Learning Through Action: an overview of ELCE programs
THE OFFICE OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Experiential Learning & Community Engagement (ELCE) supports programs that empower CSB/SJU students to integrate and apply knowledge and theory gained in the classroom setting to a hands-on learning environment, such that a deeper understanding is gained and demonstrated through clear learning outcomes. The office brings together students, faculty members, businesses, nonprofit organizations and government partners to promote access to mutually beneficial partnerships through experiential learning opportunities. Five programs are administered through ELCE: Internship Program, Service-Learning, Undergraduate Research, College of Saint Benedict Marie & Robert Jackson Fellows Program and the Bonner Leader Program.

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For more information please visit:  
www.csbsju.edu/ELCE.htm
Internship Program

**Mission:**

The CSB/SJU internship experience integrates academic classroom learning with practical application and skill development in a professional work setting. Students are also given an opportunity to explore a career choice and develop an intellectual and professional network.

- Internships generally run 10-20 hours per week over a 16-week semester or 12 weeks over the summer.
- During the academic year students typically participate in internships part time while taking classes. Full-time internships are possible, especially during the summer.
- Students seek local, national and international internships within organizations of all sizes, industries and types.
- Internships can be paid or unpaid, for-credit or not for-credit.
- Academic (for-credit) internships are a three-way partnership between the educational institution of CSB/SJU, the host organization and the student intern.

**Benefits to the Organization:**

- An opportunity to train new professionals in your field and develop a pool of potential employees.
- Assistance with special projects or a fresh perspective for on-going projects.
- An opportunity to develop supervisory skills for your current staff.
- An opportunity to partner with higher education and build a mutually beneficial relationship with CSB/SJU.

**Benefits to the Students:**

- Gain hands-on experience in a professional work environment.
- Develop and strengthen skills related to their field of study and their personal and professional goals.
- Network with professionals and explore careers available within a specific field.
- Practice in resume-building, interviewing and seeking employment.

For more information please visit:  
[www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Internship-Program.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Internship-Program.htm)
Service-Learning

Mission:
The 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. The Service-Learning Program models Benedictine values by providing education and support to CSB/SJU faculty and students, co-curricular programs, and the community through service experiences in order to strengthen communities, integrate theory and praxis and foster active citizenship.

Students
Students in the program work toward positive, sustainable change in the community while enhancing their own education.
- Select and commit to a community partner
- Begin the project within the first three weeks of the semester
- Consistently participate in the project throughout the remainder of the semester
- Journal project outline, posting the experience and hours after each visit

Faculty
The faculty facilitates the connection between theory and service. They work with the agencies to insure a strong, unique educational experience.
- Design courses and/or service-learning components
- Develop appropriate community partnerships
- Facilitate reflection component with the students and community partner
- Assess student learning

Community Partners
As our co-educators, community partners provide an environment for students to gain hands-on experience.
- Prepare meaningful learning experiences for students
- Complete an evaluation of the student’s performance

For more information please visit:
www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Service-Learning.htm
Undergraduate Research

Mission:
The CSB/SJU Undergraduate Research Program supports student-faculty collaborative scholarship in all disciplines. The program offers grants to students engaged in research or creative work, supports student travel to meetings and coordinates a Summer Research Program.

Summer Research Fellowships
Summer Research Fellowships are employment opportunities that support students engaged in research or creative work for 10 weeks during the summer. Students work alongside a faculty member on research in their field. Summer Research Fellows earn money plus a room-and-board supplement. This is a great way to apply classroom knowledge to real world questions of importance. Many might imagine that St. Joe closes down in the summer – not true! Throughout the summer at CSB/SJU, recreational opportunities abound, and the intellectual stimulation is unbeatable.

Each student is only eligible for two Production of Research grants (up to $600 total) and one Presentation of Research Grant per academic year (July 1 - June 30).

Production of Research Grant
These grants help students with the direct cost of research or creative work. Student research grants are intended to defray the direct costs of conducting scholarly or creative work. Grant amounts range from $50-$600.

Presentation of Research Grant
These grants support travel by students to present their work. Most travel expenses to present research can be covered, including lodging, plane fare and registration fees. Direct costs of preparing a talk or poster can also be included in the grant award. Maximum grant award is $750.

For more information please visit:
www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Undergraduate-Research.htm
College of Saint Benedict
Marie & Robert Jackson Fellows Program

Mission:
To empower students with opportunities to serve the common good through community engagement, collective learning, and leadership and professional development.

The Jackson Fellows Story
In 2008, the College of Saint Benedict received an anonymous gift to establish the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellows Program. Nine students with varying majors, interests and experience are selected through an application and interview process to be part of a cohort of Jackson Fellows. Each Fellow serves at a community site for the summer. All nine fellowships involve civic engagement and work devoted to improving community life through political or non-political service activities. The diversity of the site placements and the type of work and leadership required from each Jackson Fellow serve to create a rich, vibrant and holistic learning environment.

What is Civic Engagement?
• Working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities.
• Developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make a difference.
• Promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

For more information please visit:
www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Jackson-Fellows-Program.htm
Bonner Leader Program

The History at CSB/SJU:
Since the spring of 2007, the College of Saint Benedict and the Bonner Foundation have developed a relationship, which has resulted in CSB/SJU forming a Bonner Program. The CSB/SJU Bonner Leader Program began in fall 2008, with the formation of the first team of Bonner Leaders. Currently, the Bonner Program consists of about 30 students of all ages and interest areas.

The Bonner Scholarship provides financial support for those students who demonstrate financial need and commitment to service. College of Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University is one among about 80 colleges and universities nationwide honored to host a Bonner Program. Each year, 10 first-year students are selected to participate in the four-year scholarship program. Bonner Leaders commit to an average of 8-10 hours of service each week, typically at an off-campus nonprofit agency. Each academic year, Bonner Leaders receive a total of $2,500, which goes directly toward tuition reduction.

The Student Development Stages...The 5 E's

**Expectation**
Prospective students apply and prepare for participation in the program

**Exploration**
First-year students participate in a variety of service sites and activities, including short-term service trips

**Experience**
Second-year students choose a long-term service site in an effort to focus on specific issues relevant to the mission of their service site and the dynamics of the community it serves

**Example**
Third-year students are expected to take on expanded roles and responsibilities both on campus and in their communities through leadership positions

**Expertise**
Fourth-year students create and complete a final project to better their community and integrate their academic, service-related and issue-based interests to maximize their community impact

For more information please visit: www.csbsju.edu/ELCE/Bonner-Leader.htm