service and Learning Goals and Objectives

- Have students fill out a service-learning contract wherein they determine these goals

- Invite Community Partners to campus to talk about the service goals they have for students serving in their organization

- Create reflection exercises that make students think about the connections
Preparing students for: Serving Others

- Helps students understand:
  - Their role as a representative of WSU
  - Their role as a volunteer, not staff person
  - Their responsibility to others (staff and clients alike)
  - How to interact with people from diverse backgrounds respectfully
  - How to be professional and ethical
How to Prepare students for Serving Others

- CIC houses online training modules – *Preparing to Serve* can be found at:
  http://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement/Preparing_To_Serve.html

- See PowerPoint on how to access and use the training modules (posted on CBL Fellows website and handout).
Reflection

What techniques are you considering to prepare your students for service-learning?