Service Learning at Lewis
Partnering Academics and Community Engagement
Service Learning at Lewis

Service Learning is deeply embedded in the Lewis University Mission. The Office of Service Learning (OSL) strives to build connections with and contribute to our local and global communities through service learning. The OSL staff, in collaboration with representatives from all four colleges on the Service Learning Advisory Team, works with faculty to enhance student learning through community service learning experiences which fulfill course objectives. The office cultivates rich relationships with a variety of regional partners hoping to understand societal realities and organizational goals. Recognizing the intersection of course objectives and community needs opens doors to networking so that both local agencies and Lewis students benefit from association and mutual growth.

With Student Development and Leadership, University Ministry, Multicultural Student Services and Career Services, we hope to stimulate social and civic responsibility among our students and throughout the Lewis community. Together, as the Community Engagement Cooperative, we coordinate community service opportunities, promote service learning and encourage students to serve as interns; all ways of contributing to the well-being of the community and each person’s own sense that she or he can make a difference.

From the President

“I am highly impressed by the near explosion of new and relevant service learning experiences that are being provided by the faculty in courses and degree programs throughout the curriculum. Many of these experiential learning opportunities have significant impact on our undergraduate and graduate students. Moreover, they are directly responsive to their needs and their expressed desire for that style of learning which blends meaningful engagement with thoughtful reflection. Much appreciation to the Office of Service Learning for facilitating and promoting this ongoing development.”

Br. James Gaffney, FSC, Lewis University President

Lewis University has been named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships. Lewis is included among the nation’s leading colleges and universities for its commitment to bettering communities through community service and academic service learning.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school’s commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, Lewis University provided more than 3,600 service hours through 44 service learning courses and various volunteer efforts in collaboration with almost 100 community partners. Lewis University is among the 21 Illinois colleges and universities admitted to the Honor Roll for its work on a variety of service and service learning projects in cooperation with community members and organizations.
Service Learning Collaborations

Assistant Professor Robert Bergman works with his students in teams to create “guerrilla marketing” plans and products for area non-profits and businesses.

While many non-profits are led by dedicated and gifted directors and employees, sometimes the ability to gather data effectively and usefully is not in their skill set or available time. Dr. Cindy Howard’s students have those skills and have aided area agencies and on-campus offices in developing their capacity to grow and track services offered and people served.

Each spring, Assistant Professor Lisa O’Toole guides her students in creating public relations materials for area non-profits and small businesses. Some of the things that her students have developed are newsletters, brochures, public service announcements, press releases, crisis communication plans, feature articles, and overall public relations plans. These provide much needed PR for 501(c)3 organizations who cannot afford these specialized strategies.

Dr. Tennille Allen has been working with her students to recognize societal realities and cross cultural boundaries in order to serve and learn beside area community agencies as well as entities on campus. Her students have worked with the Lewis Office of Veterans’ Affairs to understand student veteran needs, assisted Catholic Charities in enhancing its service and data capacity, and spent time better understanding the community served by Warren-Sharpe Community Center in the hopes of supporting their leadership in fulfilling some of the needs.

Instructor Lee Witkowski helps students to better understand and respect the environment through involvement in and service with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Sagawau Environmental Learning Center.

Every year, Assistant Professor John Carey’s students raise thousands of dollars to support Advocate Children’s Hospital through their “To Kill a DJ” project. They practice radio broadcasting skills while aiding many area families to access the health care they need.

**Service Learning Collaborations**

**Marketing**

**Public Relations**

**Environmental Science**

**Software Engineering**

**Sociology**

**Radio Broadcasting**
Disciplines with Service Learning

**College of Arts & Sciences**
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Communications
- Computer Science
- Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies
- Music
- Organizational Leadership
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theology

**College of Business**
- Marketing
- Management
- Information Systems

**College of Education**
- Reading and Literacy
- Secondary Education
- Special Education

**College of Nursing and Health Professions**
- Community Health Nursing

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**Making a Difference**

**Ivette Manzo**
College of Nursing and Health Professions

"Reflection of the service learning project gives us the opportunity to consider the impact that we can have on individuals, families, communities, and on our own lives as students and future nurses."

**Mayra De La Rosa**
College of Arts and Sciences

"I believe it's a wonderful course to take advantage of for those who are looking to gain hands-on, real world experience, be part of community change, or explore new career paths."

**Caitlin Finnegan**
College of Education

"I feel this experience strengthened my ability to be a better multicultural educator. Serving at an organization like Daybreak is something I have never experienced before. It gave me a completely different insight, more than sitting in my classes and talking about my potential prejudices, biases, and knowledge of other cultures."

**Sophie Barakat**
Graduate Student, Organizational Leadership

"Through these experiences, I realized that service was not just a requirement, but a part of my life. It has shown me how much I love to serve others, making people laugh and listening to other people's stories."

**Jodi (JoEllen) Steinberg**
College of Arts and Sciences

“You have one life. It is your responsibility to pitch in, to act, to engage, and to make a change. The time is now, and Lewis is the place. If not for yourself, do it for someone in need.”

**Megan MacDougall**
College of Education

“Through this service learning project, I was pushed to step out of my comfort zone and interact with a population that I had not had experience with before. Although I was the teacher, I gained just as much from the camp as the children did.”

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**By the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service learning courses offered each semester*</th>
<th>Students who take service learning courses each semester*</th>
<th>Student service hours each semester*</th>
<th>Value of a volunteer hour</th>
<th>Total value of service learning volunteering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>$24.08</td>
<td>$42,140</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*on average in 2014
Service Learning at Lewis University is an opportunity for students to engage with faculty and community partners to integrate learning in the classroom with real world issues in the community. Service learning experiences connect course objectives, activities and reflection, thus allowing students to practice social and civic responsibility while enhancing academic knowledge and skills.

Other Forms of Community Engagement

**Volunteer / “I”**
To perform or offer to perform a service/act of one’s own free will. A person can offer to volunteer for almost anything – feed the hungry, raise funds, help a neighbor, enlist in the military, participate in class, or respond to various other opportunities.

**Service / “We”**
To serve a cause/group/individual/society that is larger than one’s self. There is a sense of being “called” to serve by something that is greater than us.

**Internships**
A semester or year-long intensive, supervised individual experience specific to a student’s course of studies that fosters application of learning in a setting where the student might be inclined to work after graduation. Internships are usually ten or more hours per week for the duration of the experience and provide skills and experiences that build content for her/his resumé.

Lewis students work as teams while serving at Feed My Starving Children, an organization that strives to interrupt hunger and malnutrition in critical regions of the world.
Where do we go from here?

**Students**

**Benefits of Service Learning:**
- Enrich your resumé
- Refine career goals
- Make clear connections between real-world settings and the Service Learning course
- Increase confidence through reflection, improved competency, and knowledge beyond the classroom

**Next Steps:**
- Attend the semi-annual Service Fair
- Talk to your advisor about Service Learning course options each semester

**Community Partners**

**Benefits of Service Learning:**
- Obtain assistance in accomplishing agency goals with emerging student knowledge and skills
- Empower students through rich experiences at your agency with those you serve

**Next Steps:**
- Join us each semester for the Service Fair to network with students and faculty
- Contact the Office of Service Learning to discuss opportunities for partnership

**Faculty**

**Benefits of Service Learning:**
- Increase student enthusiasm for learning course material
- Demonstrate real-world applications of curriculum
- Contribute to community efforts to address area needs by enhancing the use of community assets

**Next Steps:**
- Set an appointment with the Director of Service Learning to imagine ways your course can be enriched through service learning
- Attend Service Learning workshops
- Network with area partners at the semi-annual Service Fair

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**Connect, discover and identify community needs via Get Connected:** service.lewisu.edu

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**Service Learning**

Office of Service Learning, Unit 270
One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL 60446-2200
Located in LARC, BE181

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