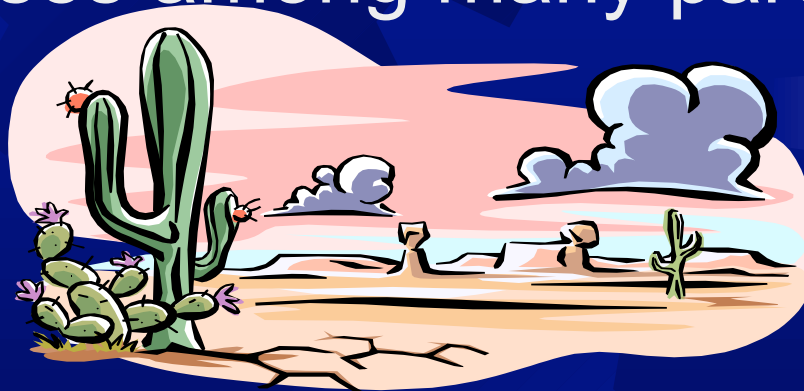





Engaging Students Through Academic Service Learning

Dr. Christine A. Langone
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- ★ Highly theoretical classrooms are like experiential deserts...there is little water to help the seeds of knowledge grow in the learners' minds.... The fertile flood plains where knowledge is cultivated and fertilized with experiential learning exist as oases among many parched deserts.



Sheckley and Weil (1994). Using experiential education to enhance learning. In Keeton (ed). Perspectives on experiential learning: Prelude to a global conversation about learning. Raleigh, NC: NSEE (Nat'l Society of Experiential Education)

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- ✦ Learning occurs best in the context of a compelling “presenting problem.”
 - ✦ By working in the context of the problem, applying established concepts to new situations, each individual discovers or establishes relationships, connections and patterns which become new knowledge.

- ✦ Ewell, P. (1997). Organizing for learning. American Association of Higher Education Bulletin, December, 3-6.



What is Academic Service Learning?

- ★ An educational method by which students learn and use skills and knowledge through active participation in organized service experiences
- ★ Designed to achieve pre-existing course objectives through service as a teaching method
- ★ Service is planned, conducted and evaluated as it relates to objectives within the discipline

★ Morton, K. (1996). Integrating service learning into the curriculum. In Jacoby, B. *Service learning in higher education*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.

Application in Leadership

Team building

Strategic Planning

Communication

Decision Making

Project planning



Sandy Creek Greenway

- ★ VISION: To protect the trail, and preserve the environment while allowing people to use and appreciate the ecosystem in the Athens-Clarke County community.





Examples of projects

- ✦ YWCO After School program
- ✦ Chase Street Elementary After-School Olympics
- ✦ Humane Society BrewFest Fundraiser
- ✦ Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner
- ✦ Red Cross Blood Drive
- ✦ Relay for Life
- ✦ Adult Day Care



Other disciplines

- ✦ Engineering – design renovations for community park
- ✦ Horticulture – plan and plant a community garden, senior citizens' home
- ✦ All subjects – programs for school children – after school programs, day care, camps

Challenges and considerations

- ✦ Provide guidelines for thoughtful community service: respect for citizens, consider real needs of community





Challenges and considerations

- ✦ Incorporate time for planning and trouble shooting
- ✦ Recognize that outcomes not always anticipated; answers not always known
- ✦ Include student reflection and evaluation



Reflection and Evaluation

- ✦ Did you reach your goals?
- ✦ What helped or hindered reaching your goals (related to team process, the task, other factors)?
- ✦ If you were to do this project again, what, if anything, would you do differently?
- ✦ How were the recipients or clients of your work affected? How do you know?
- ✦ What impact did your efforts have?
- ✦ How did working as a team affect the impact (as contrasted to an individual acting alone)?
- ✦ How might the impact be increased? What people, resources, time, effort, etc. would be needed?

