The Mission of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at Michigan State University

The mission of the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at Michigan State University is to provide active, service-focused, community-based, mutually beneficial, integrated, learning opportunities for students, building and enhancing their commitment to academics, personal and professional development, and civic responsibility.
History and Administrative Structure

- Enacted by decree of the Board of Trustees, January 1967
- Began as Office of Volunteers
- Became Service-Learning Center in 1979
- Became the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in Fall 2002
  - Jointly administered through the Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services

Primary Focus Areas

- Academic Service-Learning & Civic Engagement
  - Curricular Service-Learning
    - Co-curricular Service-Learning, Civic & Community Engagement
      - Individual Opportunities
      - Student-led Initiatives
Academic Service-Learning

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 is dedicated to promoting civic engagement and service-learning in higher education.

What is Civic Engagement?

Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern

Academic Service-Learning & Civic Engagement

• Experiential
• Course-Connected
  - General/Liberal Education – Integrative Studies
  - Discipline-based Courses – Freshmen through Graduate
• Community-Based
• Focused on the Public Good

Curricular Service-Learning

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
Resources & Support for Faculty

The CSLCE welcomes faculty and course involvement from all colleges and academic majors, and offers the following services and support:

• Develops and assists in the implementation of best practices regarding curriculum integration, reflection and performance evaluation.
• Provides individual and group consultations pertaining to the integration of service-learning and civic engagement into curricula.
• Assists faculty in identifying community partners and service and engagement opportunities that connect to course and departmental themes.

Resources & Support for Faculty, cont.

• Facilitates service-based linkages matching academic and professional interests with community needs.
• Maintains a database of service-learning and civic engagement opportunities as defined by community agencies and organizations.
• Conducts class presentations on request.
• Facilitates student enrollment in service-learning positions and provides registration process to insure the coverage of students under the university’s indemnification policy.
• Interviews and/or orients students as to opportunities and expectations.
Resources & Support for Faculty, cont.

- Works with community partners to establish and maintain quality and safe service placements.
- Maintains library of resources related to service-learning and civic engagement.
- Provides additional support for faculty interested in the scholarship of engagement.

Faculty development includes, but is not limited to, the offering of the University Outreach and Engagement “Tools of Engagement” Curriculum Modules, MSU Lilly seminars and Office of the Provost “MULTI” seminars, and consultation on community-based research linked to service-learning.

Resources & Support for Faculty, cont.

- **Research Findings and Assessment Tools**
  
  [http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/faculty/academic-service-learning](http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/faculty/academic-service-learning)
  
  - C.A.R.T. – Compendium of Research and Assessment Tools
  - Campus-Community Partnerships for Health
  - International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, Advances in Service-Learning Research, Volumes 1-7
  - Service-Learning at a Glance: Selected Resources (NSLC)
Resources & Support for Faculty, cont.

- National and International Contexts
  MSU Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in National and International Contexts
  http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/faculty/curricular-service-learning
  - Campus Compact
  - Michigan Campus Compact
  - Carnegie Classification on Engagement
  - Higher Education Network for Community Engagement (H.E.N.C.E.)
  - President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
  - Etc. …

Co-Curricular Service-Learning, Civic & Community Engagement

Provides students with opportunities to volunteer in traditional ways, through community-based placements in areas of interest that unrelated to courses.

Many of these opportunities are student-led initiatives dedicated to serving community, advocacy, and becoming civically engaged.
Student Lead Initiatives

- Alternative Spring Break
- Into the Streets
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Financial Literacy

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give".

Winston Churchill
http://www.stjohn.org/
Contact Information

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