

## Definition of Service-Learning

Norwich University defines service-learning as the *incorporation of service into the curriculum*.

Norwich recognizes that service-learning must include:

- Explicit connections between the service and course objectives. (Course credit is given for learning, not service.)
- Students engaged in activities which meet real community needs and/or goals.
- Structured opportunities for students to critically reflect on their experience.
- Genuine, active, and sustained organizational commitment on the parts of the college and the community.
- Necessary training, supervision, monitoring, support, recognition, and evaluation to meet service and learning goals.

Created by the Service-Learning Initiatives Committee (SLIC) at Norwich University, 2003.

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### Norwich University

Michelle Barber  
Service-Learning Coordinator  
Norwich University  
Northfield, VT 05663  
(802) 485-2889  
mbarber@norwich.edu

## Norwich University Service-Learning Program



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*The vision of the Service-Learning Program is to create a campus environment in which service-learning is a fundamental component of the Norwich educational experience – it being the thread that connects academic, student, and community life.*

## *Service-Learning students develop:*

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- The ability to apply material learned in class to current, real-life problems
- Tolerance of diversity and reduced stereotypes
- Greater self-knowledge
- Ability to work with others
- Leadership skills
- Connectedness to a community
- Closer ties to other students and the faculty member
- Motivation to learn and increased reported learning
- An understanding of the complexity of social issues.

Janet Eyler and Dwight E. Giles. *Where's the Learning in Service-Learning?* (San Francisco: Jossey-Boss, 1999).



Above: John Stevens, Civil Engineering, Sue Yosalonia, Physical Education, Diane Byrne, Teacher Education, and Rowly Brucken, History, discuss the connections between service-learning and their scholarship at an '06/'07 NUSL workshop.

Cover photo: French Professor Frances Chevalier working with community members while her students teach French lessons at the Crown Point Historical Society's Festival of Nations.

## *Resources available for faculty*

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The Service-Learning Program has these resources available for your use:

- Faculty Consulting Corps—faculty trained and experienced in SL are available to consult with colleagues, departments, or Schools.
- SL Scholars—students trained in SL are available to meet with your classes, assist with community partnerships, and/or give a student perspective of the pedagogy.
- Service-Learning Educational Sequence (SLES)—fall educational workshops.
- Brown-Bag Lunch Series—spring, informal gatherings for networking and idea sharing.
- Faculty Grants—grants can support SL projects, attendance at workshops or conferences, transportation, community partnerships, and faculty awareness.
- Liaison Program—shared work-study positions that can assist in the logistical needs of Schools active in SL.

## *Service-Learning and your courses*

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Learning can be derived from service within any discipline, it just takes creativity and community partnerships. At Norwich, the Service-Learning Program is charged with creating resources for faculty members, matching course concepts with community agency needs, and assisting with the process of implementing the pedagogy.

The Service-Learning Coordinator and other trained staff can assist with any stage in the process. For example, with you, we can:

- Discuss ideas, learning objectives, and general SL information.
- Identify a community need and connect it with the learning objectives of your course.
- Incorporate service-learning into your syllabus.
- Plan on-going reflection activities.
- Determine the appropriate means of assessing student learning outcomes.
- Publicize your efforts and projects.

We can also connect you with any of the resources to the left, in addition to statewide and national opportunities.