

COMMUNITY COLLEGES BROADENING HORIZONS THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING, 1997-2000

By Gail Robinson

The *Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning* project, supported by the Corporation for National Service and administered by the American Association of Community Colleges, was developed to increase the number, quality, and sustainability of service learning programs in community colleges nationwide. It features model programs, national data collection and dissemination, and an information clearinghouse. In addition, *Horizons* provides professional development opportunities and technical assistance through regional workshops, mentoring, presentations, publications, a Web site, and a consultant referral service.

Service learning combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community. The *Horizons* project promotes the value of service learning not only to students and faculty, but also to college administrators and community members.

Ten colleges were selected in a national

competition in 1997 to become *Horizons* Colleges. Working in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment, they are developing service learning programs that can be replicated at other institutions. Experienced practitioners from four other colleges serve as a mentor team, providing advice and hands-on assistance. The *Horizons* service learning programs involve nearly 50 disciplines and reach community members ranging from elementary school children to senior citizens.

■ *HORIZONS* COLLEGES

Century College, MN
Gadsden State Community College, AL
Iowa Western Community College, IA
NorthWest Arkansas Community College, AR
Nunez Community College, LA
Oakton Community College, IL
Richland College, TX
Skagit Valley College, WA
Southwestern College, CA
University College, Univ. of Cincinnati, OH

■ *HORIZONS* MENTORS

Albuquerque TVI Community College, NM
Glendale Community College, CA
Johnson County Community College, KS
Miami-Dade Community College, FL

Key Campus Activities

- Community assets/needs assessment
- College/community partnerships
- Longitudinal evaluation study
- Service learning offices
- Faculty development
- Curricular integration
- Critical reflection
- Student leadership
- Civic education
- Community outreach
- Program sustainability



**CENTURY COMMUNITY AND
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

CONTACTS

Michele Neaton

Speech Instructor
Phone: (651) 779-3245
Fax: (651) 779-3475
m.neaton@cctc.cc.mn.us

Judy Evenson

Fashion Merchandising Faculty
Phone: (651) 773-1757
Fax: (651) 779-3475
j.evenson@cctc.cc.mn.us

Century Community and
Technical College
3300 Century Avenue North
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
www.century.cc.mn.us

TLC: TEACHING AND LEARNING CONSORTIUM

The Century College service learning program is designed to serve people across the lifespan with a focus on children and families in crisis. The primary community partners are the Salvation Army and a family violence network. The college serves a diverse population in the Twin Cities suburbs. The goals of the program include strengthening and expanding partnerships with community service agencies; engendering a sense of civic responsibility; emphasizing and rewarding service learning as a teaching and learning tool; developing a certificate program for professionals who work with children in crisis; increasing service learning opportunities among faculty and students across disciplines; and measuring student, faculty, and community outcomes to provide ongoing quality programs. Students and faculty from speech, nursing, English as a second language, human services, marketing, sociology, and women's studies have participated in service learning. Students also have the option of designing their own service learning experience using the college's Center for Workforce Development.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Faculty development
- Student scholarships
- Workforce development

**GADSDEN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Gadsden, Alabama

CONTACTS

Laura Salmon

Director of Public Relations
Phone: (256) 549-8224
Fax: (256) 549-8444
lsalmon@gadsdenst.cc.al.us

Beryl Odom

ALI/English Instructor
Phone: (256) 549-8386
Fax: (256) 549-8444
bodom@gadsdenst.cc.al.us

Gadsden State Community
College
P.O. Box 227
Gadsden, AL 35902-0227
[www.gadsdenst.cc.al.us/pr/
lmsrv.htm](http://www.gadsdenst.cc.al.us/pr/lmsrv.htm)

LEARNING AND SERVING EDUCATION & REFLECTION (LASER)

In northeast Alabama, Gadsden State Community College's Learning And Serving Education & Reflection project is an outgrowth of a student service corps, the LASERs, initiated in 1993. Through the corps, students earn college tuition by giving 75 service hours per semester to nonprofit community agencies. GSCC developed a service learning orientation class to assist students from all disciplines in placement and follow-up to improve the quality of their service experiences. Through this course and another on Web site development for community service agencies, student service opportunities are linked with individual learning goals. Instructors in various disciplines are adding service learning to their curricula, including electrical engineering technology, nursing and allied health, environmental science, and court reporting.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Student leadership program
- Faculty development
- Web links to agencies
- Active presidential support

OCCUPATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING

Iowa Western Community College's service learning initiative began in the occupational disciplines and is housed in the college's cooperative education office. In 1998 and 1999, building trades students provided nearly 4,000 hours of service for community needs such as building an office for Habitat for Humanity, upgrading a local family emergency shelter, making a southwest Iowa nature trail wheelchair-accessible, and constructing a ranger station in a county park along the Missouri River. The program expanded with the involvement of professional office careers, nursing, computer-aided design technology, and a local vocational high school. IWCC's service learning program received high marks from its state accreditation team, and will be showcased during the national accreditation process.

Project Highlights

- Technical disciplines
- Group service learning projects
- Occupational focus
- Accreditation impact

IOWA WESTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Council Bluffs, Iowa

CONTACTS

Monty Johnson

Building Trades and Service
Learning Faculty Coordinator
Phone: (712) 388-0125
Fax: (712) 325-3717
mojohnson@iwcc.cc.ia.us

Marlys Willard

Coordinator of Professional Office
Careers
Phone: (712) 325-3421
Fax: (712) 325-3362
mwillard@iwcc.cc.ia.us

Iowa Western Community College
2700 College Road, Box 4-C
Council Bluffs, IA 51502
www.iwcc.cc.ia.us

BROADENING HORIZONS IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

A small college in a mostly rural but fast-growing area of the country, NorthWest Arkansas Community College has embraced service learning in many disciplines. Faculty in diverse courses including economics, psychology, college algebra, and criminal justice have partnered with such agencies as Head Start, a hospice, a museum, and an adult daycare facility. In addition, NWACC has piloted an America Reads tutoring program with local schools. The college provides faculty development opportunities such as stipends and other funds for service learning faculty to travel together to conferences and to NWACC's *Horizons* mentor college to learn from experienced instructors face-to-face.

Project Highlights

- Student services/academic affairs collaboration
- Federal work-study positions
- One-on-one faculty development
- Student recognition awards

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Bentonville, Arkansas

CONTACTS

Michelle Rieff

Coordinator of New Student
Relations/Service Learning/
Campus Activities
Phone: (501) 619-4232
Fax: (501) 619-4116
mrieff@nwacc.cc.ar.us

Michael Ann Buell

Coordinator of Continuing and
Community Education
Phone: (501) 986-6902
Fax: (501) 619-4117
mbuell@nwacc.cc.ar.us

NorthWest Arkansas Community
College
One College Drive
Bentonville, AR 72712
www.nwacc.cc.ar.us

NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Chalmette, Louisiana

SEEING THROUGH NEW EYES: IMPROVING A CHILD'S VISUAL HEALTH AND PERSPECTIVE

Nunez Community College's service learning program began as a collaborative effort between the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation and the college's opticianry program to provide vision screening for children in the New Orleans area. The opticianry students practiced on-the-job skills while performing initial vision screenings. Children who failed the screenings were referred to ophthalmologists and the opticianry students made the glasses that doctors prescribed—all at no cost to the families. Integration of service learning activities has expanded rapidly into 12 additional disciplines including business, culinary arts, education, machine tool technology, psychology, speech, and welding. Community partners include women's and family shelters, K-12 schools, a zoo and aquarium, and the local police department.

CONTACTS

Carol Jeandron

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Phone: (504) 278-7496

Fax: (504) 278-7463

cjeandron@nunez.cc.la.us

Scott Helkaa

Assistant Division Chair, Allied Health/Sciences and Instructor in Opticianry

Phone: (504) 278-7440, ext. 258

Fax: (504) 278-7463

shelkaa@nunez.cc.la.us

Nunez Community College
3710 Paris Road
Chalmette, LA 70043
www.nunez.cc.la.us

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Developing statewide network
- Career training
- Regional workshops
- Key administrator involvement

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Des Plaines, Illinois

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SERVICE LEARNING

The Oakton Community College service learning program began in 1996 with one class and two faculty members. Their approach to a combined sociology-psychology course incorporated service learning as a way for students to get more out of the course content. The program has grown to include 28 faculty offering service learning in one or more of their courses, and students serving in more than 100 Chicago-area agencies. Working with the Office of Student Activities, faculty leaders are committed to expanding the number of community service sites, working with community partners to develop class-based projects that meet mutual needs, recruiting more faculty from a variety of disciplines, and working with faculty to ensure the service experience is academically rigorous.

CONTACTS

Gwen Nyden

Professor of Sociology

Phone: (847) 635-1628

Fax: (847) 635-1987

gnyden@oakton.edu

Alan Rubin

Professor of Psychology

Phone: (847) 635-1933

Fax: (847) 635-1987

rubin@oakton.edu

Oakton Community College
1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1268
www.oakton.edu

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross-disciplinary course
- Service learning newsletter
- Large-group projects
- Faculty development

SERVICE LEARNING AND Global STUDIES

Richland College's service learning program got its start in global studies, and has expanded to such disciplines as horticulture, government, and speech. All honors scholars and global studies scholars must complete a service learning project. The college's administration provided internal funding for a full-time service learning coordinator and office space to house the program. Community partners include hospitals, elementary schools, community outreach centers, and a hospice for children with HIV/AIDS. Student service opportunities range from working with campers with physical disabilities to providing bilingual support for a Dallas literacy project. Richland is developing an articulation agreement with a university community service management degree program to ensure transfer of service learning course credits.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Service learning office
- Faculty guide
- Informational videotape
- Large-group reflection

RICHLAND COLLEGE

Dallas, Texas

CONTACTS

Carole Lester

Associate Dean, Academic
Enrichment
Phone: (972) 238-6110
Fax: (972) 238-6290
clester@dcccd.edu

Fred Martinez

Counselor/Faculty
Phone: (972) 238-6902
Fax: (972) 238-6333
fxm8320@dcccd.edu

Richland College
12800 Abrams Road
Dallas, TX 75243
www.rlc.dcccd.edu/enrich/servlern/servlern.htm

YOUNG SPEAKERS BUREAU

The *Horizons* Young Speakers Bureau project at Skagit Valley College matches speech and communication majors with middle school students to address youth-related safety issues. Collaborating with their SVC mentors, local police, and firefighters, sixth-graders learn the basics of speech and communication while learning about fire and bicycle safety. The middle school students then present health and safety programs to elementary school children. The *Horizons* initiative helps widen the base of Skagit Valley College's service learning partnerships while raising awareness of important health and safety issues of northwest Washington youth. Service learning is part of a larger experiential education program at Skagit Valley incorporating internships, cooperative education, and independent study.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross-disciplinary reflection
- K-12/college collaboration
- Small-group reflection
- Stand-alone service learning credits

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

Mt. Vernon, Washington

CONTACTS

Emi Fredlund

Counselor
Phone: (360) 416-7684
Fax: (360) 416-7868
fredlund@skagit.ctc.edu

Linda Woiwod

Associate Dean, Counseling and
Career Services
Phone: (360) 416-7735
Fax: (360) 416-7868
woiwod@skagit.ctc.edu

Skagit Valley College
2405 East College Way
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-5899
www.svc.ctc.edu

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
Chula Vista, California

CONTACTS

Kathy Parrish

Professor, English
Phone: (619) 421-6700, ext. 5566
Fax: (619) 482-6513
mkpkathy@aol.com

Trish Axsom

Associate Dean, Educational
Support Services
Phone: (619) 482-6340
Fax: (619) 482-6449
taxsom@swc.cc.ca.us

Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, CA 91910
www.swc.cc.ca.us

SOUTHWESTERN SERVICE LEARNING CENTER

Southwestern College's broad-based service learning program is offered in over 40 different courses, including Spanish, English, art, environmental studies, history, speech, and psychology, and in a stand-alone service learning course. The college has developed partnerships with more than 50 San Diego-area agencies, including the Olympic training center, environmental organizations, and a meal service for homebound people with AIDS. Southwestern sponsors a volunteer fair each semester to connect agencies with service learners and other interested members of the college community. Service learners who complete at least 15 hours of service over the course of a semester receive certificates signed by the college president and an entry on their transcripts.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Service learning office
- Faculty coordinator
- Agency orientation
- Transcript notation

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Cincinnati, Ohio

CONTACTS

Barbara Wallace

Coordinator, University College
English Testing and Placement
Phone: (513) 556-2021
Fax: (513) 556-3007
wallaceb@ucollege.uc.edu

Floyd Ogburn

Professor of English
Phone: (513) 556-1690
Fax: (513) 556-3007
ogburnfk@ucollege.uc.edu

University College
ML0205 University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0205
www.ucollege.uc.edu/service

HORIZONS PROJECT

Service learning began at University College, a two-year college within the University of Cincinnati, in 1998 with a pilot in three sections of an English composition course, and is expanding into language arts literature and other disciplines. The college established partnerships with a family resource center, an arts and humanities resource center for older adults, and a community center. University College's program is part of a university-wide service learning initiative that includes workgroups on faculty issues, operational structure, university/community agency partnering, and student issues. One staff member had 50 percent of his time reassigned to initiate, maintain, and evaluate community partnerships. An end-of-year celebration honors an outstanding service learning faculty member, student, and community partner.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Faculty development
- Regional conference
- University-wide advisory group
- Student scholarships

HORIZONS MENTOR TEAM

ALBUQUERQUE TVI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rudy Garcia, Director of Experiential Education
525 Buena Vista SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
Phone: (505) 224-3068 ■ Fax: (505) 224-3073
rudyg@tvi.cc.nm.us
w3.tvi.cc.nm.us/~graphics/ServiceLearning

Service learning is offered to all academic and occupational disciplines at Albuquerque TVI. The program has developed lasting partnerships with community agencies, public schools, and government entities since its 1995 inception. The program reached sustainability in 1999 with the creation of the Office of Experiential Education, which includes a full-time director, faculty coordinator, and federal work-study positions. TVI's award-winning service learning program has a strong presence in the Albuquerque community and has made a significant impact on student academic achievement, retention, critical thinking, analytical problem-solving, and interpersonal skills development.

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Marcia Shideler, Service-Learning Coordinator
12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66210-1299
Phone: (913) 469-8500, ext. 3570 ■ Fax: (913) 469-3825
shideler@johnco.cc.ks.us
www.jccc.net/careers/serv_learn

Begun in 1993, Johnson County Community College's curriculum-based service learning program is committed to meeting multifaceted and interdependent academic and community needs in the Kansas City area. Balancing the dual mandates of service and learning, the program emphasizes diversity, responsibility, and reciprocity; encourages understanding, leadership, and commitment; and ultimately reflects the vision and values of JCCC. The institution's Center for Teaching and Learning plays a vital role in faculty development and curricular integration. JCCC initiated an annual international service learning trip in 1998, bringing health care and construction assistance to an impoverished community in Mexico.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hoover Zariani, Director, Service Learning Center
1500 North Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA 91208-2894
Phone: (818) 240-1000, ext. 5789 ■ Fax: (818) 551-5225
hzariani@glendale.cc.ca.us
www.glendale.cc.ca.us/resource/volunteer.html

The Service Learning Center at Glendale Community College places more than 1,200 students per year in suburban Los Angeles nonprofit agencies, schools, and civic organizations. These students come from courses with service learning options across the curriculum, with over 40 faculty participating in the program. The center also works with its community partners in developing projects that address local needs. Participating agencies are invited to biannual fairs, focus groups, and orientations. GCC's One America project gives students an opportunity to develop leadership skills by coordinating issue-based workshops and presentations for their peers, faculty, staff, and community members. The Service Learning Center was founded in 1994 and is funded completely by the college district.

MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Josh Young, Director, Center for Community Involvement
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Room 1464, Miami, FL 33132
Phone: (305) 237-7477 ■ Fax: (305) 237-7580
jyoung@mdcc.edu
www.mdcc.edu/servicelearning

Miami-Dade Community College's Center for Community Involvement is housed within the academic division of the college and is responsible for all service learning and America Reads literacy tutoring activities. M-DCC began a formal service learning initiative in 1994. With full-service centers on three campuses and outreach programs to all six campuses, the Center serves the entire college. Primary activities include supporting approximately 75 faculty and 1,400 service learning students each semester, and overseeing an America Reads program with 140 federal work-study tutors. Key program components include faculty coordinators on each campus, the implementation of "citizenship forums" for all service learning students and faculty, a comprehensive faculty development plan, a service learning student ambassador program, and workshops for agency partners.

SELECT REFERENCES

- American Association of Community Colleges. 1995. *Community Colleges and Service Learning*. Washington, DC: AACC.
- Chuppa-Cornell, Kim, and Chris Schnick, eds. 1998. *Small Miracles: Service Learning Essays, 1997-1998*. Chandler, AZ: Chandler-Gilbert Community College.
- Driscoll, Amy, et al. 1997. *Assessing the Impact of Service Learning: A Workbook of Strategies and Methods*. Portland, OR: Portland State University.
- Exley, Robert J. 1998. *Service Learning and Curricular Integration*. AACC Service Learning Resource Guide. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.
- Exley, Robert J., and David Johnson, eds. 1998. *Teachers of Life—Learners for Life: Faculty Stories in Service Learning from Miami-Dade Community College*. Miami: Miami-Dade Community College.
- Eyler, Janet, Dwight E. Giles, Jr., and Angela Schmiede. 1996. *A Practitioner's Guide to Reflection in Service-Learning: Student Voices and Reflections*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University.
- Gilson, Joan, and Nan Ottenritter. 1999. *The Service Learning Journal: Writing to Learn*. AACC Service Learning Resource Guide. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.
- Jacoby, Barbara, and Associates. 1996. *Service-Learning in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- 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.
- Robinson, Gail, and Lynn Barnett. 1996. *Service Learning and Community Colleges: Where We Are*. AACC Survey Report. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.
- . 1998. *Best Practices in Service Learning: Building a National Community College Network, 1994-1997*. AACC Project Brief. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.
- Zlotkowski, Edward, ed. 1997-. *AAHE's Series on Service-Learning in the Disciplines*. 10 vols. to date. Washington, DC: American Association for Higher Education.

Thanks to Lynn Barnett, Bonny Herndon, and *Horizons* participants for contributing to this publication. This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National Service under Learn and Serve America Grant Number 97LHEDC001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or the Learn and Serve America Program.

SELECT ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- American Association for Higher Education**
www.aahe.org/service/srv-lrn.htm
- American Association of Community Colleges**
www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning
- Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges**
www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/compact
- Campus Outreach Opportunity League**
www.cool2serve.org
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Corporation for National Service**
www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html
www.nationalservice.org
- International Partnership for Service Learning**
www.studyabroad.com/psl
- Invisible College**
www.selu.edu/Academics/ArtsSciences/IC
- Learn and Serve America Exchange**
www.lsaexchange.org
- National Service-Learning Clearinghouse**
www.umn.edu/~serve
- National Society for Experiential Education**
www.nsee.org
- Points of Light Foundation**
www.pointsoflight.org
- Service-Learning on the World-Wide Web**
csf.colorado.edu/sl

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gail Robinson
Coordinator of Service Learning

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
www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning



TO ORDER MORE COPIES OF THE *HORIZONS* BRIEF, CONTACT:

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESS®

P.O. Box 311
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0311
Phone: (800) 250-6557
Fax: (301) 490-8116
aaccpub@pmds.com
Order #1524
Briefs are sold in packs of 20 for \$20.