

Seton Hall Experiential Learning and Leadership through Service (SHELLS)

Request for Proposals – 2009-2010

Deadline for submission: September 10, 2009

Overview

The Center for Community Research and Engagement (CCRE) is pleased to announce the availability of stipends for curricular development in the area of service learning. To support sustainability, awards are contingent on course development over two years. Stipends of \$1,000 during the first year will be awarded to full-time faculty on the South Orange campus to develop courses which will integrate service-learning as a teaching methodology in content-based courses either currently offered or proposed. Stipends are available for courses that will begin in the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters.

What is Service Learning?

Service Learning is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together *with* structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development. Reflection and reciprocity are key concepts of service-learning. (Jacoby, 1996)

The activities of students in the field are purposefully developed and assigned to assist the instructor in achieving the course goals and objectives. Service-learning enhances the content of the course through comparison of real world experiences with theoretic ideas and concepts. Reflection provides students with the opportunity to think about their experiences, drawing connections between their service and course objectives. Service learning is also a reciprocal activity between the student and the community served. Service activities are developed together with members of the community to be served and reflect the needs identified by that community. Finally, service learning strengthens both the instruction and content of the courses in which it is employed. It serves as a powerful pedagogy illuminating concepts and ideas which may have previously eluded the grasp of students, while at the same time providing an avenue through which students and faculty can continually refine and revise these concepts and ideas as dictated by the reality of these shared experiences. Service learning is a value-oriented approach to learning that invites students to explore their vocation through service

Criteria

The Center for Community Research and Engagement encourages proposals from all full-time faculty who wish to integrate service learning activities into the academic curriculum. The service learning component must be a significant portion of the proposed coursework. If the service project is optional, 40% or 8 students (whichever is greater) must participate; and students must spend at least 20 hours on the service-based assignment.

Faculty will be encouraged to utilize proposals for student assistance that have been submitted to the Center by local nonprofit organizations. In the past proposals have included designing marketing

campaigns, website redesign, literature review and research, direct service/implementing a program, needs assessments and surveys, among other nonprofit management topics.

Proposals should show how applicants intend to:

- Increase their knowledge of, or become familiar with the theory and practice of community service learning,
- Integrate service into the course, identifying the types of service which might be utilized, drawing connection between the service and relevant course content and texts,
- Work with the Center for Community Research and Engagement, and other campus based programs such as the Community Renaissance Project, DOVE, and Student Affairs, in developing appropriate service activities for students in the communities adjacent to the South Orange campus,
- Structure opportunities for student reflection as a component of the student's learning experience through journals and papers,
- Evaluate, assess and grade student performance.

Process

Proposals must be submitted by **September 10, 2009**. Please include the following with your proposal:

1. A two-page description of the course, including a discussion of how service might be integrated into the curriculum. The criteria outlined above should be addressed in this section.
2. An emailed copy of the proposed syllabus.
3. A letter of support from the department chair indicating the willingness of the department to accept the course with a service learning component.
4. An emailed curriculum vitae of the proposing faculty member.

All faculty receiving stipends must attend a training session. Faculty grantees will also be required to submit a report at the end of their course.

About the Center

The Center for Community Research and Engagement, formerly the Institute for Service Learning, was established in 1997 to support the activities of Seton Hall University, as it implements service learning on campus. The mission of the Center is to develop partnerships that integrate Seton Hall University faculty, students, and our neighboring communities through applied research, active learning, and action projects, aimed at enhancing both the learning environment and community capacity.

Designed to introduce students to the complexity of social issues and community decision making, students participate both in class and on-site on projects in volunteerism, community development, and nonprofit management. Service learning affords the student the opportunity to explore the causes of community problems, to clarify her or his values, to consider social service as a career choice, and to become a more informed citizen and decision maker.

To assist in the achievement of these goals, the Center will develop and implement seminars to introduce faculty to the theory and practice of service learning, work with faculty in graduate and undergraduate departments as they develop courses that involve service learning, facilitate collaboration among professors and staff at both graduate and undergraduate levels to enhance volunteerism in the community and work with community leaders in Essex County and beyond to establish service learning and nonprofit management relationships.

Proposal Preparation and Support

CCRE staff are prepared to assist with the preparation and support of proposals. Please contact Saul Petersen, CCRE Director at (973) 275-5882 or saul.petersen@shu.edu with any questions you may have.

Please submit completed proposals by **September 10, 2009** to:

Saul Petersen, Center for Community Research and Engagement, saul.petersen@shu.edu

Center for Community Research and Engagement

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COVER SHEET

Date: _____

Name: _____

Department: _____

Course Number: _____

Course Title: _____

Semester Course will be offered: _____

Project Summary:

Please return to: Saul Petersen, Director
 Center for Community Research and Engagement
 Department of Political Science
 Jubilee Hall 513, saul.petersen@shu.edu
 Due: September 10, 2009