

Service-Learning Initiative Grants (up to \$8,000) fund multidisciplinary university/community teams for the development of service-learning courses and projects that address community goals.

The puppets engage in dialogue with the youth audience, providing an opportunity for questions they might not ask of “real people,” which should help deepen their knowledge of what it is like to be “different.”

Diversity Stage 2

Title: Pulling Our Own Strings: Puppets, Diversity, and Service-Learning in Partnership

Audience: students in Marion city schools

Partners: Daniel C. Christie (Psychology); Kaizaad Kotwal (Theatre); Anne Bower (English); Shawn Jackson (diversity coordinator, Marion City Schools, now at OSU Marion); Eva Dejoslvay-Brooks (OSU Marion student); Grant Middle School

Deepening the work of the 2004 Excellence in Engagement project in Marion, psychology, theater, and English faculty used a Service-Learning grant to continue promoting understanding of differences among Marion city school students while engaging OSU Marion students in service-learning. An independent study student in English interviewed participants to write newspaper articles about the project. With input from psychology students, theatre students helped middle schoolers create puppets and mount puppet shows that address diversity and conflict issues for their classmates and students at other schools. Puppetry enables the youth audience to distance themselves from the topics of difference and conflict, providing a safe place to ask questions they might not put to “real people.”

ripples

- The younger students will begin to dismantle some of their own prejudices and make discoveries about themselves and others.
- Students in the OSU Marion service-learning courses will gain insights into social structures, relationships between professional work and community, and volunteerism.

...harmony



One person who filled out the capacities inventory is now volunteering two Mondays per month at the Physicians Free Clinic reading stories to children in the waiting room.



learning to serve

Health and Wellness for Underserved Persons

Title: Helping Hands for Healthy Living: A Community Service-Learning Project

Audience: clients of the Physicians Free Clinic (PFC), a community health center in Columbus that serves medically uninsured or underinsured individuals

Partners: 45 second-year physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) graduate students, Anne Kloos (Physical Therapy), Sharon Flinn and Meg Teaford (Occupational Therapy), Kim Szucs (graduate teaching assistant in the OSU Health and Rehabilitation Doctoral Program), Physicians Free Clinic (an initiative of the Columbus Medical Association and Columbus Medical Association Foundation)

Working poor individuals have one or more jobs but are unable to afford health care. A Service-Learning grant engaged PT and OT students in helping this population while learning to work with each other in professional practice. A preservice training class oriented students to the roles of each profession and enabled them to practice in a state-of-the-art training center simulating actual patient care experiences. Student teams then served at the PFC, providing direct rehabilitation services, consultation, depression screening examinations, and referrals. In a unique aspect of this course, patients were given the opportunity for their own community service: Students helped them identify their talents and interests in a capacities inventory and connected them with community associations or volunteer services at the clinic.

ripples.

- The project has made a significant impact on improving the health, wellness, and quality of life for medically underserved individuals with musculoskeletal, neurological, and mental health problems. It also empowered clinic clients to recognize the value of what they have to give.
- Students reported that the course helped them to apply information that they learned in the classroom to clinical practice, improved their ability to work with people from different racial, ethnic, or cultural groups, enhanced their collaborative skills with other disciplines, and increased their awareness of the health care needs of the community.
- Harris, J. "Helping Hands for Healthy Living: Service Learning Comes to the Physicians Free Clinic," onCampus, December 8, 2005.
- Poster session, American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 2006.
- Poster session, World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Sydney, Australia, July 2006
- Paper to be presented at the Outreach Scholarship Conference, Columbus, OH, October 2006



**Special University Outreach and Engagement/
Service-Learning Initiative Grant**
This project was funded in Fall 2005 after Hurricane Katrina.

Seeing a Better Tomorrow on the Gulf Coast

Title: Rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Audience: citizens and government officials of Harrison County, Mississippi

Partners: Jennifer Evans-Cowley (City and Regional Planning); 12 graduate students from planning, architecture, and public policy; Harrison County, Mississippi; Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

It is hard to believe what Hurricane Katrina wrought in the Gulf Coast, and in the midst of the devastation, it may be harder to envision what could be. With a special University Outreach & Engagement and Service-Learning grant, city and regional planning students in a service-learning course have prepared community plans for rebuilding DeLisle and Saucier in Harrison County, Mississippi. Going beyond the drawing board, the team prepared monthly newsletters to communicate the progress of the planning process with the citizens of Harrison County and hosted two town hall meetings to share their plans. Residents were able to vote on their preferences for housing styles, setbacks, town centers, and other development options. These plans will help guide the long-term investment by the county in new infrastructure, public facilities, and land use change. Plans may be viewed at <http://www.co.harrison.ms.us/departments/zoning/downloads.asp>.

Photos: Ohio State students greet DeLisle residents at a town meeting; proposed design for Saucier's town center

vision



While many people are still focused on recovery, this planning process has helped people see how things can be better in the future.

ripples

- The project attracted a grant of \$266,741 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's new Universities Rebuilding America Partnership initiative to continue the efforts of this project over the next 2 years.
- Information about the service-learning course has appeared in the Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association newsletter, the Small Town and Rural Planning Division of APA Newsletter, and the Information Technology Division of APA Newsletter.
- This project will be presented at the November 2006 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference.
- Students on the project team, including Matt Hinkle, Amelia Costanzo, Justin Goodwin, and Nick Seivers, have received the 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Planning Award from the Economic Development Division of the American Planning Association.

Service-Learning grants were made possible by a Higher Education Grant from Learn and Serve America with the support of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

