

## BEST PRACTICES IN SERVICE LEARNING

### Building A NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE NETWORK, 1994–1997

*Gail Robinson, Project Coordinator*

*Lynn Barnett, Project Director*

As part of the *Learn and Serve America* program of the Corporation for National Service, the American Association of Community Colleges helped develop campus-based programs that became a nucleus for a growing community college service learning network. Ten colleges, selected in a national competition for grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$12,000 per year, trained faculty and developed or strengthened relationships with organizations that offered service placement sites for students to address community needs. A variety of “best practices” evolved from the strategies and resources developed at the colleges.

The AACC project, which led to permanent service learning programs in all 10 colleges, grew around these key areas:

- **Model programs.** Faculty emphasized academics while nurturing a sense of social responsibility, ethic of service, and civic skills in students. Service learning became part of institutional mission statements, strategic plans, and faculty rewards systems. From January 1995 to August 1997, the colleges reported that 6,700 students had performed 135,000 hours of direct community service, worked with 300 faculty, and served 1,700 agencies and more than 300,000 individuals.
- **Mentor team.** Experienced practitioners from other community colleges served as project mentors and provided hands-on technical assistance. They developed personal and team relationships to support burgeoning programs and included site visits, electronic communication, workshops, and conferences as mechanisms for sharing areas of expertise.

- **Clearinghouse.** The AACC Service Learning Clearinghouse provided materials, assistance, referrals, and training opportunities to community colleges nationwide and developed the beginnings of a consultant network. Data gathered in two national surveys supplemented materials, such as syllabi, forms, and guides, contributed by dozens of colleges.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DATABASE

ORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL PUBLICATIONS

WEB SITE AND LINKS

EMERGING CONSULTANT NETWORK



# SELECTED BEST PRACTICES for SUSTAINING SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The table below represents best practices that worked successfully in the American Association of Community Colleges service learning grant project. The 15 participating colleges implemented these strategies on their campuses and in their communities between 1994 and 1997. No single college used every one of these ideas, but found a combination of strategies affecting students, faculty, institutions, and community was most useful when tailored to individual college situations and culture.

## *SELECTED BEST PRACTICES for SUSTAINING SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS*

STUDENTS	FACULTY	INSTITUTION	COMMUNITY
Start small	Start small	Start small	Start small
Hold an orientation	Start with “green light” people	Start with “green light” people	Hold an orientation
Involve students in process	Hold an orientation	Create advisory boards	Create advisory boards
Use a team approach	Use service learning as a teaching strategy	Connect to existing initiatives	Develop resource handbooks
Empower students to do projects alone	Focus on academic rigor	Write service learning into course competencies	Develop public relations
Organize student learning communities	Offer mini-grants	Combine student services with academic affairs	Celebrate local culture
Hold group reflection sessions	Offer training institutes	Use a team approach	Make government/ corporate connections
Offer 4th-credit option	Organize faculty learning circles	Combine structure and flexibility	Fund service scholarships
Track outcomes	Develop resource handbooks	Co-locate with volunteer center	Create spinoff partnerships
Note service learning on transcripts, in catalogs	Develop contracts	Develop public relations	Connect with Learn & Serve K–12 programs
Identify student ambassadors	Suggest faculty perform service as part of orientation	Identify student ambassadors	Connect with Tech Prep
Let students be advocates	Appoint a faculty coordinator	Hire student assistants	Identify student ambassadors
Conduct pre/post surveys	Use a team approach	Apply student fees to support program	Recognize and celebrate
Recognize and celebrate	Obtain faculty senate support	Consider service learning as accreditation criteria	
	Conduct pre/post surveys	Make presentations to board of trustees	
	Recognize and celebrate	Network with other colleges	
		Recognize and celebrate	

---

# AACC SERVICE LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE

The Service Learning Clearinghouse was established in early 1995 with the distribution of a survey to the 1,100 two-year colleges in the U.S. Survey results revealed that 30 percent of responding colleges offered service learning, while an additional 50 percent were interested in starting service learning programs. A 1997 survey updated previous results, indicating significant growth in the number of community colleges offering service learning. The surveys served as the basis for the Clearinghouse database, centralizing information on more than 900 colleges, their programs, students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

AACC, its grantees, and mentors produced a variety of practical tools, guides, syllabi, evaluations, forms, and reports as part of the *Learn and Serve America* grant project. Maintained by the Clearinghouse, many of these are replicable or adaptable for use by two- and four-year colleges, elementary and secondary schools, and community organizations.

Over the course of the grant, the project offered technical assistance through a series of campus-based regional workshops, a national teleconference on service learning and HIV/AIDS prevention and education, and presentations at state, regional, and national meetings. AACC also convened Service

Learning in Higher Education, a network of Washington-area higher education associations, institutions, and related organizations that meets regularly to share and discuss service learning information and initiatives.

AACC is helping sustain service learning as a teaching method in community colleges. Through the World Wide Web, the Clearinghouse offers practical information and links to other electronic sources. The Clearinghouse is widening its efforts in training and technical assistance through a Consultant Referral Service, linking knowledgeable community college practitioners with institutions needing assistance in service learning program development.

## SERVICE LEARNING COLLEGES

ALBUQUERQUE TVI COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NM  
ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MI  
FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MT  
HOCKING COLLEGE, OH  
JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, KS  
KAPI`OLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HI  
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NY  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA  
PRESTONSBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE, KY  
TRUMAN COLLEGE, IL

## MENTOR COLLEGES

CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AZ  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA, CO  
HAGERSTOWN JUNIOR COLLEGE, MD  
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FL  
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA

# TVI SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

**A**lbuquerque TVI Community College is an urban, Hispanic-serving institution with a total student enrollment of more than 15,000. The college offers courses in traditional liberal arts fields as well as technical and vocational programs. TVI began its service learning initiative with a small technical assistance grant, and experienced remarkable growth and institutionalization in just two years.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**T**he TVI project emphasized the development of faculty support to ensure success for service learning. TVI's two project coordinators used service learning in their own courses—culinary arts and psychology—and met personally with other faculty to educate them on the benefits and methods of service learning and to assist in a smooth transition toward curricular integration.

Annual workshops were held to train interested faculty and community agency partners in service learning methodology. The workshops provided participants an opportunity to share their experiences and create a service learning community. Project coordinators developed faculty, agency, and student handbooks to assist in the understanding and development of service learning projects and curricula. Participating faculty led group reflection sessions that included students from different disciplines. Personal visits to community members helped raise support for the program, including donations, such as free dinners from local restaurants, as faculty or student incentives for special activities.

CONTEXTUAL LEARNING CENTER  
FACULTY-DRIVEN PROGRAM  
ONE-ON-ONE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT  
FACULTY AND AGENCY ORIENTATIONS  
CROSS-DISCIPLINARY REFLECTION  
FACULTY, STUDENT, AND AGENCY  
HANDBOOKS

## OUTCOMES

**S**ervice learning participation grew from 12 faculty members representing six academic divisions and 137 students to 35 faculty, 25 courses, and 225 students in just two years. During this time, the TVI service learning program was transformed from a project housed in the coordinators' faculty offices into a key component of TVI's Contextual Learning Center, where faculty develop and experiment with various forms of experiential education.

To ensure the program's continuation, the college created a full-time service learning coordinator position as the grant period ended. This coordinator manages all administrative aspects of the program, while a faculty liaison handles curricular issues. The coordinator also serves as a mentor to other community colleges in another national service learning project.

### CONTACT

**Rudy M. Garcia**  
Service Learning/Co-op  
Programs Coordinator  
505/224-4238  
[rudyg@tvi.cc.nm.us](mailto:rudyg@tvi.cc.nm.us)

**Mary Prentice**  
Service Learning  
Co-Coordinator and  
Psychology Professor  
505/224-3666  
[mpreintice@tvi.cc.nm.us](mailto:mprentice@tvi.cc.nm.us)

Albuquerque TVI  
Community College  
525 Buena Vista SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

### MENTOR

**Duane Oakes**  
Director of Student Life  
Chandler-Gilbert  
Community College  
2626 E Pecos Road  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
602/732-7146  
[oakes@cgc.maricopa.edu](mailto:oakes@cgc.maricopa.edu)

# SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

ALPENA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
*Alpena,  
Michigan*

Serving 2,200 students from primarily rural counties in Michigan's lower peninsula, Alpena Community College (ACC) had well-developed partnerships with local schools and organizations through its campus-based volunteer center. The center seemed the logical place to house a service learning program.

## IMPLEMENTATION

ACC's service learning project was designed to build upon the success of an early 1990s pilot project on ethics across the curriculum. A member of ACC's nursing faculty, who had been involved in the pilot project, agreed to integrate service learning into her gerontology curriculum by having students work with seniors in a local care facility and develop psychosocial skills.

The college's part-time service learning coordinator worked closely with the volunteer center administrator to strengthen ties with local schools, where most of the ACC students had their service experiences. The coordinator also assisted faculty and students by handling student placement, and built contacts with schools, community colleges, and universities statewide in a successful effort to build a strong network of practitioners.

### CONTACT

**Corky Williams**  
Nursing Faculty  
517/356-9021, ext. 294  
[williamc@alpena.cc.mi.us](mailto:williamc@alpena.cc.mi.us)

**Roger Witherbee**  
Education Faculty  
517/356-9021

Alpena Community College  
666 Johnson Street  
Alpena, MI 49707

**Julie Smigelski**  
Community Foundation for  
Northeast Michigan  
PO Box 282  
Alpena, MI 49707-0282  
517/354-6881  
[smigelsj@alpena.cc.mi.us](mailto:smigelsj@alpena.cc.mi.us)

### MENTOR

**Duane Oakes**  
Director of Student Life  
Chandler-Gilbert  
Community College  
2626 E Pecos Road  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
602/732-7146  
[oakes@cgc.maricopa.edu](mailto:oakes@cgc.maricopa.edu)

## OUTCOMES

With the cooperation of an ACC economics instructor, the coordinator asked statistics students to survey local elementary school teachers to assess their classes' tutoring needs. While providing a needs assessment and valuable contacts to the coordinator, the project also informed elementary teachers of the service learning program and the opportunities it could provide their classes or schools.

Nearly 250 students participated in service learning opportunities at ACC. Nursing and education faculty have completely integrated service learning into their curricula. Due to changing institutional budget priorities, ACC no longer has a centralized service learning office or coordinator, but is sustaining the program on campus through faculty efforts alone.



VOLUNTEER CENTER/COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP  
CENTRALIZED OFFICE/COORDINATOR  
STATEWIDE NETWORKING WITH  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
LOCAL SCHOOL TIES

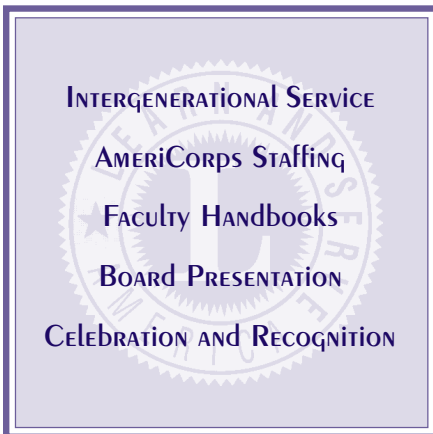
# CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY CROSSROADS: THE WASTE NOT PROJECT

**F**lathead Valley Community College (FVCC) is a rural institution serving 1,600 students in northwest Montana, an area that takes pride in its beautiful natural resources. FVCC began its service learning project with a single focus—reducing household hazardous waste—and ended up offering service learning in 28 courses addressing broad community needs.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**T**he Waste Not project focused on community education and reduction of hazardous waste materials. FVCC students collaborated with a local citizens group and senior volunteers to teach schoolchildren how to reduce and eliminate hazardous waste in the home. As the project grew in size and recognition, students from several disciplines expanded their presentations to local businesses, with instructions on how to reduce the volume and toxicity levels of hazardous waste.

Three different people filled the FVCC project director position during the three-year grant period, but the college persevered in creating a workable structure for service learning integration. Identifying a service learning coordinator to work with a faculty liaison was key. By the third year, the project had expanded beyond its original environmental focus and 11 faculty had adapted their syllabi to include service learning strategies.



## OUTCOMES

**T**he Waste Not project increased community and campus knowledge and awareness of hazardous waste and waste reduction issues. Nearly 30 community agencies participated in creating several new partnerships and a larger sense of community support for the college. When students presented findings of a campus-wide waste audit to the college's board of trustees, the board approved the students' resolution to implement procedures to reduce campus waste, including starting a campus-wide recycling program.

AmeriCorps members staffed the college's service learning office in a visible location, reducing the workload for staff and faculty and attracting students to service learning. FVCC sponsored a college-wide celebration and recognition of service learners' accomplishments.

### CONTACT

**Karen Darrow**  
Service Learning  
Coordinator  
406/756-3900  
[kdarrow@fvcc.cc.mt.us](mailto:kdarrow@fvcc.cc.mt.us)

**Janice Alexander**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemistry  
406/756-3948  
[jalexand@fvcc.cc.mt.us](mailto:jalexand@fvcc.cc.mt.us)

Flathead Valley Community  
College  
777 Grandview Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901

### MENTOR

**Bobbie Potter**  
Transfer Counselor/Service  
Learning  
Piedmont Virginia  
Community College  
501 College Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
804/961-5430  
[bap2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us](mailto:bap2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us)

# HOCKING OUTREACH PROJECT EXPERIENCE (HOPE)

HOCKING  
COLLEGE  
Nelsonville,  
Ohio

A rural college of 6,000 students that serves the economically depressed Appalachian foothills of southeastern Ohio, Hocking College has a strong tradition of community service emphasizing the practical applications of knowledge and skills. The HOPE program solidified the college's commitment to integrate community service into its academic curriculum. It also increased the campus community's awareness of service opportunities and the needs of the larger community.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The HOPE program initially addressed the community's environmental and human needs through an environmental restoration project and a nutritional assessment program.

Displaced mineworkers learned how to reclaim strip-mined land, and health and nursing students collaborated with local schools to provide nutritional information and health assessments to more than 900 elementary school students.

### CONTACT

#### Elaine Dabelko

Director of Instructional Services  
740/753-3591 ext. 2272  
dabelko\_e@ccmgate.  
hocking.cc.oh.us

#### Suzanne Brooks

HOPE Center Coordinator  
740/753-3591 ext. 2334

#### Vickie Knoderer-Coté

Instructor, Nursing and Allied Health  
740/753-3591 ext. 2851  
cote\_v@hocking.edu

Hocking College  
3301 Hocking Parkway  
Nelsonville, OH 45764

### MENTOR

#### Nan Ottenritter

Project Coordinator, Bridges to Healthy Communities  
American Association of Community Colleges  
One Dupont Circle, NW,  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036-1176  
202/728-0200 ext. 230  
nottenritter@aacc.nche.edu

To maintain awareness of agency and community needs and service learning opportunities, Hocking faculty and community agency representatives attended service learning seminars held on campus. As part of their training, faculty participated in a service learning project prior to incorporating it into their own courses. The HOPE program established a service learning advisory board consisting of faculty and community partners. Hocking students and staff made presentations to the college's board of trustees, resulting in increased support from college leaders.

## OUTCOMES

Through an innovative collaboration with a university and a partner agency, Hocking hosted hundreds of local youth in a summer program called Kids on Campus, where they learned about college and career opportunities. As a result, parents became more aware of the services and academic offerings available at Hocking, while their children received tutoring and mentoring from the college students.

Upon completion of the grant project, the administration asked for a community service/service learning action plan and approved funding for a part-time service learning coordinator for the HOPE center. The HOPE project director became a mentor to other community colleges in her region.



# SERVICE LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A relatively young college in suburban Kansas City, Johnson County Community College (JCCC) has already proven its worth to the community, both in the suburbs and the inner city. The JCCC Service Learning Development Program was designed to expand upon established community partnerships and increase faculty involvement in a small, existing service learning program.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The JCCC project began with the participation of 12 community agencies representing a variety of interests where students could serve. With a background in volunteer management, the service learning coordinator kept the agencies abreast of project topics, student issues, and service requirements by including agency representatives in workshops and formal training sessions.

The service learning coordinator's position was moved from one student services department to another in the early days of the project, until finally settling in the career development center. The coordinator was able to maintain strong linkages to the academic departments due to committed faculty and JCCC's Center for Teaching and Learning, a professional development venue.

## OUTCOMES

More than 100 agencies participate in and enthusiastically support JCCC's program. Agencies consistently increase their support by designing new projects for students and providing qualitative and quantitative evaluations of the student service learners. In a college-wide survey, students rated service learning programs higher than any other aspect of student activities, outranking voter registration services, student government, social clubs, and other activities.

The Center for Teaching and Learning provides ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty. Informal peer mentoring encourages experienced service learning faculty to assist others in their own disciplines, and an internal service learning listserv provides an opportunity for sharing teaching strategies. The service learning coordinator is now serving as a mentor to other community colleges in another national service learning project.

## CONTACT

**Marcia Shideler**  
Service-Learning Coordinator  
913/469-8500 ext. 3570  
[shideler@johnco.cc.ks.us](mailto:shideler@johnco.cc.ks.us)

**Jeanne Walsh**  
Academic Director, Nursing  
and Health Occupations  
913/469-8500 ext. 3678  
[jwalsh@johnco.cc.ks.us](mailto:jwalsh@johnco.cc.ks.us)

**Chuck Bishop**  
Faculty Director, Center for  
Teaching and Learning  
913/469-8500 ext. 3482  
[cbishop@johnco.cc.ks.us](mailto:cbishop@johnco.cc.ks.us)

Johnson County Community  
College  
12345 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299

## MENTOR

**Robert Exley**  
Assistant to the District  
President  
Miami-Dade Community  
College  
300 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue,  
Room 1424  
Miami, FL 33132  
305/237-7027  
[roberte@mdcc.edu](mailto:roberte@mdcc.edu)



# INTEGRATING SERVICE LEARNING INTO A MULTICULTURAL WRITING CURRICULUM

Kapi`olani  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
*Honolulu,  
Hawaii*

**K**api`olani Community College (KCC) is an urban institution serving a culturally diverse community. Total college enrollment of 7,400 reflects the ethnicity of the Honolulu area. KCC's project provided students and faculty an opportunity to learn more about the cultural diversity of their community and the social issues that may be interwoven with these differences. The project fostered the development of on- and off-campus communities through a variety of cross-curricular projects.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The project began when 15 faculty members, involved in a multicultural writing-across-the-curriculum initiative, incorporated service learning into such existing courses as ethnobotany, philosophy, anthropology, composition, and respiratory care. Service learning offerings immersed students in the variety of ethnic cultures in the community. KCC relied on

existing and new community partnerships to provide appropriate service sites, and recognized different cultures' definitions of service.

Faculty who elected to offer service learning accepted responsibility for most aspects of their projects, including initial and follow-up agency contacts, and often participated in service projects themselves. To maintain faculty interest and increase their knowledge in service learning, KCC provided faculty development workshops, summer institutes, and resource guides. Project leaders also conducted presentations at new faculty orientation sessions to encourage the use of service learning on campus.

### CONTACT

**Robert Franco**  
Chair, Social Science  
Department  
808/734-9285  
[bfranco@hawaii.edu](mailto:bfranco@hawaii.edu)

**Tanya Renner**  
Professor, Psychology  
808/734-9111  
[trenner@leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu](mailto:trenner@leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu)

**Janice Cook**  
Associate Professor,  
English  
808/734-9151  
[cook@leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu](mailto:cook@leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu)

Kapi`olani Community  
College  
4303 Diamond Head Road  
Honolulu, HI 96816

### MENTOR

**David Lisman**  
Director, Community  
Involvement Program  
Community College of  
Aurora at HEAT  
9125 E 10<sup>th</sup> Drive, Bldg 859  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303/340-7079  
[dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu](mailto:dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu)



## OUTCOMES

**K**CC's success in service learning led to receipt of another KAACC grant, using service learning as a strategy in HIV/AIDS prevention and education. Enthusiastic support from the college provost resulted in the inclusion of service learning in the Kapi`olani strategic plan. By the end of the grant period, 24 faculty were working with 68 community partners to provide structured opportunities to learn and serve.

Both the project director and another faculty member now serve as mentors to other community colleges in Hawaii and on the west coast.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARN AND SERVE TECH PREP INITIATIVE

**M**onroe Community College (MCC) is an urban two-campus college with a student population of 13,000. To address the widespread concerns of public safety in the downtown campus's neighborhood and introduce criminal justice students to the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue careers in public safety, service learning students participated in MCC's community policing project, Police and Citizens Together Against Crime (PAC-TAC).

## IMPLEMENTATION

**I**ndividuals employed in downtown Rochester were increasingly susceptible to street crime, due to the lack of foot traffic at night after working hours. The PAC-TAC program enabled students to get involved in increasing safety in their campus neighborhood. Criminal justice faculty and police officers worked together to plan a community policing program and orient students before they walked the local streets. Both faculty and police joined to facilitate reflection sessions afterward.

In addition to police department programs, the mayor's office contacted the college to request service learning participation in a jury diversification project. Students recruited minority residents to serve on juries to help create a racial balance.



## OUTCOMES

**S**tudent participation in PAC-TAC increased the community perception of safety in the neighborhood, and also allowed the police department to open a substation in the downtown area, with students providing some of the staffing. The program fostered student relationships with local police, giving the students insight into the police department's role in their community. The students also developed a greater understanding of community needs.

With an office located downtown, a national corporation welcomed the PAC-TAC service learners' efforts to make the streets safer. After an increasing number of employees expressed confidence in staying downtown at night, the company provided financial support, encouraged employees to patrol with the students, and is invested in the future of the program. In addition, with the assistance of MCC student escorts, the Rochester school district and police department created a Safe School Passages Program to ensure elementary students a safe trip to and from school.

## CONTACT

**Gary Thompson**  
Chair, Law & Criminal Justice  
Department  
716/262-1773  
[gthompson@monroecc.edu](mailto:gthompson@monroecc.edu)

**Pam Weidel**  
Assistant Director, Campus  
Center  
716/262-1695

Monroe Community College  
228 E. Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14604

## MENTOR

**David Lisman**  
Director, Community  
Involvement Program  
Community College of  
Aurora at HEAT  
9125 E 10<sup>th</sup> Drive, Bldg 859  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303/340-7079  
[dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu](mailto:dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu)

# BEYOND FOUR WALLS: BRIDGES BETWEEN CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

NORTHERN  
VIRGINIA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

*Manassas,  
Virginia*

**N**orthern Virginia Community College (NVCC) at Manassas, part of a large, suburban five-campus institution, serves long-established populations as well as recent immigrant communities. NVCC's Manassas campus began its service learning initiative with a small technical assistance grant to revise curricula in political science and English courses.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**N**VCC's project started as a faculty-driven effort, with two lead instructors assisting others in revising and expanding curricula. Some faculty left site selection and service learning assignments to the discretion of their students, giving the students responsibility for their own learning and helping to develop their leadership and communication skills. Others listed sites from which students could select.

The project director presented faculty development workshops for instructors at NVCC and other Virginia community colleges. Posters and flyers promoting service learning opportunities for faculty and students were prevalent on campus, and lunchtime meetings helped build a faculty network for a growing service learning program. Recognition ceremonies and programs, sometimes student-led, became key components of the initiative.



## CONTACT

**Linda Simmons**  
Associate Professor, History  
and Government  
703/257-6688  
[nvsimml@nv.cc.va.us](mailto:nvsimml@nv.cc.va.us)

**Laura Casal**  
Associate Professor, English  
703/257-6692

Northern Virginia  
Community College  
6901 Sudley Road  
Manassas, VA 20109-2305

## MENTOR

**Marietta McCarty**  
Professor, Philosophy and  
Eastern Religions  
Piedmont Virginia  
Community College  
501 College Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
804/961-5272  
[mm2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us](mailto:mm2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us)

## OUTCOMES

**A**fter beginning with only two faculty and with strong support from the administration, NVCC's program in Manassas grew to include 17 disciplines. Faculty efforts in service learning integration have paid off in students' enthusiasm. In the final year of the grant project, students from different disciplines planned and hosted a service learning conference for other community college students in Virginia. The conference was so well-received that students are making it an annual event.

Toward the end of the grant period, and at the urging of the Manassas project director, a faculty development day for all five campuses focused on service learning, with great success. The Manassas campus serves as a model for its sister campuses and other Virginia colleges.

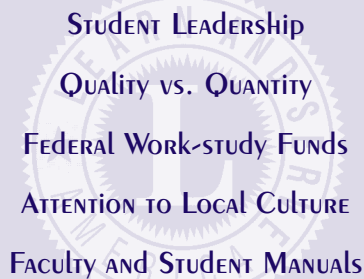
# CONNECTIONS: EMPOWERING COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE IN APPALACHIA

Located in the rural Appalachian region of eastern Kentucky, Prestonsburg Community College (PCC) provides education and training for about 2,600 students from a five-county area. PCC faculty and administrators worked with a local development district and schools to place students in service situations that complemented existing services while providing high-quality learning experiences.

## IMPLEMENTATION

PCC utilized an existing experiential education course as the foundation of service learning offerings at the college. It enabled faculty and students to see how service learning worked before integrating the methodology into other courses. A service learning resource center was established and staffed in part by students participating in the federal work-study program. Students played a large role in peer leadership and recruitment.

Most Kentucky public schools house family resource or youth service centers that are used by children and parents alike for education, life skills, and job training. These sites proved ideal for service learners in many disciplines. Knowledge and awareness of local culture and an emphasis on providing service with, rather than to, the community guaranteed results for the program.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP  
QUALITY VS. QUANTITY  
FEDERAL WORK-STUDY FUNDS  
ATTENTION TO LOCAL CULTURE  
FACULTY AND STUDENT MANUALS

## OUTCOMES

In the second year of the project, staff and faculty discovered that PCC's service learning program had grown too big too fast. They scaled back in an effort to ensure students, faculty, and community partners would have a quality service learning experience, and recognized this was more important than maintaining large numbers of sites and students. Project staff developed service learning manuals to assist with faculty and student training.

PCC began an America Reads literacy tutoring initiative in the project's final year that continued beyond the grant period. The college's project director now trains other community college faculty and staff in service learning program development.

## CONTACT

**Eileen Lewandowski**  
Associate Professor,  
Communications  
606/886-3863  
[pccsl@pop.uky.edu](mailto:pccsl@pop.uky.edu)

**Dorothy Ellis Carlson**  
Professor, Education and  
Psychology  
606/886-3863 ext. 437  
[dcarl00@pop.uky.edu](mailto:dcarl00@pop.uky.edu)

Prestonsburg Community  
College  
One Bert T. Combs Drive  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

## MENTOR

**David Lisman**  
Director, Community  
Involvement Program  
Community College of  
Aurora at HEAT  
9125 E 10<sup>th</sup> Drive, Bldg 859  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303/340-7079  
[dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu](mailto:dlisman@castle.cudenver.edu)

# SERVICE LEARNING IN THE TRUMAN COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM

TRUMAN  
College  
Chicago,  
Illinois

Truman College sits in the Uptown section of Chicago, surrounded by culturally and ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Students at Truman, many of whom are recent immigrants and not native English speakers, speak more than 100 different languages and bring a variety of life experiences to their studies. The college offers liberal arts and sciences along with vocational training, and houses an alternative high school in its building. It also is a site for citizenship tests for new Americans.

## IMPLEMENTATION

A team of faculty department chairs from counseling, social sciences, biology, and math headed Truman's project, each integrating service learning into his or her own discipline. An elementary school directly across the street from Truman served as a primary community partner for tutoring and special projects.

Other neighborhood agencies—including a child care center, police stations, and a juvenile detention center—provided other opportunities for student service. The on-site alternative high school offered a ready location for college students to mentor and tutor teenagers.

## OUTCOMES

Service learning participation grew from four faculty members and three community partner sites to 15 faculty, representing every department, and 45 partners. A new president provided leadership and support for the program. Project faculty developed a handbook for students involved in service learning and hosted an area workshop that featured powerful student testimonials as well as how-to discussions. The college-wide service learning program proved to be an especially rich experience for some immigrant students, particularly women whose native countries did not offer them opportunities for service.

The neighborhood school that partnered with classes from different disciplines engaged not only Truman students, but Truman faculty as well. Instructors found themselves judging school science fairs and working with teachers to develop service learning at the elementary level.



### CONTACT

**Olga Ruiz**  
Chair, Counseling  
Department  
773/907-4710

**Cas Kotowski**  
Chair, Social Sciences  
Department  
773/907-4066

Truman College  
1145 W. Wilson Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60640

### MENTOR

**Marietta McCarty**  
Professor, Philosophy and  
Eastern Religions  
Piedmont Virginia  
Community College  
501 College Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
804/961-5272  
[mm2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us](mailto:mm2d@jade.pvcc.cc.va.us)



## AACC SERVICE LEARNING MENTOR TEAM

The project's mentoring component provided extensive, hands-on training and technical assistance with a human touch. The six mentors either taught courses using service learning or managed service learning programs on their own campuses, bringing valuable experience and insight to the project as a whole and to each grantee college. The mentors' home institutions are leaders in areas and issues related to service learning.

Through site visits to assigned colleges, mentors evaluated project progress and met with faculty, institutional leaders, students, and community stakeholders. They also offered assistance at annual project conferences and through the project's Internet listserv.

Pairing mentors with grantees from similar college settings was often important to understanding the mentee colleges' culture and programs, but sometimes a different institutional perspective was helpful. Grantee project directors appreciated having a colleague to turn to—someone with expertise to help work through any problems or difficulties.

Mentors agreed that they learned as much from the colleges they mentored as the colleges learned from them. They enjoyed having the chance to be connected to other institutions and to see how different, yet how similar, the mentee institutions were from their own colleges. Mentors found student transformation through service exciting, and faculty renewal in their profession rewarding.

Tools developed by and for the mentor team included mentoring guidelines, site visit formats and agendas, and an evaluation grid on essential components of good service learning programs.

### MENTOR TEAM

**Robert Exley**

Miami-Dade Community College, FL

**David Lisman**

Community College of Aurora, CO

**Marietta McCarty**

Piedmont Virginia Community College, VA

**Duane Oakes**

Chandler-Gilbert Community College, AZ

**Nan Ottenritter**

Hagerstown Junior College, MD, and  
American Association of Community  
Colleges, DC

**Bobbie Potter**

Piedmont Virginia Community College, VA

### AACC MENTOR COLLEGE RESOURCES

**CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*A COMMITMENT TO SERVICE* video (1995)

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA**

*TOWARD A CIVIL SOCIETY: CIVIC LITERACY AND SERVICE LEARNING*  
(LISMAN, 1998)

**HAGERSTOWN JUNIOR COLLEGE**

*PROMOTING COMMUNITY RENEWAL THROUGH CIVIC LITERACY AND  
SERVICE LEARNING* (PARSONS & LISMAN, 1996)

**MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*FACULTY GUIDE TO SERVICE-LEARNING* (JOHNSON, 1995)

**PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*THE PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SERVICE LEARNING  
PROGRAM: PHILOSOPHY IN THE THIRD GRADE* video (1995)

# SELECTED RESOURCES

## PUBLICATIONS

- American Association of Community Colleges. 1995. *Community Colleges and Service Learning*. Washington, DC: AACC.
- Berson, Judith S. 1994. A Marriage Made in Heaven: Community Colleges and Service Learning. *Community College Journal* 64 (6): 14–19.
- Driscoll, Amy, et al. 1997. *Assessing the Impact of Service Learning: A Workbook of Strategies and Methods*. Portland, OR: Portland State University.
- Dunlap, Michelle. 1998. Multicultural Service Learning: Challenges, Research, and Solutions for Assisting Students. *Removing Vestiges* 1: 27–34.
- Eyler, Janet, Dwight E. Giles, and Angela Schmiede. 1996. *A Practitioner's Guide to Reflection in Service-Learning: Student Voices and Reflections*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University.
- Hatcher, Julie, ed. 1998. *Service Learning Tip Sheets: A Faculty Resource Guide*. Indianapolis: Indiana Campus Compact.
- Henry, Roger, ed. 1997. *Practitioner's Workbook and Resource Packet*. Cocoa, FL: Brevard Community College/Florida Campus Compact.
- Jacoby, Barbara, and Associates. 1996. *Service-Learning in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Johnson, David. 1995. *Faculty Guide to Service-Learning*. Miami: Miami-Dade Community College.
- Kendall, Jane, ed. 1990. *Combining Service and Learning: A Resource Book for Community and Public Service*. 3 vols. Raleigh, NC: National Society for Experiential Education.
- Kretzmann, John P., and John L. McKnight. 1993. *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*. Chicago: ACTA Publications.
- Lisman, C. David. 1998. *Toward a Civil Society: Civic Literacy and Service Learning*. Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey.
- Ottenritter, Nan, and C. David Lisman. 1998. Weaving Service Learning into the Fabric of Your College. *NSEE Quarterly* 23 (3): 10–11, 26–28.
- Parsons, Michael H., and C. David Lisman, eds. 1996. *Promoting Community Renewal Through Civic Literacy and Service Learning*. New Directions for Community Colleges, no. 93. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Pickeral, Terry, and Karen Peters, eds. 1996. *Campus Community Collaborations: Examples and Resources for Community Colleges*. Mesa, AZ: Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges.
- Raybuck, Jodi, ed. 1996. *Expanding Boundaries: Serving and Learning*. Washington, DC: Corporation for National Service.
- Rifkin, Jeremy. 1996. Preparing the Next Generation of Students for the Civil Society. *Community College Journal* 66 (5): 20–22.
- Robinson, Gail, and Lynn Barnett. 1996. *Service Learning and Community Colleges: Where We Are*. AACC Survey Report. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.
- Sigmon, Robert L. 1994. *Linking Service with Learning*. Washington, DC: Council of Independent Colleges.
- Zlotkowski, Edward, ed. 1997–. *AAHE's Series on Service-Learning in the Disciplines*. 3 vols. to date. Washington, DC: American Association for Higher Education.

## VIDEOTAPES

- Hesse, Maria (Producer). 1995. *A Commitment to Service*. Chandler, AZ: Chandler-Gilbert Community College.
- WAM-BAM Philosophical Video (Producer). 1995. *The Piedmont Virginia Community College Service Learning Program: Philosophy in the Third Grade*. Charlottesville, VA: Piedmont Virginia Community College.
- Wells, Fred (Producer). 1997. *Learn and Serve at Glendale Community College*. Glendale, CA: Glendale Community College.
- Yannitell, Mark (Producer). 1996. *Hocking Outreach Program Experience*. Nelsonville, OH: Hocking College.

## COLLEGE WEB SITES

**Albuquerque TVI Community College, NM**  
[www.tvi.cc.nm.us/SpecialProjects/service.htm](http://www.tvi.cc.nm.us/SpecialProjects/service.htm)

**Brevard Community College, FL**  
[www.brevard.cc.fl.us/CSL/](http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us/CSL/)

**Chandler-Gilbert Community College, AZ**  
[www.cgc.maricopa.edu/stserv/slife/sl/index.html](http://www.cgc.maricopa.edu/stserv/slife/sl/index.html)

**Gadsden State Community College, AL**  
[www.gadsdenst.cc.al.us/pr/lrnsrv.htm](http://www.gadsdenst.cc.al.us/pr/lrnsrv.htm)

**Mesa Community College, AZ**  
[www.mc.maricopa.edu/stuserv/cppolicy/](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/stuserv/cppolicy/)

**Miami-Dade Community College, FL**  
[www.mdcc.edu/servicelearning/](http://www.mdcc.edu/servicelearning/)

**Service Learning on the World Wide Web**  
**University of Colorado at Boulder, CO**  
[csf.colorado.edu/sl/](http://csf.colorado.edu/sl/)

# ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

## **American Association for Higher Education**

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 360  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/293-6440  
[tantonucci@aahe.org](mailto:tantonucci@aahe.org)  
[www.aahe.org/service/srv-lrn.htm](http://www.aahe.org/service/srv-lrn.htm)

## **American Association of Community Colleges**

Service Learning Clearinghouse  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036-1176  
202/728-0200 ext. 254  
[grobinson@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:grobinson@aacc.nche.edu)  
[www.aacc.nche.edu/spcproj/service/service.htm](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/spcproj/service/service.htm)

## **Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges**

145 North Centennial Way, Suite 108  
Mesa, AZ 85201  
602/461-6280  
[conss@mc.maricopa.edu](mailto:conss@mc.maricopa.edu)  
[www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/compact](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/compact)

## **Campus Outreach Opportunity League**

1511 K Street, NW, Suite 307  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/637-7004  
[homeoffice@cool2serve.org](mailto:homeoffice@cool2serve.org)  
[www.cool2serve.org](http://www.cool2serve.org)

## **Community–Campus Partnerships for Health**

1388 Sutter Street, Suite 805  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
415/502-7933  
[ccph@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:ccph@itsa.ucsf.edu)  
[futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html](http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html)

## **Corporation for National Service**

1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20525  
202/606-5000  
[www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org)

## **International Partnership for Service Learning**

815 Second Avenue, Suite 315  
New York, NY 10017-4594  
212/986-0989  
[pslny@aol.com](mailto:pslny@aol.com)  
[www.studyabroad.com/psl/pslhome.html](http://www.studyabroad.com/psl/pslhome.html)

## **Invisible College**

Portland State University  
PO Box 751  
Portland, OR 97207-0751  
503/725-8452  
[ic@sba.pdx.edu](mailto:ic@sba.pdx.edu)  
[www-adm.pdx.edu/user/invcol/ic.htm](http://www-adm.pdx.edu/user/invcol/ic.htm)

## **National Service-Learning Cooperative Clearinghouse**

University of Minnesota  
1954 Buford Avenue, Room R-290  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
800/808-SERV  
[serve@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:serve@maroon.tc.umn.edu)  
[www.nicsl.coled.umn.edu](http://www.nicsl.coled.umn.edu)

## **National Society for Experiential Education**

3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 207  
Raleigh, NC 27609-7229  
919/787-3263  
[nsee@netstart.net](mailto:nsee@netstart.net)  
[www.nsee.org](http://www.nsee.org)

## **Nonprofit Risk Management Center**

1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/785-3891  
[info@nonprofitrisk.org](mailto:info@nonprofitrisk.org)  
[www.nonprofitrisk.org](http://www.nonprofitrisk.org)

This report was prepared under Grant Nos. 94LHB00014 and 97LHEDC001 from the Corporation for National Service, Learn and Serve America: Higher Education Program. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. government.

Thanks to CNS program officers Hugh Bailey, Rebecca Bliss, and Bev Roberts; and to Jennifer Henderson, Charice Morgan, and Nan Ottenritter for contributing to this publication.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gail Robinson, Coordinator  
Service Learning Clearinghouse  
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036-1176  
Phone 202/728-0200 ext. 254  
Fax 202/833-2467  
[grobinson@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:grobinson@aacc.nche.edu)  
[www.aacc.nche.edu/spcproj/service/service.htm](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/spcproj/service/service.htm)