

Service-Learning Program

Volume 4, Issue 1

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Information for the Service-Learning Community!

A Note from the Academic Coordinators

Greetings!

In the Service-Learning Program, we emphasize a hands-on approach to education by combining service goals and learning objectives in order to not only benefit the student but the community as well. To accomplish this goal we strive to bring together the ideas and concepts taught in the classroom and applying them to the real world. It is through Service-Learning that students provide an important service to the community while simultaneously gaining a deeper understanding of the issues facing their community. We invite you to read the pages of this newsletter to examine the community around you and reflect upon the impact you are able to have on others.

Service-Learning would like to invite you to participate in the various upcoming events in our community. November 18th 2009, the CSB-SJU Bonners will be hosting their first *Hunger Banquet* from 6:30-8:30 in the Gorecki Dining and Conference Center. Place of Hope Ministries will be holding their 5th annual *Hope for the Holidays Banquet*, which will take place on November 21st.

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world." - Gandhi

In the spirit of service,
CSB/SJU Service-Learning Program

Service-Learning: The Big Picture

Service can sometimes feel like a daunting task; there is too much to be done, and not enough people to accomplish it all. Today, college students, as well as young students are engaging in service-learning. The United States Corporation National & Community Service organization estimates that 4.7 million K-12 students are engaged in service-learning nationwide. Along with the number of college students participating in service, the reality is, there are a lot of people helping out their local community. So the next time you feel discouraged or like you are not making a difference, take a look at the big picture! There is a lot being done.

For more information on national service-learning, check out www.servicelearning.org.



Adia Zeman
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Service-Learning...

- ◆ *Integrates classroom theory with practical experience*
- ◆ *Enhances leadership skills*
- ◆ *Encourages active community commitment*
- ◆ *Increases awareness of social justice issues*

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Inside this issue:

Greetings	1
The Big Picture	1
Bonner Update	2
Upcoming Events	2
Poster Session	3
Contact Information	4
Service-Learning	4

CSB/SJU Bonner Update



The CSB/SJU Bonner Leader Program accepted its first class of Bonners this academic year! We have nine new Bonners, bringing our Bonner team up to 13 students! Yay! As a part of the Bonner Program, each of us will be fulfilling our student employment in the community. In addition, we will be meeting bi-weekly for training and enrichment activities, focusing on developing personal, professional and leadership skills. Our Bonners are currently working with Kennedy, Madison, Westwood and Discovery Kid-stops, Catholic Charities, the CSB/SJU Service-Learning Program and Fast Forward Youth Program.

We are really excited to get involved in the St. Cloud community this year as well as to raise Bonner awareness on the CSB and SJU campuses. The Bonner Leaders are hoping to engage in community in-

volvement and are currently looking for opportunities to serve. We would love to have the chance to respond to needs in the community through a couple of "Day-of-Service" activities. If you have a project you would like the Bonner Leaders to work on, please contact Jackie Carlson, the head of our Event Bonner Leadership Team, at jocarlson@csbsju.edu.

In addition to our "Day-of-Service" projects, we will be hosting a Hunger Banquet on November 18th. This interactive event will take place during CSB Campus Ministry's Homelessness and Hunger Awareness week, and will specifically focus on the effects of hunger on youth. We will also be helping Place of Hope Ministries to plan their 5th annual Hope for the Holidays Banquet, which will take place on November 21st.

We are looking forward to working hard to make a positive impact in the St. Cloud community over the coming year! Watch for our Bonner newsletter and Bonner Blog (www.csbsjubonners.wordpress.com) for more updates.

bLove,
The CSB/SJU Bonner Leaders



Upcoming Events

The fall semester has started and the calendar is full with upcoming events. On November 18, the CSB/SJU Bonners are hosting their first Hunger Banquet from 6:30-8:30 P.M. in the Gorecki Dining and Conference Center. It will be an interactive event that will be an engaging way to learn about the issue of hunger both locally and globally.

The CSB/SJU Bonner Leaders, Jackson Fellows, and students enrolled in *Politics and Political Life* are serving at the upcoming event, Place of Hope Holiday Banquet on November 21st. The purpose of this event is to thank donors and volunteers who have helped make Place of Hope successful in fulfilling its mission. Place of Hope Ministries (St. Cloud, Minnesota) works "to see people spiritually, emotionally, and socially restored to God, their families, and society. [They] see people becoming inter-dependent, self-sufficient members of their families and communities." The students will be aiding in the preparation for the event as well as serving food at the banquet. Those involved hope to learn and grow by engaging in this experience. We hope we also have the opportunity to make an impact that is beneficial to the St. Cloud community!

Jackie Carlson
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship: a Life-Changing Experience

This summer, I was chosen to be one of nine participants in the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship Program. This is the second year of the program, and significant progress and changes have already been made; specifically, the fellowship is no longer only a summer fellowship; instead, it runs for the entire year.

During this past summer, nine CSB/SJU students worked at different nonprofits of their choice all over Minnesota. I worked at the Minnesota AIDS Project in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other sites included Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota 2020, Anna Marie's Alliance, St. Cloud Symphony, Office on the Economic Status of Women for the Minnesota Legislature, Center for Cross-Cultural Health, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, and 1000 Friends of Minnesota. We attended leadership development workshops at CSB/SJU twice a month focusing on grant writing, understanding leadership and personality traits, communication and marketing, and networking.

Through the summer months, we all grew in our own way - professionally and personally. For me, this was my first experience working at a nonprofit.

Sure, I have volunteered on a regular basis, but it wasn't until this summer that I actually got an in-depth look at what makes a nonprofit run. It did not take me long at all to realize that the main drive behind everyone working at the Minnesota AIDS Project was passion. It wasn't about money, it wasn't about fulfilling one's agenda, it was about heart, passion, and motivation to provide services to a community that is still stigmatized and looked down upon.



The passion I witnessed at the Minnesota AIDS Project was truly unlike anything I have seen before. After the first day, I started to see it in myself. I decided that people who work at nonprofits are smart, passionate, and hard working people. Everyone at Minnesota AIDS Project has to know about the history of the politics behind HIV/AIDS, the current news about HIV/AIDS, and where the future might be.

They have to have the heart to work with families and individuals suffering and who possibly have only hard days for awhile because that might be all they see.

They need to be able to successfully do their job through all of the ups and downs. Nonprofits are overlooked, I believe, but they are truly one of the toughest and most rewarding places to be.

I primarily worked with the Pride-Alive Program, an outreach program that works with gay and bisexual men on HIV prevention, education, and issues surrounding sex and sexual health. I also had the opportunity to work with PositiveLink, a program that works with HIV-positive men.

I spent most of my time updating and developing programming. I created a Needle Exchange Program manual, updated the Internet Chat manual, planned GayDay at Valley Fair, and planned the first group forum about HIV prevention and sex. I also planned the Tuesday volunteer nights. Every Tuesday night, people in the community would come to the office and help make safer sex kits to be handed out at the gay bars the nights following. Tuesday nights were always my favorite because it was our way of bringing the community together to work on a project and socialize.

I could go on forever about my time spent at the Minnesota AIDS Project; the 10 weeks I spent there were truly life-changing. That's the great thing about the Jackson Fellowship; nine students experienced life-changing, eye-opening, motivating, empowering, and fulfilling summer internships. Of course, I can only speak for myself... But I know the other fellows would agree.

Brian Long
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator
Jackson Fellow '09

Meet the 2009 Jackson Fellows at the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship Poster Session, October 29, 2009 from 4-6 PM at the Gorecki Dining and Conference Center at the College of St. Benedict.



Service-Learning Program

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The Liemandt Family Service-Learning Program is committed to holistic learning by incorporating the classroom and community into the learning experience. It develops intentional and meaningful service experiences based in social justice and academic learning.

Engage, Reflect, Change.

We encourage, support and appreciate diversity in all of its forms. We strive to meet the specific needs of the community. We encourage students to engage in their community, reflect on their experience, and allow it to change their lives.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.CSBSJU.EDU/SERVICELEARNING

The Service-Learning Program

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Inspired Learning. *Inspiring Lives.*