



Engaged and Service Learning Newsletter

L e w i s U n i v e r s i t y

LEWIS HIRES A PART-TIME LEWIS SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Service Learning Coordinator
- Service Learning Grants available to faculty
- ACCA Symposium
- Engaged Learning Workshop

Dr. Christie Billups, also an adjunct instructor in the Lewis Theology Department, will begin her role of assisting faculty, students and community agencies in Lewis service learning programs beginning January, 2010.

Dr. Christie Billups holds a Doctor of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, and two Masters of Arts degrees, one in Pastoral Studies from CTU, and one in Teaching from National Louis University. Dr. Billups will assume the position of Coordinator of Service Learning in January 2010, with her office housed in the Leckrone Academic Resource Center (LARC) in Benilde Hall (BE181). Dr. Billups brings a long history of experience in volunteer service to the community, as well as teaching and campus ministry experience with junior high, high school and college students. Dr. Billups spent over fifteen years ministering to youth at Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and has also participated in mission work in Central America and Africa. Dr. Billups explains her ideals of service as



Dr. Christie Billups
New Lewis Service Learning Coordinator

issues. Commenting on her new role as Service Learning Coordinator, Dr. Billups noted, "The academic possibilities in various departments and disciplines seem limitless, as some Lewis staff and faculty have already discovered. Working with colleagues to explore and facilitate more options is a welcome and energizing challenge." She also looks forward to partnering with area service agencies to serve real needs in the community as well as enrich our students' learning through experience and civic responsibility. Among other responsibilities, the Coordinator for Service Learning will assist faculty and staff, collaborate with student organizations and community agencies to promote and expand domestic and international service learning programs at Lewis which are in accordance with the University Mission. As Coordinator, Dr. Billups will also be responsible for assisting in the development of institutionalized policies such as assessment and collecting data relevant to accreditation and long-term planning.

based on the belief "that it is through service that we better understand our sense of purpose and connect with the human family and creation." At Lewis, Dr. Billups has taught a number of Theology courses, including Search for Faith, Christianity and World Religions, and Topics in Theology: Faith Behind Bars, and has assisted in the extensive revision of a Pastoral Ministry Track in the Theology Department. She has also been involved in the initiation of a Lewis Diversity Action Team to respond to campus

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ENGAGED AND SERVICE LEARNING COURSE GRANTS AVAILABLE TO FACULTY

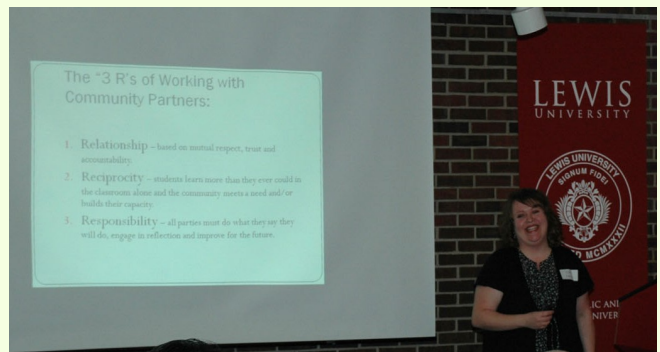
Lewis faculty who want to develop a new engaged or service learning course, or revise a previous course by adding an engaged and service learning component may apply for up to \$1000 in support funds.

The Lewis Collaboration for Applied Research and Engagement (LCARE) has received funding from the Association of American Colleges and Universities' Bringing Theory to Practice program to support Lewis faculty who would like to create an engaged or service learning course or course component to be offered in the 2010-2011 academic year. The grant is intended to encourage opportunities for Lewis faculty, students and community agencies to collaborate on educational experiences which serve the larger society. Faculty who plan to develop new engaged and service learning courses may apply for support funds of \$1000, and those interested in revising a course, or introducing a service learning course component, may apply for \$500. Bringing Theory to Practice specifically promotes educational programs which "foster the gains from the relationship between college students' civic development and their psychosocial well-being" and those which provide "opportunities for students to have transformative educational experiences" through engaged and service learning. Applications for funding are available on Blackboard through the Lewis Collaboration for Applied Research and Engagement (listed in "My Organizations" for faculty and staff), or from the grant administrator, Dr. Gail Gehrig.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 2, 2010.

OCTOBER ENGAGED LEARNING WORKSHOP PROVIDED LEWIS FACULTY AND STAFF WITH INSPIRATION, COMMUNITY CONTACTS, AND SERVICE LEARNING RESOURCES

Lewis University sponsored an Engaged Learning Workshop October 14, 2009 from 1-4PM in the University Dining Room. More than thirty-five Lewis faculty and administrators from departments across the university attended the workshop, which combined presentations from community speakers, hands-on activities and collaborative discussion. Keynote speakers included Dr. Patrick Greene, Director of the Center for Experiential Learning, Loyola University of Chicago, who collaborated with Dr. Anne Rapp, Lewis faculty member and Coordinator for Program Development for SPCE. Their presentation included a lively discussion of service learning pedagogy and its possible applications in courses from a variety of academic disciplines. Also speaking were the Co-Director of Chicago's Northwest Side Housing Center, Ms. Cathy Lazuka, and Lewis Computer Science professor, Dr. Ray Klump. Ms. Lazuka shared her own history as both a student volunteer and professional community activist, highlighting the



Cathy Lazuka, Co-Director of Chicago's Northwest Side Housing Center presenting

many opportunities which exist for students to learn while involved with community agencies. Dr. Klump profiled his successful service learning course for Software Engineering students who developed contact management system for the Housing Center, expanding their own professional skills while helping others. A copy of Dr. Klump's and Ms. Lazuka's presentation is available on Blackboard on the LCARE site.



LEWIS HOSTED ACCA SYMPOSIUM OFFERING SESSIONS ON SERVICE LEARNING PEDAGOGY

On October 17, 2009, the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA) Symposium on the Scholarship of Pedagogy held a one-day conference at Lewis University with three sessions devoted to the discussion of service learning and its impact on private colleges and universities. The Symposium attracted several hundred area scholars from fifteen local institutions to discuss issues relevant to private colleges and universities in the Chicago area. Service learning was a major topic of interest at the conference. The Symposium included three sessions focusing specifically on service learning. Service Learning I: Engagement, Frames and Assessment provided presentations on developing service learning courses, establishing community contacts for students, and enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes. Service Learning II: Cultural Competence included discussion of the role of service learning in the core curriculum, and models for international service learning courses. Service Learning III: Assessment, International Experiences and the Future discussed the mutual benefits of student community activism, and ways service learners might access community assets to assist in the success of their projects.



Student Symposium

Service learning was a major topic of interest at the conference.



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LCARE is a voluntary support structure for the advancement of service learning, civic engagement and applied community research at Lewis University. The purpose of the LCARE Newsletter is to feature information about events and activities relevant to engaged learning and to encourage participation among those interested in collaboration. Additional information is also posted on Blackboard for the Lewis Collaboration for Applied Research and Engagement.



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