



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY IN SERVICE-LEARNING

A QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

2009-2010 INFORMATION PACKET

The QEP Service-Learning Project is offering a Professional Learning Community on Service-Learning during fall 2009 and spring 2010 to a *limited number* of faculty members who are interested in developing service-learning pedagogy in either a new or existing course. No experience or knowledge of service-learning is required to participate in this PLC, as it will provide you with the fundamentals of academic service-learning and how to develop your course. The PLC is anticipated to run from November 5, 2009 through April 2010 and is expected to meet bi-monthly. Involvement will continue into the 2010-2011 academic year with teaching of the course(s) created and completion of the required QEP assessment components.

Service-Learning at EKU is defined as:

An experiential educational method in which students participate in an organized service activity meeting community needs and reflecting on the service activity in such a way as to develop critical thinking skills, and develop an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

Overview and Purpose of the Professional Learning Community:

During the Service-Learning PLC, faculty will use readings, discussions, and a variety of other materials to learn about or increase their knowledge of service-learning theory and pedagogy, critical and creative thinking, course development and syllabus design, college-community partnerships, and reflection. Though service-learning can take on different meanings at different institutions, the focus of this PLC will be on “academic” service-learning where the projects are tied directly into the student learning outcomes to enhance the academic content of the course being offered. This type of approach allows faculty to use service-learning as an instructional strategy and not an “extra” thing to do in class.

Financial Incentives for Participation in PLC:

- \$1000 award for **participants** to be paid upon completion of the PLC and all requirements (\$500 for PLC completion and \$500 when course is scheduled during the 2010-2011 academic year).
- \$500 award for **departments** to be paid during the semester in which the service-learning course is taught (2010-2011).
- Ability to apply for a limited funding pool for supplies, travel, expenses directly related to the service-learning project. **Funding is based upon availability and at the discretion of the Service-Learning Committee.**

Participant Expectations:

- Active participation is expected (tentatively 10 sessions over two semesters),
- Complete outside assignments and readings prior to each session,
- Develop a syllabus for a service-learning course, or revise a syllabus for an existing course to include a service-learning component,
- Submit your course through the “New Course Request” process to designate it as a service-learning course with the “S”-designation,
- Teach the service-learning course within the following academic year (2010-2011),
- Learn and complete the designated assessment plan that includes the assessment of student learning outcomes via Student Pre/Post tests, Faculty Surveys, Community Partner Surveys, and Student Surveys,
- Share experiences with the University community through a presentation at the TLC or other public forum as determined by the Service-Learning Committee.
- Continue, as possible, to teach the “S-designated” course beyond the 2010-11 year.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY IN SERVICE-LEARNING

2009-2010 INFORMATION PACKET

Departmental Expectations:

- Support faculty interest in service-learning by allowing time to attend PLC sessions
- Expedite curriculum process, when appropriate, to allow for meeting deadlines to obtain the “S” designation
- Schedule the “S” course for the 2010-2011 academic year to be taught by the trained faculty member

Selection Criteria (No particular order):

- Enthusiasm in increasing the critical/creative thinking capacity of students through service-learning pedagogy
- Potential for broad impact (evidence that significant number of students will take the class)
- Potential for sustainability past the award year
 - Evidence that the course will be taught regularly
 - Evidence that the course can sustain with little to no funding beyond the first time

Tentative Schedule:

All meetings will take place on Thursday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. unless otherwise noted in the Kennamer Room/Powell.

November 5 th	January 21 st
November 19 th	February 4 th
*Friday, December 4 th (12-3 p.m.)	February 18 th
December 17 th	March 4 th
January 7 th	March 18 th

To apply for this Professional Learning Community, obtain the Service-Learning PLC Application at www.servicelarning.eku.edu and return it to Deanna Hensley Kasitz, Service-Learning Coordinator, McCreary 113 or via email to Deanna.Kasitz@eku.edu by Wednesday, October 21st, 2009. Notifications will be made no later than October 30th, 2009 of acceptance.