

2013

## A Pedagogy to Promote Civic Learning Presentation

Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN)

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Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN), "A Pedagogy to Promote Civic Learning Presentation" (2013). *Enduring Questions - Teaching Resources*. 7.

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# **Service Learning: A Pedagogy to Promote Civic Learning**



**Teagle Launch Meeting – August 2013**  
**Fairfield University**



# What is Service Learning?

**“Service-learning is a pedagogical approach that links academic study and community-based service so that each is strengthened and both are transformed.”**

(Ehrlich, 1996)

# Core Components of Service Learning

- Relevant and meaningful service
- Academic Learning
- Reflection
- Purposeful Civic Learning
- Evaluation and assessment



# What Distinguishes Service Learning

<b>OBJECTIVES→ ↓ PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Service to the Community</b>	<b>Specific Enhanced Academic Learning</b>	<b>Purposeful Civic Learning</b>	<b>Guided Critical Reflection</b>
<b>Independent Volunteering/ Community Service</b>	YES	NO	NO	NO
<b>Co-Curricular Service Learning</b>	YES	MAYBE	MAYBE	MAYBE
<b>Internships</b>	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	MAYBE
<b>Professional Practica/ Pre-Service</b>	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	MAYBE
<b>Academic Service Learning</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES



# Relevant and Meaningful Service

- **Course-objective based; relevant to the course**
- **Reciprocal relationships**
- **Sustainable**
- **Assets-based approach**
- **Service as a “text for the course” integrated throughout the semester**



# Academic Learning

- **Clear learning objectives connecting service to the course material**
- **Course enhanced by the service experience**
- **Students as active learners**
- **Community partners as co-educators**



# Reflection

- **Continuous**
- **Connected**
- **Challenging**
- **Contextualized**

**The 4 C's (Reflection Guide)**





# Civic Learning

**“Knowledge, skills, and values that make an explicitly direct and purposeful contribution to the preparation of students for active civic participation”  
(Michigan Journal)**

## **Sample areas for civic learning:**

- Academic
- Democratic citizenship
- Diversity
- Political
- Leadership
- Inter- and intra-personal
- Social responsibility

# Assessment & Evaluation

- **Assessment foci**
  - student learning
  - faculty experience
  - Community partner relationship
  - community impact
- **Use feedback to make changes in the course**

# Service Learning at Fairfield

- Office of Service Learning founded in 2006
- 35+ courses per year, 250+ students per semester
- SerL course designation
- Professional Development
  - Course development grants for faculty
  - Co-mentor group
- Service Learning Associates
- Community partnership development
- Community-Engaged Scholarship



# Service Learning – the next generation

- Student Learning
  - Developmental arc, progressive civic learning outcomes from introductory to cumulative projects
- Community
  - Greater emphasis on understanding community outcomes
  - Working toward more democratic engagement with communities – from a transactional mode to a transformative mode
- Institutional culture and policies
  - Faculty support and rewards



# Service Learning and JUHAN

- Tool to help students connect theory with practice
- Avenue to support and advance the development of global civic partnerships
- Work backwards from objectives to inform
  - Course design – for example, mandatory or optional
  - Community experience – direct service, organizational development, advocacy
- Intentionally integrate civic learning objectives

# Resources Available through the Office of Service Learning

- Course Development Grants
- Partnership/ Community Knowledge
- Faculty network/ [sample syllabi](#)
- Professional development – SL Brown bags
- [Website](#): articles, resource links, etc.
- Course designation process
- 1:1
- Service Learning Associates (SLA)
- Logistical support

# Resources & Bibliography

## Reflection Resources:

[http://www.servicelearning.org/instant\\_info/fact\\_sheets/he\\_facts/he\\_reflection/](http://www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/fact_sheets/he_facts/he_reflection/) (Learn and Serve America's National Service Learning Clearinghouse)

<http://www.compact.org/disciplines/reflection/> (Campus Compact)

[http://www.uvm.edu/~dewey/reflection\\_manual/](http://www.uvm.edu/~dewey/reflection_manual/) (Facilitating Reflection: A Manual for Leaders and Educators)

Eyler and Giles (1996) Practitioner's Guide to Reflection in Service-Learning: Student Voices and Reflections

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See Also:

Campus Compact Web Site: [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)