Service-Learning 101
A Classroom Preparation for Students

Office of Civic Engagement & Social Responsibility
Objectives

- What is Civic Engagement?
- Civic Engagement at Towson University
- What is service-learning?
  - Service-learning vs. Volunteerism
  - Components of service-learning
- Q&A
Civic Engagement

- Civic engagement encompasses
  - active citizenship,
  - community involvement,
  - advocacy, awareness of social issues and injustices,
  - development of personal and social responsibility.

- It requires YOU to involve yourself in society with the intent to better the world.
  (your community)
Civic Engagement Initiatives

- Political Engagement
- Environmental Initiatives
  - Tiger Pledge
- AmeriCorps Programs
- NYTimes Readership
- Service-Learning
Experiential Education: Any form of education that emphasizes personal experience of the learner rather than learning from lectures, books, and other second-hand sources (McBrien & Brandt, 1997).

- Service-Learning
- Community Service
- Internship
- Clinical experience/fieldwork experience
Service-learning is

- A form of experiential education
- Which students **engage** in activities
- That address human & community **needs** together
- Structured opportunities **intentionally** designed
- To promote student **learning** and **development**.
- **Reflection and reciprocity** are key concepts of service-learning.
## Service-Learning vs. Community Service

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<td>• Integrates academic study with service in a way that makes learning more intentional.</td>
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<td>• Incorporates the concept of reciprocity.</td>
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<td>• Fosters participant learning about the larger social issues that are driving the need for service.</td>
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<td>• Frames &quot;service&quot; in terms of social justice instead of in terms of charity.</td>
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<td>• Uses service as a &quot;text&quot; and often rewards academic credit to students who use this text in academically significant ways.</td>
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<td>• While student learning is likely to take place, it is not an intentional or primary impetus for the program.</td>
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<td>• Planning is often the responsibility of those providing the service.</td>
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<td>• Often viewed as a project, program, or experience, rather than a pedagogy.</td>
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<td>• Does not usually carry academic credit.</td>
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<td>• Usually done on a co-curricular basis for personal growth or for group bonding.</td>
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From The Center for Leadership and Service, University of Florida
Learning through Service Model

- Teacher
- Student
- Learning (Reflection)
- Academic Content (course)
- Community Experience (service)
Traditional Classroom vs. Service-Learning Classroom

- How do these two classrooms look?
- How might they be different?
What should you expect from a service-learning experience?

- Preparation
- Action (Service)
- Reflection
Preparation

- Context
  - Organization’s mission
  - Population/area being served – demographics, culture

- Service Activities

- Expectations/Responsibilities
RECIPROCITY
Relevant and meaningful service to the community that enhances both academic and civic learning
Why do Service-Learning?

Benefits for Students:
- Positive effect on interpersonal development, the ability to work well with others, leadership and communications skills
- Positive effect on sense of social responsibility and citizenship skills
- Enhanced academic learning, compared to similar courses that do not integrate service-learning
- Improved ability to apply what they have learned in “the real world”
- Stronger relationships with faculty than those who are not involved in service-learning
- Propensity to continue service and practice active citizenship following graduation
Benefits for the Community Partner:

- Student participation provides useful service
- Enhanced organizational capacity to achieve mission
- Organizations expose students to their mission and purpose, possibly creating a lasting interest in serving with the organization
- Enhanced relationship with the university
How are we doing?

- **Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (Curricular Engagement)** - includes institutions where teaching, learning and scholarship engage faculty, students, and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration.

- **President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** - The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.
Questions?

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Resources
- towson.edu/civicengagement