



Service-Learning Program

WINTER 2008

www.clark.edu 360.992.2447

Curricular-based Service-Learning at Clark College

During Winter 2008:

- 9 faculty from 8 departments used service-learning as a teaching/learning methodology
- 148 students participated in 947 hours of service to complete a required or optional service-learning course component. Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics value of volunteer time (\$18.77/hour) means our students contributed **\$17,775.19** worth of time to the community.
- 23 community partners collaborated on service-learning projects. Community partners represented environmental, health, social services, educational and youth service organizations.

Are you doing Service-Learning at Clark College?

One challenge facing the Service-Learning Program is getting an accurate number of instructors involved in service-learning each term. If you are currently using service-learning or planning to in upcoming terms, please send a short e-mail to Jody Shulnak, jshulnak@clark.edu

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a method of education under which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs and that are coordinated in collaboration with school and community.

Service-learning is integrated into students' academic curriculum and provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge to become active partners within their community. Service-learning enhances what is taught by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the community. It helps foster the development of a sense of caring for others and the ability to understand other's perspectives which is particularly important for effective citizenship and life long learning.

The components of service-learning include:

- The service-component is directly linked to the learning objectives in a course
- The service project meets a community need and is organized with a community partner
- Reflection/analysis is the assessment tool to measure students learning

At Clark College, the Service-Learning Program aims to develop students who are not only prepared for the workforce but are equally prepared to be engaged citizens in their community. The Program supports faculty efforts to incorporate service-learning as a curricular teaching strategy, encourages and provides opportunities for students to become active participants in their communities through co-curricular volunteer

opportunities, and enhances the College's mission to strengthen broad based partnerships with non-profit/public agencies. ♦



Suzanne Southerland, Communications Studies faculty, works on a Habitat for Humanity house on the Alternative Spring Break

Faculty Highlight: Suzanne Southerland

"When students start associating learning with positive life experiences, they're more likely to be life-long learners," Communication Studies instructor Suzanne Southerland said about service learning.

Southerland uses service learning each quarter in her Small Group Communication (CMST 201) course. Each Clark College CMST 201 course includes a major service-

learning component. Students perform any number of services such as preparing meals at the Share House to holding a car wash to earn money for breast cancer awareness.

In addition to using service learning in the classroom, Southerland directs the Clark College Service & Leadership in the Community program. In March, the program hosted an alternative spring break. Seven students, an interpreter and two

advisors (Southerland and Manager of Service Learning Jody Shulnak) traveled to Sedro Woolley, Wash. to work for a week with Habitat for Humanity.

Southerland also co-taught the Service Learning and Civic Engagement (HDEV 280) course during the fall 2007 quarter with Women's Studies instructor Ann Snyder.



ESL students practice their English-speaking skills at the Read Across America event at Harney Elementary School

“I had a good experience reading....It was the first time for me to read a book in English in a public place.”

~Mayuko Watanabe (ESL student from Japan)



I-BEST Program Manager Katy Washburne assembles a hygiene kit during Poverty Awareness Day.

Partnership for Service in Schools Project

Clark College has newly formed partnerships with Harney and Fruit Valley Elementary Schools as part of the Partnership for Service in Schools Project funded by a Learn & Serve America grant. The goal of the program is to improve the school success of disadvantaged youth, ensuring that more college students have opportunities to serve as part of their academic studies through high-quality service-learning.

The Partnership for Service in

Schools Project is the catalyst for formalizing service-learning at Clark College and developing a model to support education and literacy in schools.

Key activities for the Partnership for Service in Schools Project include the Math Club, which builds students' knowledge and confidence in mathematics; the Homework Club, offering students a quiet place to do their homework during lunch recess; the Lunch Buddy Program which pairs Clark College employees with ele-

mentary students for lunch and conversation; and Read Across America, which provided a co-curricular service-learning opportunity for 29 college students, faculty and staff that read Dr. Seuss books and promoted literacy among school-age children. A total of thirteen Clark College students are working to make a difference at Washington, Fruit Valley and Harney Elementary Schools as elementary assistants of the aforementioned academic support activities.

Co-curricular Service-Learning Events

MLK Day

For Martin Luther King Day, the Service-Learning Program helped ASCC's MLK Celebration Event by organizing and tabling for an Orange Band Exercise. The Orange Band Initiative is a national project that encourages friendly dialogue. During the event's reception, orange bands were handed out to students and members of the community and were encouraged to dis-

cuss topics that they feel are important.

Poverty Awareness Day

The Club for Social Action teamed up with the ONE campaign to raise awareness about poverty locally and globally. Volunteers handed out vegan, organic and fair trade food, and hosted a table where attendees could volunteer to assemble one of 30 hygiene kits, which were then distributed during their volunteer

time at the men's homeless shelter.

Read Across America

Twenty-nine students, faculty and staff from Clark College volunteered to read to students at Harney and Washington Elementary Schools as part of the annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration: Read Across America event to promote literacy among school-age children.

Spring into Action! at Clark College

The Service-Learning Program and the Service and Leadership in the Community (SLIC) Program have teamed up to coordinate a series of three spring service events, themed **“Spring into Action!”**. The programs sent out a recent challenge to the college community: to create an innovative, fun and memorable new name for the series of college-wide service events that will take place during spring quarter. There were many interesting ideas in the submissions re-

ceived, and the coordinators appreciate the effort that went into creating all of them. Congratulations to the grand prize winner, Treena Turner. Treena's submission was selected by planning committee members from the 17 entries received during the naming contest, which ran from Jan. 14-Feb. 1. We would like to invite you to incorporate one or more of these service events into your spring quarter curriculum. In particular, the Community Health Fair is designed for maxi-

mum involvement from the college community, with the idea of it being a college-wide Service-Learning project.

Spring Into Action! Events

at a Glance:

SLIC's Service Expo → Monday, May 12th 11:30-

1:30pm: Come and check out the Service and Leadership in the Community Program's highlights of service. There will be a slideshow capturing the years' most memorable moments in community service as

Continued on next page

Spring Into Action! at Clark College (continued)

well as an overview of the accomplishments of the SLIC program. Highlights include the Fridays in the Community projects and the Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break in Mt. Vernon! **Oxfam Hunger Banquet → Tuesday, May 13th, 12:10-1:50pm:** For some, banquet means lots of food. But for many, the only meal served is hunger. Feast or famine - it's the luck of the draw. An Oxfam Hunger Banquet is a banquet without much food. Each person attending is randomly

assigned a role and will gain a new perspective about hunger and its' root causes.

Community Health Fair →

Wednesday, May 14th, 10-2:00pm: Join us for this great event and learn about health, wellness and fitness options in Clark County! Healthy cooking and fitness demonstrations will be conducted, as well as various health screenings and information about local health-related resources. The *Community Health Fair* will be a college-wide service-learning event to offer an engaging, "hands-on"

service project in effort to maximize involvement from the college community. This event will be interdisciplinary and we would like for faculty and students across all disciplines to take part in the *Community Health Fair*. The *Community Health Fair* could be incorporated into your syllabus in one of the following ways:

- * As a **required** assignment/project
- * As an assignment/project **option**
- * As extra credit



Students planting trees near Salmon Creek at the Weekend Expedition with the SLIC program.

Students in Service

Students in Service Scholarships Available

Students can earn an educational scholarship up to \$2,362 for their work in the community. The *Students In Service* program provides educational scholarships to Clark College students who complete a minimum of 300 hours of service. Students completing service-learning class projects, volunteering, internship or in work-study position are eligible. Interested Clark College stu-

dents should visit the *Students In Service* website at www.studentsinservice.org

Recognition Event

A recognition event was held on Thursday, February 28th in the Penguin Student Lounge to celebrate and report progress of the community partners, faculty and students participating in the Students in Service program. Each guest in attendance was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a Clark

College reusable bag and students enrolled in a second term of service received a Clark College messenger tote bag. Speakers from the community shared their thoughts about the importance of service and how their student volunteers have impacted their organization. Kate Budd, site supervisor at the Council for the Homeless, reflected on the growth her (three) student members have made throughout their terms

“Working with such a diverse group of people was the most rewarding aspect of the Alternative Spring Break trip” ~ASB student volunteer

Program Highlight: Service and Leadership in the Community

Service and Leadership in the Community “SLIC” is a three-part program with the goals of increasing student’s positive citizen participation, leadership, and knowledge of community resources. The SLIC program is based on a co-curricular service-learning model in which students are involved in community activities that address local needs while developing reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Co-curricular service-learning is under the

umbrella of experiential learning and can include events such as alternative spring breaks, national service days, and volunteer projects.

The SLIC program is focused on three main projects:

- Alternative Spring Break
- The Weekend Expedition
- Fridays in the Community

A group of dedicated students selflessly served during winter quarter at Habitat ReStore, Columbia Springs Environ-

mental Center, Water Resource Education Center and Oregon Food Bank. A group also partnered with Stream Team to plant trees near Salmon Creek for the Weekend Expedition. Please contact Katrina Burch kburch@clark.edu, Tay Seidel tseidel@clark.edu, or Suzanne Southerland ssoutherland@clark.edu for more information about SLIC.



The Students in Service Recognition event



Save the Date!
May 29, 2008
Service-Learning
Recognition Ceremony

This recognition ceremony is for those faculty, students and community partners who participate in Service-Learning. Student work will be highlighted, so please keep student reflection papers (ask permission to use excerpts) and let me know of any photo opportunities to be included in a slideshow. If you used service-learning in a past course from the 2007-08 school year, that work can be highlighted also. I would like to have comments from students, community partners and faculty both written and spoken at the event, so please let me know if you have something to contribute. Due to space and budget limitations, we will not be able to have all of your students at the event. However, we will be able to have at least one student from each of your classes attend. Keep an eye out for who you would like to invite!

How is Service-Learning Different than Volunteering?

Volunteering, community service and service-learning all share in making a difference in the community. However, service-learning is part of an academic course and deepens student's knowledge of an academic field, increases critical thinking and positive citizen involvement. Through course readings, assignments, reflection and analysis students connect their service experience with academic theories and course learning outcomes.



Clark College student shows finished product. Photo courtesy of Adam Blackburn

Student Spotlight: Adam Blackburn
By Luisa Eding, Watershed Steward Program Assistant

Adam Blackburn, Small Group Communications student, headed up a team of five Clark College students to stencil 21 drains in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed. Adam used the storm drain stenciling program to fulfill a class project where they presented their findings and community project to their class. Adam's group chose to report on Columbia River salmon conservation. The goal of the assignment was to identify a problem and propose solutions, then take action in the community based on their solutions. From research, they learned that one of the things that affect salmon health is surface water pollution, some of which comes from urban runoff flowing freely into local storm drains. Since the runoff is untreated, the pollution enters surface waters and impacts the health of salmon. Adam said the group "really enjoyed stenciling storm drains. [By stenciling] we saw a connection between storm drains and salmon".

Reflection Idea:

Do you have some visual learners in your class? One way to help them process their Service-Learning experience is to have them make a Learning Flow Chart. To do this, ask them to design a flow chart that links key things they learned from the classroom, to key experiences they had in the community and vice versa. Taken from Kathleen Rice, KLRice Consulting and California Campus Compact



of

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1933 Fort Vancouver Way, MS #25
Vancouver, WA 98663

Jody Shulnak

Service-Learning & Volunteer Manager
Phone: 360-992-2447
Fax: 360-992-2877
jshulnak@clark.edu

Service-Learning Advisory Board

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Clark College Service-Learning Program
1933 Fort Vancouver Way, MS# 25
Vancouver, WA 98663

Phone: 360-992-2447
E-mail: jshulnak@clark.edu

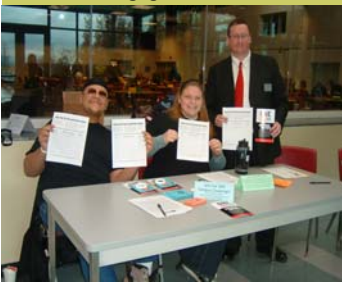
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[http://www.clark.edu/
student_services/employment/
service_learning/
volunteer_programs.php](http://www.clark.edu/student_services/employment/service_learning/volunteer_programs.php)

become".
Katharine

Upcoming Conferences

- Campus Compact Continuums of Service Conference, April 17th-19th in Portland, Oregon. <http://www.wacampuscompact.org/conference/>
- Community College Conference for Civic Engagement, May 21st-23rd in Scottsdale, Arizona. <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/engagement/>



Club for Social Action members promote the ONE campaign on campus.

Thank You to Our Faculty and Community Partners

Thank you to the winter 2008 faculty for your support of student's active involvement in the community:

- Lisa Sayles, Communication Studies
- Roxane Sutherland, Communication Studies
- Deena Bisig, Communication Studies
- Suzanne Southerland, Communication Studies
- Amy Bratton, Communication Studies
- Melody Scheer, Dental Hygiene
- Veronica Brock, Health
- Kathleen Perillo, Biology
- Michelle Mallory, Child & Family Studies
- Pat Fulbright, English
- Elizabeth Ubierno, Spanish
- Gus Torres, Graphic Arts
- Honey Knight, Dental Hygiene

Thank you to our community partners who have collaborated with faculty and students to develop meaningful service projects:

Clark College Student Health, Caring Connections, Medical Teams International, SHARE House, Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, New Heights Clinic, American Red Cross, Clark College Nursing Program's Skills Lab, Oregon Food Bank, Loaves & Fishes, Clark College Wellness Program, Auto-Toyota Program, Grameen Bank, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, Win With Women, My Sistahs, Clean Clothes Campaign, National Organization for Women, White Ribbon Campaign, National Black Environmental Justice Network,

Planned Parenthood, Columbia Land Trust, Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, Water Resources Education Center, Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Trees, Clark Public Utilities- Stream Team, Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation, Clark College MRAD department, Vancouver School District, Evergreen School District and many more.....