Service-Learning Annual Report

The mission of Service-Learning on Boise State University's campus is to foster citizenship through active involvement in academically-based community service. To accomplish that goal, we have focused this past year on developing a strong philosophical and procedural foundation while expanding the number of Service-Learning courses and community-service sites, and increasing student participation.

The visibility of the program continues to increase through articles, faculty-peer communications, faculty presentations, discussions with academic leaders, and the introduction of a new logo. The Service-Learning program has been featured in articles in the Idaho Statesman, Union View, and Boise State University’s Focus Magazine. The first scholarly journal article, written by Dr. Ed Petkus for The Journal of Marketing Education, and conference presentations by staff and faculty are bringing national attention to our program.

Service-Learning Credit Option
Interest in offering the Service-Learning Credit Option continues to build among faculty across campus. This past academic year, twelve courses were offered through five different colleges (see Appendix). Five of these faculty have offered Service-Learning for more than one semester. Approximately 70 students have received credit for completion of their Service-Learning courses this past year and more than 30 community non-profit agencies benefited from the service they provided. Some of the non-profit agencies we have partnered with this year include:

Head Start
Mountain States Refugee Center
Mountain States Refugee Resettlement Program
Discovery Center
Boise Art Museum
United Way
St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center
American Red Cross, Mountain Home
Better Business Bureau
Idaho Fish and Game
Community House
March of Dimes
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
United Cerebral Palsy-Jump Start Program

The service that the students provided complemented and was directly relevant to their course work. Examples of the service projects include: building relationships with refugee families to assist them with their understanding of the community and development of English language skills; aiding local school-based theatre programs with their stage management and set design; assisting with low-income, at-risk children in a classroom setting; developing and implementing customer interest and satisfaction surveys; reviewing literature and developing a resource library about Multiple Sclerosis, and; working alongside children with Cerebral Palsy. Community members value the services the students provide and request that we
continue to partner with them. The unique services provided through the Service-Learning courses have been greatly appreciated.

Institutionalizing Service-Learning
The spring semester we achieved an important milestone for Service-Learning on Boise State’s campus, the institutionalization of Service-Learning. This was accomplished through a proposal that presented the concept of Service-Learning and its administration at Boise State, and requested a designation of “SL” for one-credit Service-Learning courses. This began a process that has spanned the spring semester, of bringing the proposal for review and discussion to all of the colleges. Due to discussions with the deans, department chairs and curriculum committees of all the colleges, this process has been a valuable tool for the introduction of Service-Learning on Boise State’s campus.

This proposal has been approved by every college, the university’s Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate. It is currently awaiting final approval by the State Board of Education.

Volunteer Advisory Board
The Volunteer Advisory Board met six times over the fall and spring semesters and continues to be a valuable resource for program guidance and oversight for both the Service-Learning Program and the Volunteer Services Board. This past year, the members (see Appendix) helped to further develop Service-Learning at Boise State through their decisions on philosophical and procedural issues, some of which include:
• Determined that the Fourth Credit Option shall now be known as the Service-Learning Credit Option
• Approved criteria and application process for use by faculty in developing a Service-Learning course and obtaining Service-Learning designation for that course
• Developed a process for awarding planning grants to faculty who offer Service-Learning for the first time
• Established a policy for determining appropriate Service-Learning and volunteer service sites
• Considered different models for implementing Service-Learning
• Set the percentages for the division of income, after personnel expenses, for the Service-Learning and Volunteer Services programs at 53% and 47% respectively
• Approved the proposal for the institutionalization of Service-Learning on Boise State’s campus and the use of the course designation of “SL”

The resources and insights that the Board members provide have helped to make this a successful and productive year and have laid the foundation for continued program success.

Alternative Spring Break
Because of overwhelming support from the Vice-Presidents of the university, we were able to offer a unique service opportunity to students during their spring break. The “Alternative Spring Break” provides students with an opportunity to travel to distant communities to engage in community service during Spring Break.

Five students volunteered for this unique experience and came away with insights they feel will benefit them throughout their life. This year’s volunteer activities focused on needs in Seattle, WA such as poverty and homelessness. We worked with three agencies: Northwest Harvest, a foodbank; the Downtown Emergency Service Center, Seattle’s largest homeless shelter, and; the Fremont Public Housing’s Partners in Caring program, providers of housing and services to low-income elderly.

The agencies we served were impressed by this group of Boise State University students who have such a strong desire to serve others that they would give up their break time to volunteer. The responses from the agencies, the students and the people they served were overwhelmingly positive and strengthen our desire is to expand the program for the coming year.

Presentations and Articles
The fall semester began with presentation of two faculty workshops on Service-Learning and its implementation and a workshop on the "Service-Learning and the Use of Experiential Education" for the Faculty Development Breakfast. Fourteen faculty attended the introductory workshops and 21 faculty attended the Faculty Development Breakfast. These proved to be effective faculty recruiting tools since seven faculty indicated an interest in Service-Learning.

In order to assist faculty in developing reflection strategies for their courses, a Reflective Strategies Manual was developed and two workshops were conducted on the topic of reflection. These workshops will be offered on an annual basis in conjunction with faculty and student assistant training.

National presentations conducted by Service-Learning staff and faculty, Dr. Susan Amato, this past year provided information on reflection, research methodology, the placement of Service-Learning programs within Student Affairs and the use of Service-Learning in psychology courses. Dr. Ed Petkus had his journal article, “A Theoretical and Practical Framework for Service-Learning in Marketing: Kolb’s Experiential Learning Cycle,” accepted for publication by the Journal of Marketing Education. These presentations and writings have helped to establish our university’s Service-Learning program on the national level and have distinguished our faculty among their peers.

Student recognition
This past year two Boise State University students were awarded national recognition for their volunteer efforts. Sam Byrd received the Howard R. Swearer Humanitarian Award from Campus Compact and Angela Vandermeer was accepted into the Campus Outreach Opportunity League Leader’s Program and was selected as a Templeton Fellow through Campus Compact.
Appendices

Volunteer Advisory Board Members

Dr. Linda Anooshian  Professor, Psychology
Dr. Bruce Ballenger  Assistant Professor, English
Greg Blaesing  Director of Auxiliary Services, Student Union & Activities
Dr. Joie Burns  Assistant Professor, Radiological Sciences
Toni Lawson  Director, Volunteer Services Board
Dr. Christine Loucks  Professor, Economics
Dr. Lamont Lyons  Professor, Teacher Education
Gregory Martinez  Director, Auxiliary Services, Student Union & Activities
Dr. Jane Ollenburger  Dean, College of Social Science and Public Affairs
Rose Olson  Coordinator, Service-Learning Program
Mike Quinn  Student, Senate Appointee
Maureen Sigler  Associate Director, Student Union & Activities
Marianne Snodgrass  Community Relations Director, Treasure Valley United Way
Amy Stahl  Special Projects Coordinator, University Relations
Theresa TenEyck  Advanced Instructor, Office Technology

Service-Learning Faculty and Courses

Fall Semester

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Amato*</td>
<td>Statistical Methods</td>
<td>Social Science &amp; Public Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rudy Andersen*</td>
<td>Health Delivery Systems</td>
<td>Health Science</td>
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<td>Linda Anooshian*</td>
<td>Life-Span Development I</td>
<td>Social Science &amp; Public Affairs</td>
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<td>Rick Moore</td>
<td>Introduction to Video Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Patton</td>
<td>Administration in the Public Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Petkus*</td>
<td>Marketing Communications</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caile Spear*</td>
<td>Health Promotion</td>
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Spring Semester

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<td>Mike Baltzell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Petkus*</td>
<td>Consumer Behavior</td>
<td>Business</td>
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*Offered courses for more than one semester