

# Service Learning

## Adds Depth & Increases Engagement

Use service learning in your course to help students gain perspective. As an instructor, you strive to encourage students to learn, strengthen their understanding by adding depth to their knowledge, and give them real world experience through service learning. Service learning is another facet of active learning. Ask students to apply what you teach.

### WHY USE IT IN YOUR COURSE?

Service learning is a well tested method. UAF's mission stresses service by including the terms *public service* and *active citizenship*.<sup>1</sup> Service or experiential learning allows your students to practice their understanding.

Can service learning be used in online courses? Sue McGorry researched this with two Marketing courses; results suggest there is no significant difference between deploying service activities in a face to face modality versus an online environment.<sup>2</sup> I've come across multiple faculty using service learning since considering how to use it in CITS F222, my online Web Design course.<sup>3</sup>

"[students] are helping out as a classroom volunteer...they plan and implement a lesson with a small group of students under the supervision of the mentor teacher."

Joanne Healy Ph.D., UAF EDSE courses

### EXAMPLES

- Laura Conner has students in her Communicating Science course practice what they are learning by teaching science in a community setting.
- Sarah Frick is having students add closed captioning to videos for a legal studies class. Online students use YouTube for this; they learn video and metadata concepts while making materials more accessible to students from another course.

"My students are excited to help other students."

Sarah Frick, Professor for UAA Guidance  
150: First Year Experience Course

- Joanne Healy routinely has undergraduate and graduate students working in K-12 classrooms. They learn valuable skills by observing students and teachers together.

For more Teaching Tips: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/tt-archive>  
Contact us at: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/iteachu-contact>

### INTEGRATING SERVICE LEARNING

Look to your fellow instructors as well as entities like the CNSM Office of Education and Public Outreach who include "training undergraduates and graduate students in science education and outreach practices" and "to provide opportunities for, and assistance with, faculty outreach efforts" as part of their goals.<sup>4</sup>

Break up the process over four stages to integrate service learning into a course:

- 1 **PREPARE** - Make sure service learning project aligns with the course goals listed in the syllabus; integrate the project into the course content.
- 2 **IMPLEMENT** - Provide philosophical and pedagogical support for learning objectives and outcomes prior to and during student experience.
- 3 **REFLECT** - Learning and performance is measured by students and instructors.
- 4 **DEMONSTRATE/CELEBRATE** - Students show their work and instructors share with their peers.<sup>5</sup>

Have students reflect on the process; clearly communicate your reasons for using service learning. Be creative in your teaching practices—your students will remember these types of activities for decades!

### RESOURCES

- (1) UAF Mission and background: <http://www.uaf.edu/uaf/about/mission/> and <http://www.uaf.edu/uaf/about/mission/background/>
- (2) McGorry, S.Y. (2012) No Significant Difference in Service Learning Online. Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks, 16(4), 45-54. <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ982681.pdf>
- (3) CITS F222 Web Design project description: <http://cits222.community.uaf.edu/path2014/>
- (4) CNSM Office of Education and Public Outreach <http://www.uaf.edu/cnsm-outreach/>
- (5) A Checklist for Implementing Service-Learning in Higher Education <http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/slchecklist>



photo by Don Peterson