Engaging in Service Learning

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Not-So-New Faculty Lunch Discussion
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Background courtesy of : https://iarslceproceedings.wikispaces.com/Service+learning+as+role+expansion-+Using+role+theory+to+understand+service+learning
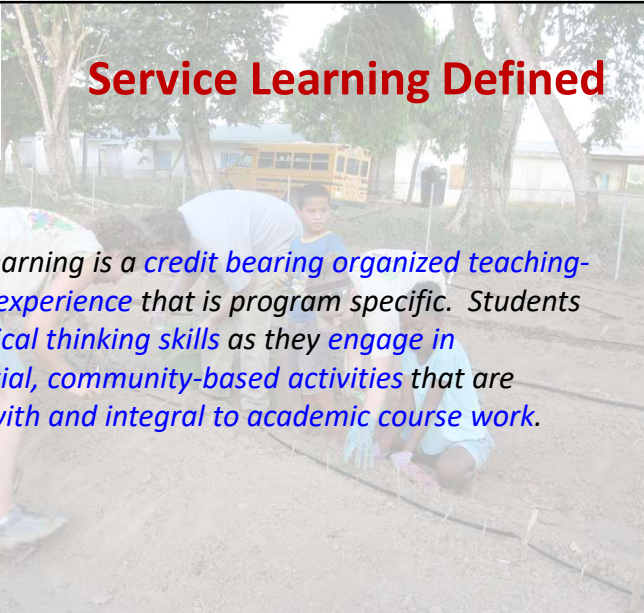
My Purpose Today

- Explain Service Learning (SL)– as defined at UA

- Discuss how to get started

- Suggest some resources for help

Service Learning Defined

Service learning is a credit bearing organized teaching-learning experience that is program specific. Students build critical thinking skills as they engage in experiential, community-based activities that are aligned with and integral to academic course work.

Service Learning Criteria

1. Addresses a community need through formal collaborations with program-identified appropriate partners

2. Supports attainment of one or more course objectives

3. Demonstrates clear connection between service activity and course content

4. Involves reciprocity between course and community

5. Involves structured reflection

6. Requires a program specified minimum hour requirement for service

7. Involves training for students before working with partners

Service Learning Benefits

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- To Students Who **Provide** SL projects:
  – Real world experience
  – Hands-on practice in their fields of study
  – Increased sense of community engagement (locally or abroad)
  – References for future job applications
  – SKILLS!!!!
    • Problem solving
    • Communication
    • Leadership
    • Responsibility
    • Teamwork
    • Specific subject matter/discipline related

**Presidential Honor Roll Award Recipient
Corporation for National &
Community Service**

Service Learning Benefits

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- To Community Members Who **Are Recipients of** SL projects:
  – Individuals, Agencies, Businesses
  – Access to services/ assistance to fulfill needs that may have gone unmet otherwise
- Common types of Community Members served by UA classes:
  – Children/students
  – Individuals undergoing medical care
  – Non-native English speakers
  – Nonprofits
  – Businesses
  – UA Campus

Service Learning Benefits

- To Faculty/Instructors:
  - Strengthened connections with students and community partners
  - Resume builders (awards/raises/promotions depending on position)
  - Opportunities for research and publishing

- To Partners:
  - Utilize students as sources for solving problems, meeting real needs
  - Form lasting collaborations that provide tangible outputs

So How Do I Get Started?

STARTING A SERVICE
LEARNING COURSE

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Completing the Puzzle

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- Developing a SL Experience is like completing a jigsaw puzzle:

  Bringing all the right pieces together and arranging them in the right manner, can reveal a wondrous sight/experience for all beholders.

Who can help: Jennie, Angela and Febri

Timing

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- When do I need to have my course ready?
  - Starting a new SL activity can take 6-12 months to prepare!
  - Underestimating this preparation time is a recipe for disaster!

Who can help: Jennie and Febri

Learning Objectives

- How many learning objectives can be integrated into a SL experience?
  - 1 to 3 objectives is plenty!
  - Learning objectives must be mapped to experience
    - If no map, then no match (not service learning)

Who can help: Jennie

Potential Partners

- A Potential Partner is one whose:
  - Current needs match your learning objectives
  - Additional criteria (orientation, background checks, liability insurance, travel, additional training) can be met reasonably (in terms of $$ and time)
  - Timeline works within the bounds of your course
  - Staff can assist in student evaluation (and maybe reflection) as desired

Who can help: Angela

Financial Costs

- Are there additional costs associated with this experience?
  - Background checks
  - Drug/alcohol checks
  - Liability insurance
  - Travel costs
  - Travel insurance
  - Supplies
  - Association memberships

Who can help: Febri

Reflection

The Experiential Learning Cycle

- Reflection
  - What?
    - Report facts
  - So What?
    - Analyze the experience
  - Now What?
    - Consider the future impact on self and the community

The most effective SL experiences are those that provide structured opportunities for students to reflect upon their service experience.

http://www.servicelearning.umn.edu/info/reflection.html

Assessment:
The Final Piece

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- Collect evaluations from students and partners in order to assess
  – Were learning objectives met?
  – Were community needs met?
  – Should project continue?

- Pre, midpoint, and post surveys can be used for a more complete approach than just post surveys
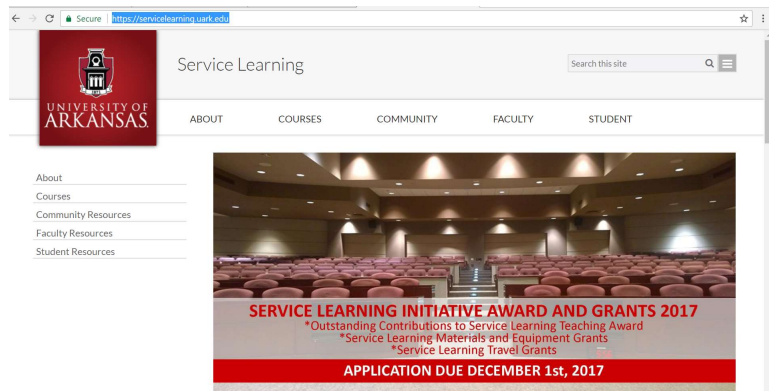
Who can help: Jennie and Febri

Where Do I Get Help?

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Resources

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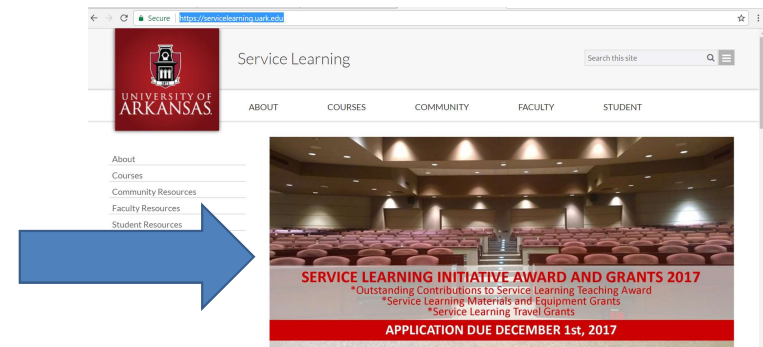
Service Learning Website
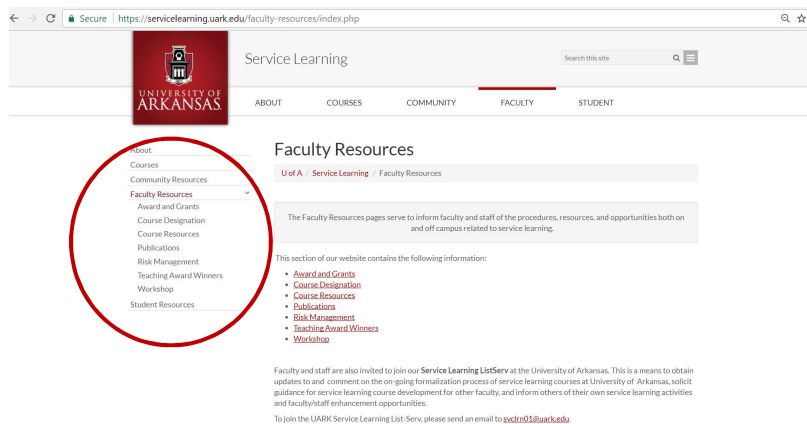
- www.servicelearning.uark.edu

Service Learning Grants

- Due Dec 1
- $1,500 for materials or domestic travel

Faculty Resource Page

- Course development and publishing resources

Service Learning Worshop

- **Purpose:**
  - To identify and work with community partner(s) on the development of SL experience for course

- **Timing**
  - 8:00am-1:00pm
  - February 20, March 27 or March 28
  - Help us choose date!

Connect With Us

- **Join SL list serv**
  - Sign up sheet today

- **Fill out Qualtrics survey on workshop**
  - https://uark.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50SkLT0lncssAmh

- **Follow us on social media**
  - Facebook: University of Arkansas Service Learning
  - Twitter: uarksl
  - Instagram: uarksl

Service Learning Team

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Thank You!

Questions?

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