Definitions

- Service learning is community-based learning. In most cases, service learning is a “course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.”


- “Service Learning is community service that is:
  - a part of a course, or
  - a structured project or activity.

Service learning includes academic preparation, service activities needed by the community, and structured reflection.”

  Marsha K. Turner, Ph.D., Director of Service Learning Center for Civic Education and Service Florida State University

Students participating in service learning develop:

- Increased reported learning and motivation to learn
- Increased ability to apply materials learned in class to real problems
- Deeper understanding of subject matter
- Increased leadership skills
- Deeper understanding of the complexity of social issues
- Increased feeling of being connected to a community
- Increased connection to the college experience through closer ties to students and faculty
- Increased ability to work with others
- Appreciation of diversity
- Greater self-knowledge
- Greater spiritual growth
Service Learning on the World Wide Web

- American Association for Higher Education Service Learning Project
  http://www.aahe.org/service/
- Campus Compact - http://www.compact.org
- Higher Education Service Learning Clearinghouse Project - http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/slc/
- Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning
  http://umich.edu/~mjcsl/
- Service Learning Home on the Web
  http://csf.colorado.edu/sl/
- Service Learning Internet Community
  http://www.slic.calstate.edu
- The Big Dummy’s Guide to Service Learning
  http://www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/bigdummy.html
- The National Service Learning Clearinghouse
  http://www.servicelearning.org
- The National Society for Experiential Education
  http://www.nsee.org

Essential Readings


For more service learning resources, examples of service learning course syllabi for all disciplines, and assistance in establishing partnerships with community-based agencies, please contact Dr. Marsha Turner, Director of Service Learning, 644-3174 / mturner@admin.fsu.edu

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