Service Learning 101 for Students: What, Why & How?

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Topics

- Defining Service-Learning
- The Benefits of Service-Learning: Why faculty engage students in service-learning
- Essential characteristics of a good service-learning project
- Support provided to you by the Community Involvement Center
- Possible service sites and/or projects
Defining Service-Learning
Service Learning: What Is It?

- National Commission on Service-Learning

“...a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”
Service-Learning vs. Volunteering

**Question:** Is Service-Learning different than volunteering in the community?

**Answer:** Yes. Explore the next several slides to learn how.
Example of volunteering: You tutor children in reading and math in the Ogden City School District.

Question: Who is the intended beneficiary in this relationship?

Answer: The student receiving the tutoring is the intended beneficiary. You as the volunteer will certainly benefit from this experience as well, however, the intent of the volunteering is to make a difference in the lives of those you are serving.

That’s volunteerism.
Service-Learning Experience in the Community

Example of a Service-Learning Experience: You are required in a course to serve as a tutor in math and reading for the Ogden City School District.

Question: Who is the intended beneficiary in this relationship?

Answer: Both you and the student receiving the tutoring are the intended beneficiaries. In a service-learning experience, the student you are tutoring benefits because they get the assistance they need to be successful in math and reading. But you also benefit. You have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills you are learning in your college class in a real world setting.

The next slide shows you how a service-learning experience as a tutor might play out.
Service-Learning Example

- You tutor children in the OCSD,
- analyze what you are learning about the consequences of poverty as it relates to education,
- share the results of your analysis and offer suggestions to the teacher/school to help address the consequences of poverty you’ve observed,
- and then reflect on your experience.

THAT is service-learning!
Service-Learning Teaches Course Objectives

- Because service-learning is designed to help you learn and apply course material, your service-learning experience should be relevant to the topics and issues you are studying in your course.
The Benefits of Service-Learning
Why faculty engage their students in Service-Learning

- You benefit!
- Faculty benefit!
- Community benefits!
You Benefit Personally

- sense of personal efficacy
- personal identity
- spiritual growth
- moral development
- interpersonal development
  - the ability to work well with others
  - Leadership
  - communication skills
Raises Your Awareness

- community issues and needs
- how to be part of the solution rather than the problem
- cultural & racial understanding
- social responsibility and citizenship skills
Your Academic Learning Increases

- Application of what you have learned to “the real world”
- Complexity of understanding
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Cognitive development
- Career development
Faculty Benefit

- Students learn the core information that faculty want them to learn.
- Enriches classroom discussion and lectures with relevant real world experiences.
Community Benefits

Community Organizations:
- Increase Services: 72%
- Have More Volunteers: 52%
- Serve More Clients: 49%
- Increase Resources: 49%
- Complete More Projects: 45%
- Increase Collaboration: 45%
- Recruit New Staff: 24%
Characteristics of Good Service-Learning
Good Service-Learning Involves:

- **YOU** having a genuine interest in your project.

- **YOU** sharing your knowledge and talents with those being served at your service site while learning from the knowledge and talents of those being served.

- **YOU** reflecting on your service experience continuously throughout the semester.
Good Service-Learning Involves:

- **YOU** actively trying to understand what you are learning in your service experience in relationship to course material.
- **YOU** making a difference!
- **YOU** learning!
Support from the Community Involvement Center
Where Can You Find Support?

Student Union Building 327
801-626-7737
http://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement
Services Provided to Students

- Help you find an appropriate service site for your course
- Record and track your service hours and report them to your professor/instructor throughout the semester
- Provide one-on-one assistance to address your service-learning needs
How to Register with the CIC

- In order to receive the services provided by the CIC, students must register with the center.

- Go to CIC website
  https://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement

  Click on “Register” in the Student Menu
How to find Service Sites

- Service Opportunity Directory
  http://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement
Recording your Service Hours with the CIC

Why should I record my hours with the CIC?

- The CIC sends your professor/instructor reports summarizing the hours you have completed.
- The CIC can write letters for future employers or graduate programs on your behalf.
- You become eligible for recognition opportunities for the service you provide in the community.
- The CIC can verify your contributions to the community if you apply for scholarships requiring community involvement.
How to Record Your Service Hours

- To record your service hours go to the CIC website:
  https://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement

  Click on “Record Service Hours” in the Student menu.

  Here you will download and print a time log on which you will record your service hours each month.

  Get your site supervisor’s signature on the time log.

  Bring these logs to the CIC in 327 of the Shepherd Union Building at the end of each month.
Another Way to Record Your Service Hours

- Touch screen monitors located in the following community organizations act as check-in/check-out stations for recording service hours with the CIC:
  - Boys & Girls Club (Marshall White)
  - Catholic Community Services
  - Cottages of Hope
  - CARES – VIP
  - LDS Cannery
  - Ogden Nature Center
  - Ogden Rescue Mission
  - OWCAP
  - St. Anne’s Center
  - YCC
  - Youth Impact

- When you serve at any of these organizations, you can record your hours with the touch of a finger. That means no paperwork for you.
Service Programs in the CIC

- **Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP)**
  - 14 programs: Habitat for Humanity, Best Buddies, Special Olympics, and more!
  - Contact the CIC to learn more – 801-626-7737

- **Mentors for Utah Scholars**
  - Tutor or mentor in the Ogden City School District
  - Work-study positions are also available
  - Contact Adrian in WSU’s Education Access and Outreach office at 801-626-7006
Become Part of Something Bigger

- AmeriCorps Education Awards Program
  - Earn an education scholarship in exchange for service.
  - The AmeriCorps program can be thought of as the domestic Peace Corps
  - How it works
    - 300 hours or 10 hours/week = $1,000.00
    - 450 hours or 15 hours/week = $1,250.00
    - 900 hours or 30 hours/week = $2,362.50
AmeriCorps Education Award

- Learn more:
  http://www.weber.edu/CommunityInvolvement

  Click on “AmeriCorps” in the Student box

- Contact Patrick – 801-626-7737
Come See Us

Community Involvement Center
Weber State University

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