



DAVIDSON COLLEGE CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Resources for Faculty

Community-based learning or service learning is an experiential pedagogy that combines direct service with course learning goals to meet a community-defined need. In partnership with public and nonprofit organizations, the Center for Civic Engagement connects students, faculty and staff with opportunities to build community capacity and impact positive community driven change. The following are resources that the Center provides for faculty who wish to integrate community-based learning into their curricula and scholarship.

Course Development

Professionals in the Center can identify community partners and projects that are consistent with the learning outcomes of a particular course, offer examples of community-based courses from particular disciplines and provide resources for course logistics such as assessment and learning outcomes.

Grants for Curriculum Development, Programming & Projects

Grants offered through the Center provide faculty support to integrate community-based learning components into their courses and other academic community work. Grants range up to \$3,500 and can support a faculty member's time developing a course (up to \$1500), costs associated with community-based course projects, a student working with a faculty member on a summer project, a speaker that focuses on social change work or professional development opportunities. Letters of application are accepted on a rolling basis until funding is exhausted. Guidelines for letters of application are posted on the Center's Web site.

Professional Development Opportunities

The Center offers professional development opportunities for faculty including lunchtime discussions, workshops and institutes. Some events are exclusively for faculty and others bring together nonprofit partners, students, faculty and community members. The following are scheduled events for the 16-17 year:

- September 22nd - Tentatively 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon - *Collaborative Strategies for Community Transformation* featuring Tom Bassford, Founder and Director of Significant Matters
- January 12th - *Community Innovation Institute* - a daylong event with speakers and breakout sessions to advance community change work and promote collaboration. In addition to workshops, funding opportunities exclusively for institute participants will be shared.

Semi-annual Community-based Learning Poster Session

Each semester, the Center hosts the Community-based Learning Poster Session where students and faculty showcase their community-based scholarship. The Fall poster session will be held on November 15th and the Spring session will be held on April 11th during the common hour in the Lilly Family Gallery.

For more information, contact:

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Useful Definitions

Civic Engagement—“Acting upon a heightened sense of responsibility to one’s communities. This includes a wide range of activities, including developing civic sensitivity, participation in building civil society, and benefitting the common good.” (Coalition for Civic Engagement and Leadership, 2005)

Community-based or service learning— “Service learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service [assignment] which meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broad appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.” (Bringle & Hatcher, 1995)

The Scholarship of Engagement—“The National Review Board considers the Scholarship of Engagement as a term that captures scholarship in the areas of teaching, research, and/or service. It engages faculty in academically relevant work that simultaneously meets campus mission and goals as well as community needs. In essence, it is a scholarly agenda that integrates community issues. In this definition community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the campus that are part of a collaborative process to contribute to the public good.” (<http://www.scholarshipofengagement.org/about/FAQs.html>).

Statistics At-a-Glance from 2015-16 Academic Year

- Approximately 90% of Davidson students participated in some type of community work.
- Partnered with over 206 public or nonprofit community organizations.
- Offered 19 Community-based Learning courses.
- Supported 52 immersive summer experiences through Center sponsored programs including Education Scholars, Freedom Schools, Nonprofit Leadership / Cook Family Fellows, Bonner Scholars and granting programs.
- Awarded \$40,491 in grants to 19 internship, service, or community-based learning projects.
- Supported 29 student organizations that focus on direct service, social justice or advocacy.
- For the 8th year in a row, Davidson College was recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service with the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll distinction.