Service-Learning Expanding Education and Job Opportunities

2014 Western Regional Careers in Student Affairs Day

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Who We Are

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What is Service-Learning?

- An experientially-based teaching methodology
- Combines classroom pedagogy with community service and civic engagement
- Inherently integrated into the students' academic curriculum
- A reciprocal effort between faculty, students, and community partners

Service-Learning at APU is…

1. Academic: Committed to quality integration into the academic curriculum

2. Reciprocal: Committed to mutual teaching and learning

3. Making a Difference: Committed to creating a common good

Service-Learning Statistics, 2013-2014

- Over 3,000 undergraduate students enrolled in service learning classes
- 158 service learning classes, covering a variety of disciplines across 20 academic departments
- Hundred plus agency partners annually, providing a broad range of services to meet critical needs across the region, e.g. homelessness, after-school programs, aging populations, and special needs children and adults
- 35 local public and private schools
- **Carnegie Designation as Engaged Campus**

How about you? Your experience in service-learning.

Matching Ethos and Values to Vocation

Back to distinctives: If these match your ethos and values, they might become your vocation as they have mine.

- Academic: If you see learning not as an end, but as a means to mutual learning and transformation

- Reciprocal: If you care about community issues and value the wisdom of all those you meet, desiring to learn and grow together

- Making a Difference: If you believe in the power of university/community partnerships to make an impact locally, regionally or even internationally

- If you are committed to a fostering among your students a lifetime of learning and growing through civic engagement

- Then Service-Learning may be just right for you…

Michelle, case study….

- List of issues in Azusa
  - E.g.
  - Iliteracy
  - Limited English
  - Poverty
  - Drugs, gangs
  - Schools at risk, poor scores, recruitment by other districts of best and brightest
  - Limited employment
- What course?
- What project?
- What difference?

High Impact Practices and How They Relate

- Understanding the Student Experience
  - Connections with Advising, Career Service, Student Success, Retention
- Buzz Issues
  - Education
  - High Impact Practices
  - Employability

Karen.. use anything you like from the rest of the slides… Just pulled them in from other presentations…

RHETORIC, context and the stories we tell ourselves about change matter

The environment around higher ed has changed:
1. Connection of higher education to the global economy;
2. The greater public investment and sense of accountability;
3. Increasingly diverse students who engage campuses differently;
4. The corporatized campus environment;
5. For-profit higher education, competition, and marketization;
6. New knowledge about how people learn;
7. Technology and,
8. Internationalization of campus

Engage our faculty by sharing with them the changing landscapes and motivate them to be in tune with the audience/students and the context/education trends.

Kezar, A. (2013) How Colleges Change: Understanding, Leading, and Enacting Change

Employability Traits from LR

Demonstrating strong verbal and written skills

Demonstrates creative and critical thinking

Works successfully in a team

Demonstrates cross-cultural understanding and communication skills

Can research or find needed information; demonstrates a desire to learn

Prepared for ever-evolving work places and industries and for global business and contact

Early Impacts

➢ SL evals

➢ Increased resume building in SL

➢ Definitional graphic model for university-wide languaging and understanding

➢ Full circle approach to Employability needs from multiple campus partners

What skills or abilities did you use in the service-learning project that will enhance success in your major and/or vocation?

I was able to:

Seek and accept feedback

Show interest and enthusiasm

Demonstrate good listening

Develop good working relationship with others

Demonstrate insights and adaptability in interpersonal dynamics

Participate in problem solving

Demonstrate tolerance and self-regulation

Demonstrate ability to work in teams

Demonstrate cross-cultural understanding and communication skills

Demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills

Plan, organize and prioritize work

Formulate and set goals

Demonstrate initiative, maturity, positivity and dependability

Demonstrate awareness of personal strengths and challenges

21ˢᵗ Century Literacies

- Attention
- Participation
- Collaboration
- Network Awareness
- Global Consciousness
- Design
- Affordance of technology
- Narrative/Storytelling
- Procedural Literacy

Davidson (2011)

- Critical Consumption

- of Information
- Digital Divides
- Ethics
- Participation
- Assessment
- Data mining
- Preservation
- Sustainability
- Learning, Unlearning, Relearning

Better understands the worth of all people

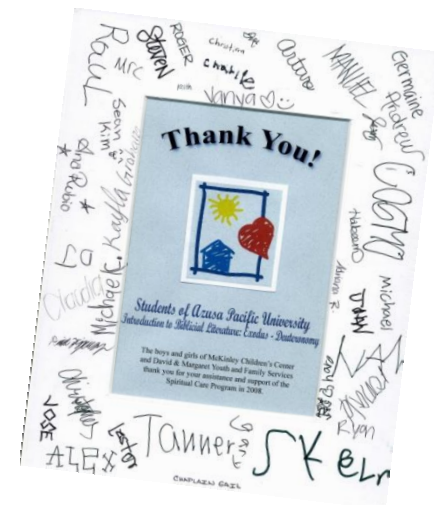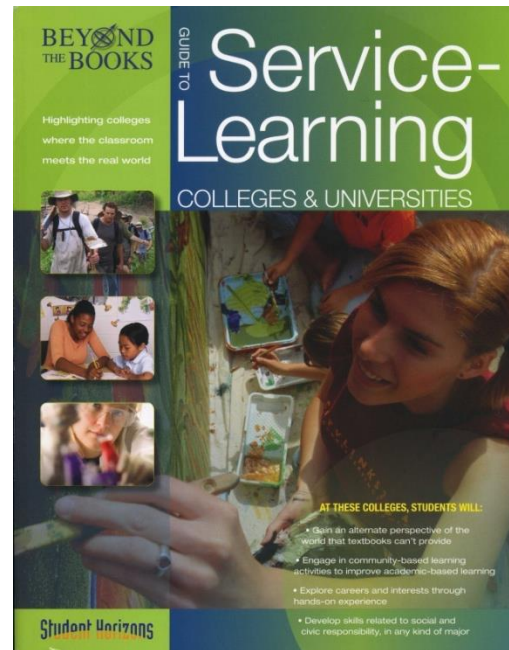Able to plan, organize and prioritize work

Demonstrates initiative, maturity, positivity, and dependability

Formulates and sets goals

Seeks and accepts feedback

Demonstrates awareness of personal strengths and challenges

Recognition for APU Service-Learning

High Impact Practices

- Service-Learning identified as a HIP

- Engaged Learning experiences:

Learning Communities, Study Abroad, Internships, Capstone Courses, Research With a Faculty Member and Service-Learning Courses (NSSE and AACU)

Academic Quality and Reputation

- Initiatives at APU to support and promote HIPs for our students.

- 4Cs:
  - character / community
  - creativity
  - communication
  - critical thinking

Employability

- Is a college degree worth it?

Increased attention to skill-building and competencies in higher ed

Service-learning's connections to developing professional dispositions in our students

Professional Dispositions

Competencies Employers Seek

- Demonstrates creative and critical thinking
- Works successfully in a team
- Demonstrates strong verbal and written skills
- Displays cross-cultural understanding and communication skills
- Demonstrates a desire to learn; Can research and find needed information
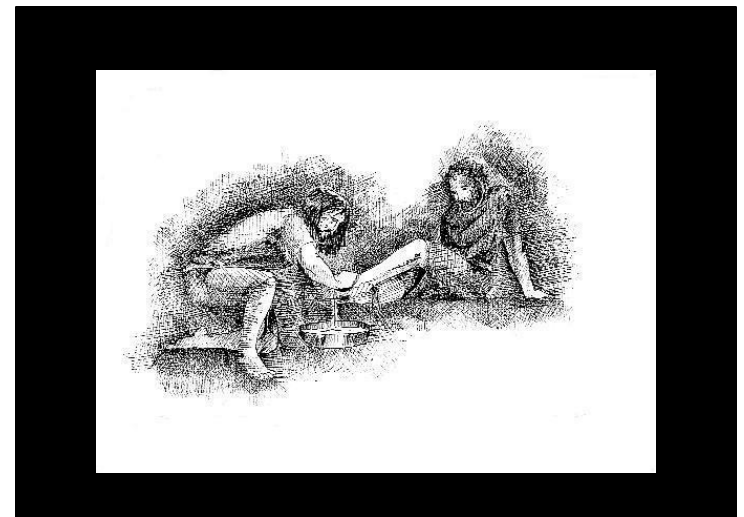- Performs with adaptability to ever-evolving work places and industries

Faith Integration

Service-Learning Student Evaluation

- This service-learning experience increased my capacity to live out Christian values in the community.

- I was able to understand the connection between my service-learning experience and my personal faith.

How do we serve?

■ Empower Students

■ Serve Faculty

■ Enhance Scholarship

■ Build Community

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING
AND RESEARCH

Thank You!

Phone: 626-815-6000 ext 2823

http://www.apu.edu/caslr/

We are located in Magnolia Court
(Shire Mods) East of the Baseball field

"**What should matter most** is what students know, and what they are able to do with their degree…I am agnostic about where you went to school. I want to know whether or not you have those outcomes that are going to prepare you for work and for life."

Jamie P. Merisotis, President and CEO of the Lumina Foundation

(Business and Academic Leaders Disagree on Quality of College Graduates, Surveys Find   Mark Keierleber, The Chronicle of Higher Education)

Wide divergence of Opinion:

Are graduates prepared for the Work Place?

Gallup Poll in Partnership with the Lumina Foundation:

- Business Leaders, 11%

- College and University Chief Academic Officers, 96%

- Population at Large, 14%

- *(Business and Academic Leaders Disagree on Quality of College Graduates, Surveys Find* Mark Keierleber, *The Chronicle of Higher Education)*

Skills Most Valued in the Economy

- Leadership, communications, and analysis.
- Of all occupations, 96% require critical thinking and active listening to be either very important or extremely important to success.

HEA Reauthorization

- Postsecondary Institutional Rating System (PIRS)
  - Institutions rated on:
    - Affordability (cost and debt),
    - Graduation rates,
    - Earnings
    - Access

Workforce Development and Civic Engagement

At a time when graduates are having trouble getting a job – service-learning can be promoted as a way to assist students in several ways:

1. *Experience*
2. *Workforce Ethics*
3. *Making Connections – Networking*
4. *Retention of Knowledge*
5. *Leadership Gains*

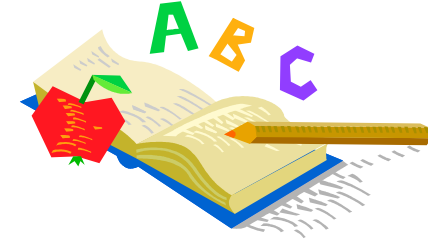# *Civic Engagement: An Umbrella Term*

Civic Engagement:

Reciprocal school-community collaborations that enhance students' understanding of and participation in civic life.

- **Community-Based Learning**
- Civic education
- Community service
- Community-based research
- *Service-Learning*

Service-Learning: Research Evidence—
K-12 Education

- **Greater impact on lower-income, ethnic minority, and at-risk youth**
  (Cress, Stokamer, & Drummond Hays, 2010; Melchior & Bailis,1999; Scales,2005)

- **"Civic engagement is one way to insure that no child is left behind."** (Gent, 2007)

Civic Engagement: Research Evidence—Higher Education

- **Critical Thinking** (Bowden & Marten, 1998; Cress, 2003; Pascarella & Terenzini ,2005)

- **Academic Engagement, Retention, & Graduation** (Astin, 1996; Astin & Sax, 1996; Bringle & Hatcher, 2010; Gallini & Moely, 2003; Kielsmeier, 2009; Prentice & Robinson, 2010; MC3-- The Midwest Campus Compact Citizen-Scholar, 2010; Vogelgesang, Ikeda, Gilmartin, and Keup, 2002)

- **Identify as Future Agents of positive community change** (Battistoni, 1997; Cress, Yamashita, Duarte, & Burns, 2010; Colby, Ehrlich, Beaumont, & Stephens, 2003, Eyler & Giles, 1994; Moely, McFarland, Miron, Mercer, & Ilustre, 2002; Gallini & Moely, 2003)

- **Enhanced Leadership Skills** (Cress, Astin, Zimmerman-Oster, and Burkhardt, 2001; Moely et al., 2002).

Civic Engagement: A Promising Connection—Research Evidence

1. **Students learn more Academic Content:** Abstract concepts come into relief against situation and context requiring analysis and problem-solving.

2. **Students increase Higher-Order Skills:** Critical thinking, writing, technology, and mathematic skills are enhanced at advanced levels of aptitude.

3. **Students increase Emotional Intelligence:** Gains in interpersonal effectiveness through collaboration with diverse perspectives, cultures, and organizations add key life success skills.

Civic Engagement: Research Evidence Summary

- Academic Content
- Critical Thinking
- Writing
- Verbal Communication
- Mathematics
- Problem-Solving
- Leadership
- Interpersonal Skills
- Cultural Competence
- Civic Dispositions

➡️

- Retention
- Degree Aspirations
- H.S. Graduation
- College Enrollment
- College Degree
- Future Engagement
- Faculty Research
- Community Improvement

What Qualities and Skills are Important to Employers?

According to the 2012 National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook Survey, the top 10 qualities/skills employers seek are Transferable Skills:

1. **Ability to work in a team structure**
2. **Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization**
3. **Ability to make decisions and solve problems**
4. **Ability to obtain and process information**
5. **Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work**
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Leadership Development through Civic Engagement

Leadership Skills:

- Ability to set goals

- Decision-making

- Willingness to take risks

- Ability to deal with complexity and uncertainty

- Conflict resolution skills

- Ability to plan and implement programs

Cress, Astin, et al (2001). Developmental Outcomes of College Students' Involvement in Leadership Activities. *Journal of College Student Development*, *42*(1), 15-27.

What Linkages?
For What Outcomes?

Beginning to Assess and Promote Workforce Development

at a Private College