Links To Service-Learning Resources On The World Wide Web

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
(research, sample syllabi, networks, tips)
www.servicelearning.org

Campus Compact
(syllabi, publication tips and statistics)
http://www.compact.org/resources

Michigan Journal of Community Service-Learning
(SL scholarship)
http://www.umich.edu/~mjcsl

Contact Us!
http://servicelearning.boisestate.edu

Service-Learning Program
Boise State University
1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1006
(208) 426-2380 or servicelearning@boisestate.edu

The Service-Learning Program is a division of the
Center for Teaching & Learning

http://servicelearning.boisestate.edu
What Is Service-Learning?
Service-Learning (SL) is a teaching strategy that integrates course concepts with relevant academically-based community service. Through assignments and class discussions, students critically reflect on the service in order to increase their understanding of course content, gain a broader appreciation of the discipline, and enhance their sense of civic responsibility. Courses may be fully integrated or offered as a lab.

Integrated:
10-25 hours of service integrated into class requirements
Can be required or optional

SL Lab option:
40 hours of service and regular meetings with faculty for 1 additional academic credit

Examples
- Child Psychology: students tutor children at Headstart
- Chemistry: students test ponds for West Nile Virus
- Communication: students design a P.R. campaign for the Housing Authority
- Personal Health: students help immigrants learn English and nutrition

What Are The Benefits Of Service-Learning?
- Lively class discussions and increased student participation
- Greater student retention of course material
- Increased awareness of community issues by faculty and students
- Innovative approach to instruction
- Enhanced faculty opportunities for research and publication
- Stronger connections between students and faculty

How Does My Class Acquire Service-Learning Designation?
Submit your adapted syllabus to the Service-Learning Director, along with a one-page response to the nine criteria below.

1. What service will students provide to individuals, organizations, or schools?
2. How does the service relate to the subject matter of the course?
3. What methods will you use to encourage students to think about what they are learning through the service and how it relates to the subject of the class?
4. What reflective strategies will you use to assess the learning derived from the service?
5. How will the service recipients be involved in the planning and evaluation of the service?
6. What resources will you use to help the students explore the relationship between the course discipline and the community issue?
7. How does the Service-Learning experience foster civic responsibility?
8. What methods will you use to help students learn from each other as well as from the instructor?
9. What course options will you allow to ensure that no student is required to participate in a service placement that creates a religious, political and/or moral conflict?

Faculty Say…
“If students can apply these abstract concepts in their own community even once, then I believe they have actually acquired knowledge...It takes time to integrate service-learning but when it works then it is an incredibly invigorating experience for students and for me.”
— Dr. Elizabeth Fredericksen, Political Science

“Service-Learning makes a lot of sense for students because they learn and get involved in the community at the same time. Many students want to help others and make a difference. Service-Learning provides students with the structure to do this, as well as a direct connection to the coursework the students are taking.”
— Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk, Biology

What Resources Are Available?
The Service-Learning Office provides:
- $300 course development grant
- Teaching assistants to support students and faculty
- Help identifying community agencies relevant to class learning objectives
- Sample syllabi and discipline-specific resources
- Workshops and roundtables on Service-Learning pedagogy
- One-on-one planning consultation
- Supportive network with other faculty involved with Service-Learning

How Do I Implement Service-Learning In My Class?
The Service-Learning staff will gladly assist you through these steps.
1. Set learning objectives
2. Identify course-relevant community issues or activities
3. Contact organizations to discuss course goals and possible projects
4. Adapt the syllabus, class assignments, lecture examples, and class discussion to include links between course theory and service experience
5. Maintain regular contact with community partners
6. Evaluate student learning and community partnerships

ERIC ELLIOT, BSU SL STUDENT