

Service-Learning

VT Engage: Community Learning Collaborative

Action.Reflection.Knowledge

engage.vt.edu



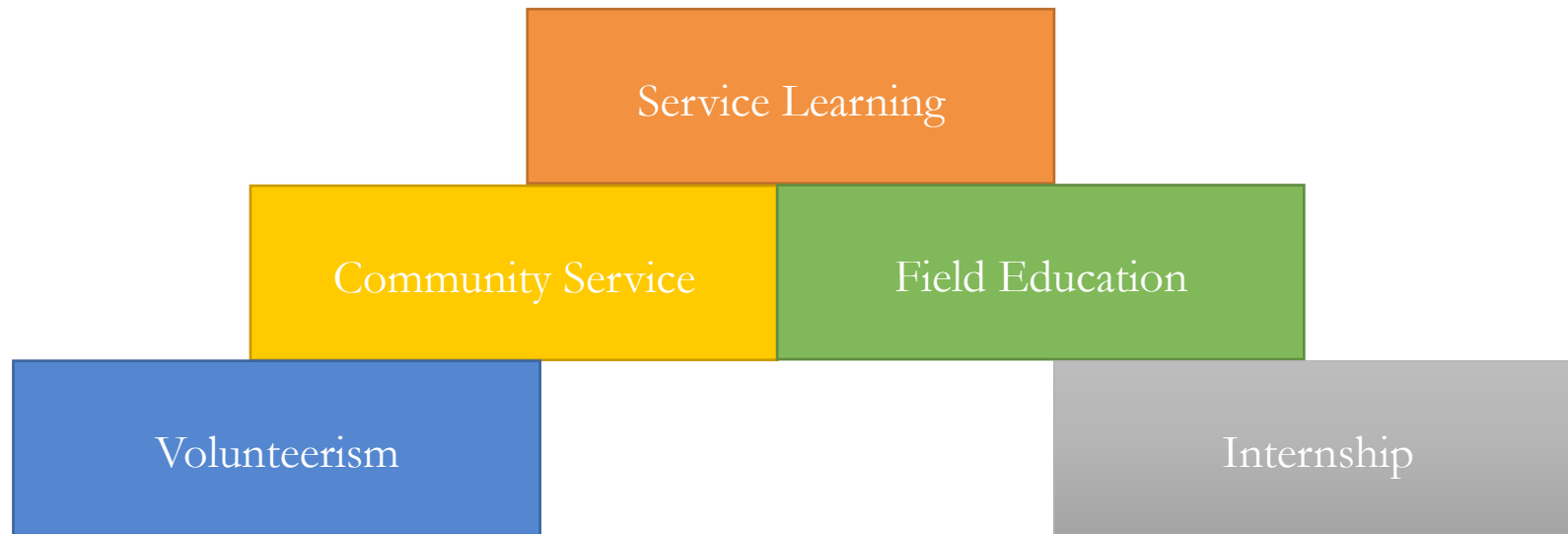
What is Service-Learning?

- A teaching and learning approach that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to
 - Enrich the learning experience
 - Teach civic responsibility
 - Strengthen communities

Source: National Commission on Service Learning, 2002



What is Service-Learning?



Graphic from Furco, Andrew. "Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experimental Education." 1996.

Service Learning – Approaches to Consider

Concepts

- Consistent engagement with project throughout course
- Project benefits the community and the student – “community-defined”
- Opportunities for reflection that consider different styles of expression.

Actions

- Students set an agreed regular schedule with sites. Journal entry after each engagement.
- Host an initial meeting with site representatives and/or tour of site.
- Small group discussions, poster creations, scrapbook of reflections, presentations to class.

Benefits for Faculty

- Values community-based knowledge
- Identify areas for research and publication
- Application of students' skills and development
- Opportunities to collaborate with community organizations – further own understandings.



Service-Learning at Virginia Tech

Examples of projects

- Community Nutrition Course - Small groups that adopt a partner focused on nutrition.
- Interpersonal Communication – Language and Culture Institute Conversation Partners
- Professionalism in Computer and Electrical Engineering – Assistance to robotics teams.
- Productivity and Quality Leadership – Students research a problem and propose a solution at the guidance of a community partner.

Excursions to Community Partners

Monthly visits to VT Engage community partners to showcase potential projects.

Next excursion:

- August 19th: NRV Home Consortium / Town of Blacksburg – discussion on affordable older adult housing and community development in the NRV.

How VT Engage can support faculty.

- Provides faculty support in the following ways.
 - Identification of community partners
 - Course design/syllabus consultation
 - Placement of students with projects (if needed)
 - Logistics (setting up orientations/resolving challenges/tracking outcomes/hours)
 - Reflection strategies/assistance with classroom discussion
 - Assistance with evaluating experience.
- Community partner network
 - Inclusive of local/regional/international opportunities.

What is Global Service-Learning

- Course-based form of experiential education in which students, faculty, staff, institutions
 - Collaborate with diverse community stakeholders on an organized service activity to address real social problems and issues in the community
 - Integrate classroom theory with active learning
 - Gain knowledge and skills related to the course content and advance civic, personal and social development
 - Immerse themselves in another culture, experience daily reality in the host culture and engage in dual exchange of ideas

Source: Bringle and Hatcher, 1995; Grusky, 2000; Kiely, 2005; University of Denver, 2006; University of Georgia, 2011

Why Global Service-Learning?

- Transformative impact
- Increases students'
 - Intercultural competence
 - Language skills
 - Appreciation for cultural difference
 - Tolerance for ambiguity
 - Experiential understanding of complex global problems
 - Profound changes in their world view: political, moral, intellectual, personal, spiritual, cultural
- “...not about accumulating more knowledge but seeing the world in a profoundly different way, one that calls for personal commitment and action.” (Kiely 2004)



Global SL.org

- Resource for international service-learning
 - Tools
 - Research
- [Ethical Service Video from Global SL](#)



Global Service-Learning: Initial Things to Consider

- Theme / Topic of interest
 - Women's Rights
 - Education
 - Environmental Conservation
- Location
 - Community Need & Interest
 - Partner Vetting
 - Staff – availability
 - Language
 - Project Accessibility
 - Transparency
- Cost



Global Service Learning: Initial Things to Consider

- Site Visit
 - Background of the Organization
 - Service Work – Needs of the community
 - Location – Safety & Accessibility
 - Facilities – Accommodations, Meals
 - Child Protection – if applicable
- Risk Management
 - VT Global Travel Policy
 - Approval at the Department level
 - Registration through Global Education Office



Types of Global Service-Learning Programs

- Course in-country
- Programs combining on-campus academic work before and after the International Service-Learning experience
- Co-Curricular programs, include structured reflection and learning
 - VT Engage programs



Overview: Global Service-Learning Programs

- Service work
 - Working with communities
 - Establishing long-term relationships
 - Community empowerment & capacity building
- Reciprocity & Respect of local traditions and culture
- Student Preparation & Reflection during / after the trip
 - Active citizenship



Thank you! / Questions

