



Communicator

Oklahoma Institutions Service-Learning Leaders

East Central University Sets New Standard with Service-Learning Graduation Requirement

Beginning with the fall 2007 classes, East Central University (ECU) in Ada will become the only public university in Oklahoma to require all beginning freshmen to complete 30 hours of service attained through service-learning for graduation. The requirement must be satisfied through completion of at least two service-learning designated courses. Each service-learning course will incorporate a minimum of 15 hours of service. The service-learning classes may be general education classes, courses required for a student's major, or electives. ECU plans for future class schedules to indicate all classes with the service-learning component embedded in the curriculum. This bold initiative received crucial support from university President Richard Rafes.

National Campus Compact surveys indicate that a university-wide requirement for service-learning is becoming more prevalent across the country as institutions balance learning with the ethic of service outreach. In a demonstration of growing interest, the ECU initiative received a supportive editorial in *The Oklahoman* newspaper. Commenting on the long term effect of the new policy, Dr. Pat Fountain, ECU's Director of Service-Learning, stated: "I promise you, in twenty years, what will they remember about ECU? Not Chapter 16 in their textbook. They will remember how they used what they were learning to help someone."

Current students will not be affected. Discussion is ongoing on whether transfer students or those enrolled in ECU's General Studies Degree Program or the new statewide Adult Degree Completion Program will have a reduced requirement or be exempt from the program.

Tulsa Community College Incorporates Community Service and Service-Learning in New Scholarship

Implementation of the Tulsa Achieves Scholarship Program by Tulsa Community College, will feature required participation in community service through the institution's Service Learning Program or other volunteer programs. Available for all 2007 and future public and private high school graduates who reside in Tulsa County with a final high school grade point average of 2.0, the scholarship offers up to 100 percent of tuition and mandatory fees on a sliding scale, depending on length of residency in Tulsa County during high school, for up to 60 college credit hours over a three-year period. Students must enroll in three or more credit hours, and complete 75 percent of the enrolled hours with a 2.0 or better GPA. The community service will be connected to service-learning and 40 hours will be required per academic year. TCC expects an additional 500 students as a result of the scholarship, and plans to fund the program from the property tax dedicated to the institution within Tulsa County. Inquiries for additional information should be directed to Tony Alonso, Dean of Diversity and Civic Engagement, TCC.

Special points of Interest:

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Shining Stars

Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) highlights exciting stories of civic engagement on member campuses. Let your institution's story be heard! Please send examples of civic engagement on your campus to gwekke@osrhe.edu.

Oklahoma Institutions Service-Learning Leaders

Oklahoma City University Comprehensive Institutionalization of Service-Learning

Oklahoma City University (OCU) has incorporated a university-wide service-learning graduation requirement for all students since the fall semester of 2005, when at least 79 service-learning courses were offered. By the close of 2007 it is anticipated that at least 95 such courses will be available. Students must take at least one service-learning course. OCU incorporates additional service-learning requirements in several of its scholarships. Faculty stipends were cited as critical to the program's success at OCU. According to Dann May, Assistant Director for the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Servant Leadership and the Owen Wimberly Center for Continuing Edu-

cation at OCU, depending on the availability of resources, about five faculty each in the fall and spring semesters receive stipends ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 per course. A perusal of the course stipend schedule for the past five years indicates an offering of service-learning courses in a wide variety of academic areas, with the greatest offerings in Business, Philosophy/Religion, and English/Literature courses. Other academic areas involved in service-learning are Spanish, the Arts, Nursing, Social Sciences, Basic Sciences, Criminal Justice, Education, and Communications. Community partners include local schools, religious centers, state agencies, city governments, and nonprofit entities.

Carnegie Classification—Community Engagement

Oklahoma State University in Stillwater recently became one of only nine institutions nationwide to be included in the new Carnegie Community Engagement Classification for Outreach and Partnerships. The Outreach and Partnerships category includes institutions with compelling evidence of one of the two approaches to community engagement:

Outreach

Focuses on the application and provision of institutional resources for community use with benefits to both campus and community.

Partnerships

Focus on collaborative interactions with community and

related scholarship for the mutually beneficial exchange, exploration, and application of knowledge, information, and resources (research, capacity building, economic development, etc.). OSU provided descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices based on data from 2003 and 2004.

Commenting on the status of this new classification, officials at the Carnegie Foundation note that few institutions describe promotion and tenure policies that recognize and reward the scholarship associated with community engagement. Carnegie also

has found that few institutions acknowledge community engagement as a priority in their search and hiring practices. The Foundation is currently planning to open the community engagement classification process to new participants in 2008. Other institutions around the country achieving Carnegie Community Engagement Classification status can be viewed on the Carnegie Foundation website: www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications. Additional information can be found at <http://www.compact.org/carnegie> on the Campus Compact website.

Tell us your stories...

Do you have a service-learning or student service project success story? Has a particular civic engagement methodology worked well on your campus? Send your stories to gwekke@osrhe.edu and we will highlight them in upcoming newsletters!

State and National Service Recognition

Carter Academic-Service Entrepreneur (CASE) Award

The CASE award provides student recognition and a \$1,000 to a non-profit organization identified in a proposal that describes how the funds will be utilized. Oklahoma Campus Compact formally presented awards to Fatima Pina and Andrew Hawkins, from Oklahoma State University, at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education meeting on February 15, 2007.

Ms. Pina's project involved delivering nutrition information and resources to a local senior center (she is seeking

a baccalaureate degree in nutrition) to help improve health through nutrition. Mr. Hawkins submitted an aggressive plan to provide a local homeless shelter with financial literacy training. Mr. Hawkins will also provide literacy training and materials to K-12 schools in Stillwater and surrounding areas. Pictured below are: Ms. Gina

Wekke, Director of Oklahoma Campus Compact, Mr. Bill Burgess, Vice Chair, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Mr. Andrew Hawkins, CASE Award Recipient, Ms. Fatima Pina, CASE Award Recipient, Dr. Glen D. Johnson, Chan-

cellor, and Dr. Phil Moss, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.



Tulsa Community College Recognizes Excellence

On Friday, April 13, Tulsa Community College (TCC) hosted a luncheon ceremony to honor students and faculty who participated in community service and service-learning. In all 31 students and 11 faculty were honored. Tulsa Boys Home and the Day Center for the Homeless were two non-profit agencies served by these students and faculty and were represented at the luncheon. Key TCC administrators present to show leadership and support included Dr. Tony Alonso, Dean of Diversity and Civic En-

agement, Dr. Robert Butler, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of Service-Learning, Dr. Peggy Dyer, Provost of TCC West Campus and Ms. Jan Clayton, Dean of Student Services at TCC Northeast Campus.

Each student was given an opportunity to talk about his/her service experience and some of the comments included (paraphrased):

"...I learned more in the community than I did in the classroom, and I mean no disrespect."

"...it was a good experience to work on something in our web design class that you knew was going to be put to

good use and met a need..."

"...it was important to serve as a mentor to young people who had no one in their life to help them."

The faculty recognized at the ceremony are committed and interested in what their students learned during their service experience. They provided brief comments - not about their part in service-learning and community service - they spoke about the dedication and commitment of their students.

Ten (10) percent of TCC's students are involved in service-learning and community service.

"I started life with many troubles including homelessness and other major difficulties. The service experiences made me want to help others and ensure that my children do not face the same challenges."

TCC Student

State and National Service Recognition

National Campus Compact Student and Faculty Awards Selection Proceeding

The National Campus Compact is wrapping up its annual process for consideration and designation of its two categories of student awards, the Swearer and Newman Awards, and its faculty award, the Ehrlich Award. The Swearer Student Humanitarian Award recognizes five students nationwide for innovative strategies in addressing community issues and needs, and efforts to build and sustain their work among their peers and within their institution. A monetary award of \$1,250 for the student's professional development and \$250 for the student's affiliated service program or organization is included. One Oklahoma student has been nominated as a na-

tional finalist by the state for 2007. A student at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College in Miami won the Swearer in 2004. No applicants entered the competition for the Frank Newman Student Leadership Award from Oklahoma this year.

The Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning honors one faculty member from a member institution for contributions to the integration of community or public service into the curriculum and for efforts to institutionalize service-learning. Four faculty members from four separate institutions have submitted applications for 2007. A faculty member from Oklahoma was selected as a finalist in 2003.

<http://www.okhighered.org/campus-com/>



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

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Service-Learning Incentive Grant Follow-up

Last fall ten instructors successfully competed for small grants of \$500 from the Oklahoma Campus Compact for service-learning courses. The grants went to seven different institutions, public and private, in a variety of disciplines, as listed below:

Genie Ford, Rose State College - Nursing Care of Women and Children/Pediatric Practicum

Nat Hardy, Rogers State University - Honors English

Tana Stufflebean, University of Central Oklahoma - Fashion Marketing and Advertising

Tawni Holmes, University of Central Oklahoma - Life Span Nutrition

Christine Pappas, East Central University - American Government

Laura O'Neil, Southern Nazarene University - Nursing/Health Assessment

Sue Parsons, Oklahoma State University - Elementary Education/Literacy

Millee Jorge, Langston University - Pediatric Physical Therapy (graduate)

Theresa Leahy, Langston University - Neuromuscular Physical Therapy (graduate)

Aliya Chaudry, Langston University - Methods of Instruction and Consultation in Physical Therapy (graduate).

Based on a recent reflection meeting with the faculty who received the Service-Learning Incentive Grant funds, recipients were mostly satisfied with the results of their courses - more importantly - they felt they gained useful

experience. Langston University plans to sponsor a conference on service-learning. Faculty shared two important lessons learned:

- To maximize the greatest educational benefits, students should be involved from the outset in the service-learning planning, design, and purpose
- Support from administration is critical. Support must be real - in addition to "talking the talk," administrators should "walk the walk" and provide support and resources for this important work.

Grant Opportunities

Service-Learning and Community Service personnel are encouraged to consider the following opportunities:

Engaged Learning, Student Well-Being, and Student Civic Development

The *Bringing Theory to Practice Project*, an independent entity in partnership with the Association for American Colleges and Universities, is requesting proposals during 2007 - 2010 that will enable colleges and universities to build capacity for institutionalizing forms of engaged learning and to understand their relation to outcomes affecting the well-being and civic development of students. This project is funded by several major private foundations. There are four categories of grants designed for wide appeal and application, and although the deadline for application in the two categories with the largest grants has passed, the categories for smaller grants offer rolling application and award deadlines:

- Mini-Grants and Student Programming Grants, of up to \$2,500 with no match requirement; and
- Program or Research Start-up Initiative Grants, of up to \$10,000, with match required, and options for renewal.

Publications, research reviews, announcements and reports are available on the *Bringing Theory to Practice* website at www.bringingtheorytopractice.org.

Professional Development

OkCC Spring Service-Learning/Community Service Workshop

Twenty-one service-learning/community service administrators and coordinators in the state attended a workshop Friday, April 6, 2007 conducted by the Oklahoma Campus Compact at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Ms. Gina Wekke, Director of the Oklahoma Campus Compact, led off with an overview of the status of institutionalization of service-learning in Oklahoma institutions of higher education gained through a 2006 campus survey. Data on individual institution status was provided to those present. Dr. Kent Johnson, Director, Program for Instructional Innovation, University of Oklahoma, followed with sessions on development gained through an intensive five-day course at the National Campus Compact headquarters in Rhode Island. Mr. Josh Krawczyk, Director of the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, University of Central Oklahoma, and Mr. Jon Horinek, Service-Learning and Student Life Coordinator, Oklahoma City Community College, provided perspectives on individual campus approaches. These presentations are accessible on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education website: www.okhighered.org/campus-com/newscenter.

"After a student has completed their service, I ask them two probing questions: 'So, what?' and 'Now, what?'"

**Jon Horinek
Oklahoma City
Community College**

Additional Professional Development Opportunities

Oklahoma is a cosponsor of the Multi-State Conference on *Civic Engagement – Developing Citizens through Leadership Development and Civic Engagement*, July 9 -11, 2007, New Orleans, Louisiana. Interested parties may contact Ms. Gina Wekke, Oklahoma Campus Compact Director (gwekke@osrhe.edu). Conference registration is available at: www2.selu.edu/orgs/lcc/conference/index.php. Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Embassy Suites Hotel New Orleans Convention Center at 1-800-EMBASSY.

Campus Compact Professional Development Institute for Community Service and Service-Learning Professionals, July 23 – 27, 2007, in San Diego, California. Registration information is available at <http://www.compact.org>

Seventh International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Community Engagement – Sustainability and Scholarship: Research and the K-20 Continuum, October 7 – 9, 2007 Tampa, Florida. For further information contact <http://www.floridacompact.org/irsl>. Oklahoma Campus Compact has committed to sponsoring three emerging scholars who plan to present.

Reflections from New Orleans

Dear Oklahoma Campus Compact Members:

Campus Compact Executive Directors meet twice annually to share information, solve problems, and discuss how we can better serve our members. The winter meeting in January was different. We met in New Orleans. The Executive Directors suggested that we needed to “walk the walk” and serve a community in need. We signed up with a non-profit called The Green Project to help with a neighborhood clean-up that included mowing, removing weeds, picking up trash, etc. We found personal effects (this is almost 18 months after the hurricane) in the form of cell phones, credit cards, eye glasses, and books. Afterward, we were taken to the 9th Ward by Preston, the bus driver who drove us to the project site. He was raised in the 9th Ward, which was just a few blocks away from the service project. Preston and his family were able to evacuate to Shreveport, Louisiana for 6 months – but he let us know it was not an easy time.

Preston drove us across the bridge that separated Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River. He showed us the lock system that was swamped when the levees broke. He said people were wiped out in that neighborhood for a variety of reasons, but mentioned that when the levees broke, the storm had passed and the sun was out. Some people who chose or were unable to leave were out in the neighborhood living life, barbequing, and kids were playing when the levees broke and washed their homes and lives away. This was not quite the story I heard on the national news. The area is cleaned of major debris now, but seemed lifeless in every sense of the word. We saw a city work crew examining and



installing cables for electricity and phone lines, but there were no local residents in sight. Preston showed us the house where his Grandmother raised him, his dilapidated church, and many empty slabs where modest houses once stood. We saw that there was virtually no infrastructure in the form of schools, grocery stores, pharmacies, clinics – things that make a community possible. As we returned to the hold, the normally loud and boisterous bunch of Executive Directors sat in silence.

So what was learned by this experience? I learned that a catastrophe of this proportion levels the human field across socio-economic classes. It will be a long time before the communities recover (if ever in some cases). Preston's story gave us insight on his family and we all knew there were thousands more; many with loss of life. We saw signs of revitalization in the historic music community. Houses have been built and painted bright colors to host local and national musicians. Life goes on. Everywhere we went, we saw spirit and determination in the eyes of the residents. We were thanked by the residents for our brief work in the community. While I know people continue to struggle to reestablish their lives, the most important thing I learned was even in the most devastating circumstances, the human spirit finds a way to move forward.

“Everywhere we went, we saw spirit and determination in the eyes of the residents.”

**Gina M. Wekke, Director
Oklahoma Campus Compact**

Service-Learning Idea—Mentoring Workshop

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence will present a one-day workshop on *How to Establish a Mentoring Program* on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at the Putnam City Center in Oklahoma City. Conducted by Melynda Stone, Director of the Volunteers for Youth Program at Claremore, and Michelle Middleton, Director of the Side-by-Side Mentoring Program at El Reno Public Schools, the workshop will address needs assessment, mission statement, program design, policies, financial planning, marketing, and program implementation and evaluation. The cost of \$50 includes registration, materials, and lunch. The registration form can be downloaded from www.okmentors.org.