Beyond Service Learning: Other Ways to Engage the Community

There are many ways to engage the community in Athens, the surrounding Appalachian region, the state, the nation or globally. The Center can assist you in connecting with the appropriate contacts and implementing your community engagement ideas.

Other ways faculty at OHIO are engaging external organizations are through:

- Academic Volunteering
- Independent Volunteering
- Service Learning Internships
- Independent Internships
- Service Learning Abroad
- Experiential Education
- Community Based Participatory Research
- Consulting
- Serving on non-profit boards and government organization committees

Who We Are

About Us

The CCCE serves as the central clearinghouse for meeting the community engagement needs for all students, faculty, and staff at Ohio University, as well as for community-based organizations in Athens and the region. Specifically, the CCCE provides the administrative and educational support services to students, faculty, and members of community-based organizations who wish to employ community-based engagement practices for the betterment of students and the community.

Contact Us

phone: 740-593-4868
e-mail: CommunityEngagement@ohio.edu
website: http://www.ohio.edu/communityengagement/
Resources for Faculty
Introductions

Whether you want to develop a service learning course, do community based research, add a community service component to a course, or simply find out more about what is happening in the community that relates to your discipline, the CCCE can facilitate introductions.

CCCE staff meets regularly with community organizations to find out needs that exist in the community. We connect these organizations with faculty members interested in collaborating on projects that students work on as part of their course requirements. The projects provide an opportunity for students to apply academic theory to real world situations.

Faculty Service Learning Trainings

We provide at least one faculty training session per semester on how to develop and implement a service learning course. The trainings are led by OHIO faculty who are currently teaching using service learning curricula. Each training provides resources and instructions to develop a syllabus (or revamp an existing syllabus), get a course approved as an OHIO Service Learning Course and listed as such with the registrar’s office, apply for funds to implement a service learning component, and information about meeting and collaborating with community organizations.

Service Learning Toolkit

The CCCE can provide tools such as example syllabi, activities, and best practices for service learning courses across the disciplines. Staff can also assist you in adapting existing tools or seeking out new tools to meet the specific needs of your course.

“I have always wanted to do a service learning course and this will give me the tools and the motivation!”

—Faculty Training Participant

Why Service Learning?

Service Learning Defined

Service learning at OHIO is structured experiential education linked to a course that intentionally supports student learning and community-based organizations equally.

An OHIO Service Learning course:

- ...is embedded in the course curriculum
- ...is based on collaboration between faculty and community organizations
- ...requires at least 20 hours of structured, intentional work on the service project
- ...serves the common good
- ...requires reflections that link experience to academic material

Benefits of Service Learning

Research shows that students in service learning courses tend to be more motivated, more fully engaged, and they show a greater understanding of the academic material. Additionally, service learning courses provide opportunities for faculty to meet service requirements and do scholarly field research.