



The **Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement** at Michigan State University provides beyond-the-classroom learning opportunities that are active, service-focused, community-based, mutually beneficial, and integrated with students' academic programs.

Students who participate in service-learning contribute their time, energy, and unique talents to nonprofit organizations, schools, hospitals, health care facilities, government agencies, and advocacy groups in ways that help to meet community needs. The service may be connected to a specific MSU course or academic major, or may simply be related to a personal passion.

The CSLCE assists faculty, students, and community partners at every step of the way to create and manage service and engagement opportunities by:

- *Linking students with* appropriate placements and providing orientation sessions about program expectations, logistics, safety, and other information
- *Supporting the work of faculty* to integrate service-learning into courses
- *Working with community partners* to establish and enhance placement opportunities

SERVICES

For MSU students

Service opportunities can be as short as one afternoon or as long as a semester or academic year. Many students serve in the East Lansing/Lansing area through short-term community projects or sustained placements (2-6 hours per week for a semester). Others serve at national and international sites through week-long alternative breaks.

For many service positions, no prior experience is needed; the community organizations provide orientation and training. The only requirements for a successful service-learning experience are the desire to address social needs or civic issues, commitment to the service, and willingness to grow personally, academically, professionally, and civically.

CSLCE's database of placement opportunities is keyed to suitability for academic discipline and course content. Enrollment is easy with online sign-up.

For MSU faculty

For faculty, the CSLCE helps to develop best practices regarding curriculum integration and reflection. CSLCE provides support for faculty interested in the scholarship of engagement and maintains a library of resources related to service-learning and civic engagement.

CSLCE can come to the classroom with a presentation about service linkages to match the academic, professional, and personal interests of students from any college or academic major.

For community organizations

The CSLCE invites community organizations and agencies to partner with the MSU community by actively engaging students. Visit the CSLCE website (servicelearning.msu.edu) for more information about posting or updating a position listing; the process by which volunteers are placed with an agency; examples of service programs; links to position description and evaluation forms; and an explanation of partnership roles and expectations for the CSLCE, the agency, and the student.



Did You Know . . .

MSU received the 2008 Presidential Award for Community Service – the highest award a college/university can receive from the federal government for service!

Curricular Engagement At Michigan State University

Curricular engagement means teaching, learning, and scholarship that engage faculty, students, and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration. These interactions address community identified needs, deepen student learning, enhance the well-being of the community, and enrich the scholarship of the university.

Service-learning may take various forms, depending on how closely the service is related to the student's academic program.

Academic service-learning

Academic service-learning is a teaching method that combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility and commitment to the community.

(Definition adapted from Campus Compact, a national coalition of college and university presidents that promotes civic engagement and service-learning in higher education.)

Curricular service-learning

MSU defines curricular service-learning as service related to a particular academic major or field of study in which the service is attached to the discipline rather than a specific course.

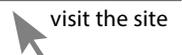
Co-curricular service-learning

Co-curricular service experiences provide students with opportunities to volunteer through community-based placements in personal areas of interest that may be unrelated to courses or academic majors. Many of these opportunities are available through student-led initiatives dedicated to service, community and civic engagement, and advocacy.

TOP REQUESTED SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Alternative Breaks
- Community Administration
- Communication
- Community Nutrition
- Community Projects
- Education and Special Education
- Engineering and Construction
- Health Services
- Ingham Regional Medical Center
- Into the Streets
- Lansing Schools
- Mental Health and Human Services
- Museums and Cultural Arts
- Pre-School and Day Care
- Pre-Vet Medicine
- Recreation Leadership
- Science and Environment
- Senior Citizens
- Sparrow Health System
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Youth Mentoring

servicelearning.msu.edu



visit the site

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Center for Service-Learning
and Civic Engagement

Renee Zientek

Director, Center for Service-Learning and
Civic Engagement
zientekr@msu.edu

CSLCE is jointly administered by the Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services

Student Services Building • 556 E. Circle Dr., Room 345
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: (517) 353-4400 • Fax: (517) 353-6663
E-mail: servlrm@msu.edu