Some of our specialized services include:

The S-Designation and GE Open Option
The S-Designation is a suffix that appears on courses in the official course catalogue. It is assigned via a committee within the Office of Service-Learning. This designation will instantly identify your course to students who are interested in service-learning. Starting with semesters in 2012, Service-Learning courses will also have the option of becoming a General Education Open Option, fulfilling elective requirements for undergraduates.

The Service-Learning Scholars Roundtable (SLSR)
The SLSR is our online hub for information and discussion around service-learning in Central Ohio. With over 150 members from Ohio State and partner institutions, the group provides a wealth of information and experience. It’s also where we send out our weekly mailings on Ohio State service-learning news, events, and resources. Anyone is welcome!

Service-Learning Course Grants
In order to facilitate the expansion of service-learning courses at Ohio State, we work to make a small number of course grants available to Ohio State faculty or staff on a yearly basis. Funding areas range from general course development to specialized fields like assessment and student philanthropy. Grants are announced via the SLSR and offered in yearly cycles, typically in the Spring or Summer.

Events and Workshops
Building community among service-learning practitioners at Ohio State is a priority for the Office of Service-Learning. To facilitate this, we sponsor regular coffee hours to provide opportunities for networking and sharing information. We also strive to provide workshops around areas of special interest to service-learning practitioners, such as evaluating service-learning and best practices for developing service-learning courses.

Contact us:
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Thanks to Robin DesJardins for use of her photography for this brochure
Why Service-Learning?*
Service-Learning promotes real community engagement. Service-learning is always done with a community partner to address an identified need. Service-learning promotes long-term partnerships with the potential to make real differences in our community.

Service-Learning develops career skills and real-world knowledge. Service encourages students to develop skills crucial to their careers, such as critical thinking and communication. It also gives students the chance to start developing skills in a career field before they graduate.

Service-Learning can improve academic outcomes. Research shows that students who participate in service-learning have more academic success than those that don’t, including higher GPAs and improved academic skills.

Service-Learning is an effective academic engagement tool. There are proven links between service-learning, college access, and degree completion.

What is Service-Learning?
Service-Learning refers to a type of experiential education that connects community service to learning outcomes.

How Does Service-Learning Work?

1. Course Creation
An instructor identifies an opportunity for service in a new or existing course. They find a community partner and work with them to develop the service component. This should meet the course’s learning goals, and meet the needs of the community partner.

2. Course Participation
Like any other course, service-learning requires academic work. The difference is that students also spend time in the community, doing work that benefits others and is directly tied to their course work. Students will generally meet for classroom instruction, and then spend a set number of hours at their partner site participating in a structured service activity.

3. Course Reflection
Students reflect on their experience with the assistance of their instructor and classmates. Students are encouraged to put their service experience into the context of academic work, and to consider the skills and interests they’ve begun to develop.

Who Participates in Service-Learning?
Service-Learning can be used effectively in nearly any classroom. We have over 70 courses that provide service-learning content, with thousands of students participating every year! If you’re interested in making service-learning a part of your curriculum, we can work with you to make it happen.

Service-learning is also an educational tool that will benefit any student. Any student can get the benefit of furthering their education while connecting with their community in a genuine way.

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*Based on research reported in A Promising Connection: Increasing College Access and Success through Civic Engagement. National Campus Compact, June 2010.*