CASLE Service-Learning Mini-Grant Workshop

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Overview

Introductions

CASLE Description

What is service-learning?

Mini-Grant Program
  ◦ Application, Funded Items

Alexis Gregory – Funded faculty member

Ryan Akers – SLAC Reviewer of Mini-Grants

Question and Answer
Center for the Advancement of Service-Learning Excellence (CASLE)

Partnership between the Extension Service and the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President

- Greater emphasis on our land-grant mission: Research, Teaching, and Service


Five focus areas
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Health Promotion and Nutrition
- Global Affairs
- Economic and Consumer Development
- Youth Development
What is Service-Learning?

SERVICE-LEARNING IS **NOT:**

- A one-time volunteer experience
- One-sided (only the student or the community benefits)
- Logging community service hours in order to graduate
- Service assigned as a form of punishment
- Add-on to other assignments
What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a pedagogy . . .

A method of teaching and learning linking meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to...

1. Meet the needs of a community organization
2. Enrich the learning experience and enhance student understanding of course material
3. To teach civic responsibility and critical thinking
4. Strengthen communities
What’s the difference between community service and service-learning?
Community Service Example

Students remove trash from an urban streambed.

Provides: Service to the community (volunteers).

◦ Valued, one-time service that helps a community and is important.
Service-Learning Example

Students remove trash from an urban streambed

◦ Analyze what they found
◦ Share the results with residents of the neighborhood along with suggestions for the future...like reducing pollution
◦ They continually, critically reflect on their experience
◦ They share their experience with others

◦ Then they are engaging in service-learning...
CASLE Service-Learning Mini-Grant Program

- **Purpose:** To directly support activities related to developing, implementing or expanding service-learning efforts for MSU students or 4-H youth.

- **Eligibility:** All Mississippi State University Faculty Members (full or part-time) AND all Extension Agents.

- **Requests:** Up to $500 for a service-learning course or project support.

- **Preferences:** Projects/Coursework that addresses critical community needs.

- **Funding Requirements:**
  - Must be spent by the end of the fiscal year
  - Cannot be spent on salaries (faculty or student)
  - Recipients must complete a mid-year and year-end project report documenting how the funds were spent.
Where can I find the CASLE Mini-Grant Application?

• Visit the CASLE Website and Click the Research Tab, then Click Funding Resources

http://servicelearning.msstate.edu/research/funding-resources/
What will be funded?

Including, but not limited to...

• **Travel** (to or from a community partner site)
  • This includes transportation rental (van, bus)

• **Software Purchases** (For use in a class or with a program)

• **Food** (within reason) – use this sparingly

• **Materials for a course/program** (e.g. apparel design requests funding for material)
What do I need to address in the application?

1. Context of the activity/project

2. Specific need this funding will help meet

3. Highlight the four guiding principles of service-learning
   ◦ Engagement
   ◦ Reflection
   ◦ Reciprocity
   ◦ Public Dissemination
Engagement

Does the service component meet a public good? How?

How have school-community boundaries been negotiated and how will they be crossed?

- Think about your course project/program. How will you negotiate this boundary?
Reflection

• Key component to service-learning

• Reflection encourages you to link your service experience to course content and to reflect upon why the work you are doing is important

• The hyphen in “service-learning” represents the connection made through reflection.
Reciprocity

“Reciprocity suggests that every individual, organization, and entity involved in service learning functions as both a teacher, and a learner. Participants are perceived as colleagues, not as servers and clients” (Heffernan, 2001).
Public Dissemination

Is service work presented to the public or made an opportunity for the community to enter into a public dialogue?

◦ For example: Do oral histories that students collect return to the community in some public form?

How is information made public? To whose advantage?
When is the mini-grant submission deadline?

• Grant Submission Deadline: Spring Semester – Contact us for more information

• Email mini-grant applications to:
  casle@servicelearning.msstate.edu
Alexis Gregory

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• 2014-2015 Service-Learning Mini-Grant Award Recipient for her proposal:
  • “Oxford-Lafayette Habitat for Humanity Project Proposal”
• ARC 4000: Directed Individual Study
**Dr. Ryan Akers**

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- Specialty: Emergency Management Programming

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Questions?