



Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the wonderful work our students, faculty and community partners have done together to strengthen our local community through service-learning. Service-learning is an academic pedagogy that enriches the learning experience, encourages civic responsibility and strengthens the community. It is an integral teaching pedagogy at Misericordia, providing a rich, experiential opportunity for students to use their academic experience in real world settings.

This inaugural edition of the Office of Service-Learning Newsletter highlights some of the service-learning experiences from this past fall semester and provides information on our new community engagement initiatives. 500 students participated in service-learning in the fall 2016 semester, applying skills and knowledge gained in the classroom for the betterment of the local community.

I was once asked what makes service-learning at Misericordia University unique; the answer was simply **our diversity**. Service-learning is offered not only in all three colleges, but within

the core as well, offering a uniquely diverse range of experiences for our students. This past semester included experiences in tutoring and mentoring young children, creating promotional videos and marketing for non-profit organizations, providing programming on fall prevention and diabetes to the elderly, helping to provide services to the homeless, and many more.

MU students are exposed to active citizenship as soon as they step onto campus, serving as a testament to our mercy culture, our founders, and the students and faculty themselves. The Office of Service-Learning is committed to continuing to build upon our strong community partnerships and to support the creation of many more impactful service-learning experiences. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all faculty engaged in service-learning and to offer our assistance in helping to structure future service-learning experiences for our students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Feifer, Director of Service-Learning



Students from Rock Solid Academy enjoying activities with OT 220 students.



PRESIDENTIAL HONOR ROLL 2015

Misericordia was again recognized on the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service for the 2014-15 academic year.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships.

We are thrilled that MU has been recognized again by this prestigious award as leaders in service to our community!

ANNUAL SERVICE FAIR

The annual service fair took place this year as part of Mercy Week in September. Eleven local nonprofit organizations took part, talking with students about the various volunteer opportunities available.



SERVICE FAIR ATTENDEES

- ◆ Meadows Nursing Facility
- ◆ Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ◆ WVADS
- ◆ Reaching Beyond Limits
- ◆ Catherine McAuley House
- ◆ McGlynn Learning Center
- ◆ Hospice of the Sacred Heart
- ◆ Ruth's Place
- ◆ American Red Cross
- ◆ CEO
- ◆ Celtic Healthcare

SPRING 2016 SERVICE-LEARNING SURVEY RESULTS

100% of community partners strongly agreed or agreed they observed that their clients valued the student efforts.

89% of students strongly agreed or agreed that they are more likely to participate in community service following graduation.

88% of students strongly agreed or agreed that service-learning enhanced their course-related learning.

95% of students strongly agreed or agreed that their service was beneficial to the community.

NEW SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCE GUIDES

The Office of Service-Learning has been busy updating it's resources and has created brand new resource guides to support faculty, students, and community partners with service-learning. The guides provide information on planning and structuring your service-learning, working with a community partner, orientations, supervision, safety considerations, clearances, working with vulnerable populations, and more. There are also new resources available via the MU website for faculty to support planning your service-learning objectives, syllabi, and reflection assignments.



THE NEW GUIDES AND OTHER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM THE OFFICE OF SERVICE-LEARNING PAGE ON THE MU WEBSITE



FALL 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

BUS 269 BLOOD DRIVE

Students collected a whopping 86 pints of donated blood for the American Red Cross.

COM 232 PSAs

COM students created PSAs for 3 local organizations; The Hope Center, Children's Advocacy Center, and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services.

HCM 403 ORG ANALYSIS

HCM students conducted analyses and developed business plans for The Advocacy Alliance and Hospice of the Sacred Heart.

OT 220 ANTI-BULLYING & HEALTHY LIVING

OT 220 students ran two days of energetic and education activities for students from Rock Solid Academy.

BUS 340 ADVERTISING

Students created a new look and advertising approach for the Children's Advocacy Center.

MI 203 'BONE ACADEMY'

Children from Adventures in Learning and Little Meadows learned about bones and X-Rays with our 'Bone Coaches' from MI 203.



POL 100/POL 223

Students provided service in the community and supported 'MU Leads The Vote' helping MU students register to vote in the Presidential election.

OT 360 CITY MISSION

OT 360 students travelled to New York to work with the homeless at City Mission Homeless Shelter.

DPT 821 FALL PREVENTION

Students educated residents at the Masonic Village on exercise and reducing the risk of falls.

RLS 118 MERCY & MCGLYNN

28 MU students provided 420 hours of service supporting activities with the elderly residents at Mercy Center and after school tutoring and activities to kids from low-income families at McGlynn Learning Center.

PHY 145 NIGHT OBSERVATION

Observational Astronomy students gave children from three local schools and the campus community a look at the night sky, deep sky objects, constellations, and planets.

NSG 403C HEALTHY LIVING

Students provided healthy living, hygiene, diabetes, and stress reduction programs at Ruth's Place, McGlynn Learning Center, Kingston Manor, and Mill Street Elementary.

COM 485 MARKETING DESIGN

Students designed new, professional design and messaging for Reaching Beyond Limits, including website, flyer, brochure, and logo designs.



Students from Rock Solid Academy enjoying activities with OT 220 students.



COMMUNITY PARTNER DATABASE

Currently in the testing phase, the Service-Learning Online Database has been developed by the Office of Service-Learning to bring together faculty engaged in service-learning with the needs of our local community partners. The database began as a central resource for faculty to access information on potential local partners, to share best practices, and to upload and track their service-learning course information.

As the database took shape, it became clear that the database could provide value to faculty and staff seeking not only service-learning opportunities, but opportunities with local community partners for volunteering, internships, work study, clinical and fieldwork placements, research, and information on local community-based services.

The Community Partner Database will be a complete listing of local community organizations that have expressed an interest in partnering with Misericordia faculty for service-learning. Community organization profiles are searchable by issues addressed, population served, and academic course areas of interest. Each organization actively manages their own profile, and completes a basic needs assessment to identify areas of need and potential project opportunities for students. Organization profiles will also include a history of service-learning involvement with Misericordia.

We are currently in the process of testing the database with a small number community partners, and making amendments to the functionality based on their feedback. We are aiming to begin populating the database with community partner information in the Spring semester.

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EMBEDDING SERVICE-LEARNING INTO YOUR COURSE

If you are considering embedding service-learning into your course and would like more information and support, please reach out to the Office of Service-Learning. We are always happy to meet with any faculty member considering service-learning to discuss your course requirements, service ideas, and to help you put together a quality service-learning experience for your students.



HCM ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH THE ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

Healthcare Management Association partnered with The Advocacy Alliance in November to offer a free educational event for the local community to help navigate the Healthcare Marketplace. MU students took part in training with Certified Healthcare Navigators, learning how to navigate the marketplace, assist the community with finding and comparing health insurance plans, and enrollments.



Louise Keller, Service-Learning, Dr. Ron Petrilla, and HCM Association Members