

Service Learning News

Portland Community College

Volume 3, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

January 29-30
Oregon Civic Engagement Conference
 Salem, OR

February 2-3
Students Actively Changing Society Conference
 Willamette University, Salem OR

April 12-14
Western Region Continuums of Service Conference
 San Jose, CA

May 23-25
Community College National Center for Civic Engagement Conference
 Scottsdale, AZ

For more information on these conferences visit:
www.pcc.edu/servicelearning
 and click on "conferences."

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Engineering Students do Service-Learning at Community Cycling Center

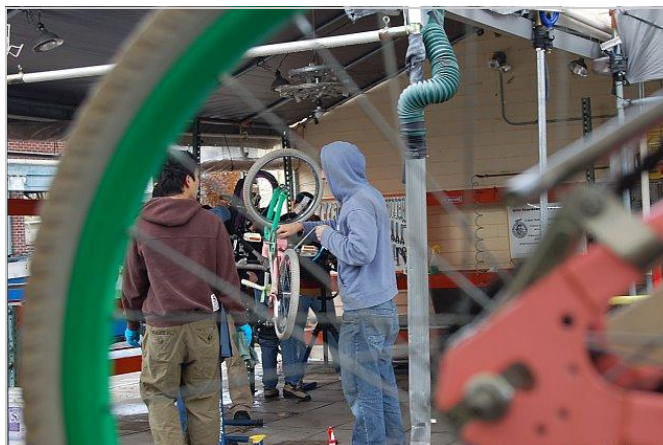
PCC faculty from over 40 disciplines incorporate Service-Learning into their courses. While it seems a natural fit for subjects such as Sociology, you may be surprised to learn what other disciplines incorporate service-learning.

On Saturday, November 11th, Greg Gerstner, Sylvania campus Engineering faculty, went to the Community Cycling Center with 17 of his Engineering Fundamentals students. Gerstner commented, "Community Cycling Center (CCC) was a great organization to work with...I definitely plan to use CCC as a service-learning opportunity for engineering students in the future."

He and the students gained hands-on bike engineering experience. They cleaned, degreased and greased 35 bikes and 'recycled' (separated the materials within) 40 wheels and about a dozen free wheels/cassettes.

His students, who are enrolled in the telecourse from three PCC campuses, commented, "I love service-learning projects. I'd like to see them more often in other courses. I don't care about the extra credit as much as getting to do something fun and valuable with classmates who I don't always see in class (especially telecourse) outside of the classroom." Another student remarked "since we don't have a research project and work in groups, this let us interact, which is important since we may be in classes with the same people for the next few years." Yet another student said, "We were able to see and work with some of the principles from the class...I had a good time working with my fellow students."

A recent book "Engineering Education and Service-Learning," speaks to this valuable connection for students. "Service-learning has the potential to engage students in a real life application of the theoretical engineering models they learn in the classroom, to introduce engineering to students who may not have initially been drawn to engineering, and to reinforce models of learning that will be useful to engineering students as they enter the professional workforce" (Vaughn & Seifer, 2004.)



MLK Day: A Day ON Not a Day OFF



Since Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service, in 1994 thousands of people have joined together in a “day on” to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy.

The King Day of Service brings together people who might not ordinarily meet, breaks down barriers that have divided us in the past, leads to better understanding and ongoing relationships, and is an opportunity connect with others in the community.

What are you doing on your DAY ON?

To register for a service project, visit the Hands on Portland website at www.handsonportland.org. Click on “choose a project” and search to find an opportunity. Problems? Contact Jennifer Alkezweeny 503-977-4419 or jennifer.alkezweeny@pcc.edu. Space is limited to sign up today!

****Note the original project mentioned via email with Parkrose High School is now full****



PCC made the Community Service honor roll!

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll responds to President Bush’s call to service by building on and supporting the civic engagement mission of our nation’s colleges and universities.

This new recognition program is designed to increase public awareness of the contributions that college students are making within their local communities and across the country through volunteer service. The program also identifies and promotes community service model programs and practices in higher education.

PCC’s Service-Learning Program was recognized as a “Program of Distinction.”

Winter 2007 Curriculum Development Mini-Grant Recipients

Cynthia Killingsworth teaches BA 212 (Principles of Accounting) at Sylvania. She is the first faculty member from Business to teach with Service-Learning. Cynthia’s students will be given the option to serve 8 hours at an event with one of several non-profits including Oregon Food Bank, Transition Project, Schoolhouse Supplies, and Portland Habitat for Humanity. The student will then spend two hours with the organization’s accountant to review the accounting system used by the organization in relation to the event. This project meets the one of the learning objectives for the course “develop an appreciation of the role of accounting in the evaluation and management of a business.”

Alexis Pike teaches ART 140 (Digital Photography) at Cascade. Alexis joins several other art faculty (Intro to Art, Art History) who have incorporated Service-Learning into their courses. Her students will have the option of learning the foundational skills of digital photography through photographing the experience of serving at their non-profit site. Additionally, the entire course will visit one of PCC’s Service-Learning Partners, New Columbia, to photograph their site and create a historical collage.

Each term, the Service-Learning Program awards \$500 mini-grants for curriculum development. The \$500 is compensation for curriculum development. The idea is to re-design an existing courses to include a Service-Learning component. Most instructors re-design a single assignment or unit of the course to include Service-Learning as an option for students.

Fall term was competitive. We had over 10 applicants for the two grants. Criteria for selection includes: uniqueness of project, how well thought out and realistic the proposal, if it is distinctly a service-learning project versus work experience, and if the proposal comes from a faculty in a discipline new to Service-Learning.

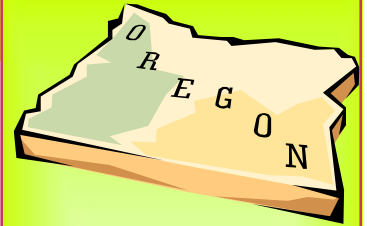
To learn more or to get an application worksheet, visit www.pcc.edu/servicelearning and click on “faculty”. **Deadline to Apply for spring grants is March 16th, 2007.**

How Do You Define Service? (from Koln and Hamilton)

Ask 10 people how they define service, and you will likely receive 10 different answers. People define service in many different ways. Discussion about these different definitions can be an interesting class discussion. This exercise can also reveal the diversity of ideas within the group, and underscore the importance of recognizing differing perspectives.

The sample definitions that follow can be presented one at a time through the course of the discussion or can be offered all at once and then ranked by each participant, according to their personal philosophy of service (for example, assigning a "1" to "voting" because the participant believes it best represents service).

- _____ Joining the armed services
- _____ Providing dinner once a week at a homeless shelter
- _____ Talking with a friend
- _____ Chaining yourself to an old growth tree as loggers enter the forest
- _____ Leaving your car at home and biking to work every day
- _____ Giving \$50 to the United Way
- _____ Walking a frail person across a busy street
- _____ Writing a letter to a congressperson about the dangers of nuclear proliferation
- _____ Giving blood
- _____ Tutoring a migrant worker
- _____ Adopting an eight year old boy
- _____ Quitting your job to move to a monastery and meditate for a year
- _____ Working as a state legislator
- _____ Voting



Did You Know?

- Oregon ranks #15 in the country for rate of volunteerism
- Over 960,000 people volunteered in Oregon in 2005
- Oregon ranks #6 for "intensity" of volunteer hours
- The average Oregonian volunteers 56 hours in one year
- Oregon is one of the top ten states in the country for rate of volunteerism by seniors

-Corporation for
National and
Community Service

Where did the Service-Learning Office Go?

We moved! We're still at Sylvania, but now we're in the SS building room 215, right behind the front desk! Stop by and visit the new location! We have a great collection of example syllabi, books, and even some videos you can check out.



Community Partners: Best Practices



The following suggestions can make a world of difference for you, your students, and the partner. Here are some best practices for working with your partners:

- Discuss how the selected partners **fit with course content**.
- Set a **due date** as to when the community partnerships must be formed and students must start working in the community.
- Use the PCC **partnership agreement forms** that the student and a staff member at the community organization both sign and submit to you.
- **Involve your community partner(s) in the learning process.** They are co-educators in a service-learning context and should be treated respectfully. Invite them to participate in reflection discussions, group presentations, project orientation day at the beginning of the semester, as well as evaluation and assessment effort at the end of the course.
- **Educate students (and yourself) as to the realities of the non-profit world.** Non-profit personnel tend to be overworked and underpaid. Communication takes time and it's best to make frequent and early contact both by phone and by e-mail. Allow for a reasonable response time. Students and faculty should be flexible and respectful in understanding the needs and on-going projects of community partners. There are significant cultural differences between the community and higher academia and all parties should be aware of that.

PCC Service-Learning Program

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Comments on the newsletter? Send them to Jennifer Alkezweeny
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We need your syllabus!

We are creating an online database of PCC Service-Learning Syllabi. If you are willing to share yours, please email it to jennifer.alkezweeny@pcc.edu.

Spotlight on SMART...

SMART: Start Making a Reader Today

By Sylvia Wilde, past PCC Service-Learning Student.

Being one of the volunteers at "SMART" program at Beach Elementary School was the most enjoyable and memorable experiences ever. I have spent a great quality of time with children reading all sorts of books and exploring the differences in reading, writing and playing word games.

Children are so innocent and beautiful to work with, very challenging at the same time but with so much energy and curiosity that is hard to describe. It was so nice and wonderful to spend the time volunteering in this program and at the same time earning the hours and credits for the educational goals. All this time spent and teaching children to read was and is worth every moment, every hour, every minute and every second. The time goes so fast.....it's amazing! And so many memories later.

The kids remember you and get so attached so quickly, it makes you cry happy. It is almost like having your own child with so many different interests and stories to tell. Every child is unique and expresses its uniqueness in different ways. It is very nice to see how children progress and advance in reading day by day and week by week. It is so beautiful to see little ones succeed with volunteers work.

Volunteering at "SMART" has been the most fun work I have ever done and now since I graduated from PCC (Portland Community College) I am still interested and willing to volunteer more days and hours with children at the Beach Elementary School. It just became like a habit and pleasure to look forward to the next school year. And on the top of all this kids always ask for you when you're coming back since they miss you.

SMART is always looking for volunteers. Doing something good and fun from the heart is incomparable to any other work you can do, especially when it involves kids. The best gift you can give to a child is the time spent together and participating in community is part of the volunteer work that benefits everyone.

Be SMART and become part of the SMART. By volunteering as community and as the whole can make a difference in the world of the kid. Reading is fun, kids love it.

To sign up contact Kelly Schuman at [503.402.1969](tel:503.402.1969)/
beach_ball@myway.com. For more information and fill out application on-line visit www.getsmartoregon.org.

Thought to Ponder..."Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." ~Tolstoy



Reflection Idea:

Have your students construct a simile or metaphor for their service-learning experience. Having your students think about the experience in abstract ways can help them analyze the deeper meaning. Be sure to provide an example. Students can write, speak, or draw their metaphor.

