



Service-Learning and Curriculum Reform

November 18, 2008

Definition of Service-Learning

- Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic studies to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities. It engages students in addressing real unmet needs or issues in a community and actively involves them in decision-making at all levels of the process.

Components of Service-Learning

- Preparation
- Action
- Critical Reflection
- Celebration/Evaluation

Preparation

- To introduce the concept of service
- To explain the goals of the service-learning experience
- To learn about specific issues related to their projects
- To discuss expectations

Action

- Direct: One-on-one interaction
- Indirect: Channel resources to the problem
- Advocacy: Lobbying, speaking, performing

Critical Reflection—Guidelines

- Engage in critical reflection throughout the service-learning project
- Attend to broader issues as well as personal experiences
- Encourage creativity
- Use diverse activities—such as journals, written assignments, group discussions, and oral presentations
- Address issues of confidentiality

Celebration/Evaluation

- Celebrate Student Service-Learning Accomplishments
- Evaluation: Have student evaluate their project; have site evaluate the student

Other Points

- Goals—Handout
- Service-Learning Project Walk Through—Handout
- Best practices—Handout
- Forms—Handout
- Resources—Handout
- WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS COORDINATED IN SOME WAY.

