center for service-learning

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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Winter 2010 Newsletter

WWU students read to children in honor of Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Read-In took place on Monday, January 18. Sponsored by the Center for Service-Learning, Village Books, and the AS Bookstore, the event gave twenty Western students the opportunity to honor the principles of Dr. King by reading multicultural and social justice books to children. Approximately 80 children and their families attended the Read-In. Before the Read-In began, Dr. Karen Hoelscher, Professor of Elementary Education, led a fun and interactive workshop for students and community members on how to help children make personal connections with the content of the books they read.

Books were also available for donation to three local non-profit organizations: Blue Skies for Children, Agape Home, and Dorothy Place. Thanks to generous donors, a total of 33 books were collected.

Upcoming event: The *Western Region Campus Compact Consortium* invites faculty and community members involved in service-learning to attend their 13th Annual Continuums of Service Conference 3/31- 4/2. Details can be found here.

What's new at the Center for Service-Learning…

Another quarter is in full swing at the Center for Service-Learning (CSL) where you will find many exciting changes. We have new staff, a new international program, a new website, and a new strategic plan. Our core mission remains the same as we continue to provide more services: ***to connect campus and community resources to create diverse learning experiences that serve community needs.*** We invite you to take a minute to read about what is new at the CSL. Don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to work together. We are always looking for new and innovative collaborations.

Cheers,

Tim Costello, Director

Over 770 students are participating in 30 service-learning courses this quarter!

Western students have the opportunity to address local community needs while learning more about the content of their courses in an experiential setting. Service-learning offers students the opportunity to bring their intellectual curiosity into the community and explore its richness and diversity, examine social justice issues, and make a contribution to the community where they live.

See the list of the 2010 winter quarter service-learning courses. Contact Alex if you would like to have a course you are teaching included, or if you would like assistance coordinating a spring quarter service-learning course.

The CSL was recently awarded a grant from Washington Campus Compact for 2010-2011, which provides the CSL with a full time AmeriCorps*VISTA staff position.

New Staff at the CSL

CSL welcomes two new staff members this year!

Alex Allyne (right) is the new Service Learning Program Coordinator, and is responsible for coordinating courses and service projects with faculty and community partner organizations.

Beth Parker is the new volunteer VISTA Project Coordinator, and is responsible for expanding service-learning opportunities for first-year students.

The Center for Service-Learning has a new website! Check it out at:

www.wwu.edu/depts/csl

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Summer 2010: WWU students will travel to Kenya with Faculty for International Service-Learning

In 2007 the CSL began planning an international service-learning program to meet growing student and faculty interest in international education. After years of partnership building and needs assessment, we are ready to take 10 -12 Western students to Kenya this summer. Students will learn from local experts and WWU faculty about the culture, politics, and issues facing rural Kenya, while engaging in meaningful service projects that may include developing and sustaining income generating activities, service-learning projects in the schools, and energy, health and water projects.

The CSL's collaboration with these sites is made possible by a partnership with Slum Doctor Programme, a local non-profit that has been partnering with community-based organizations in Kenya since 2000. The CSL has been privileged to work with a wonderful group of faculty who have participated in all stages of the planning process and who will lead the trip to Kenya this summer, along with the CSL Director Tim Costello. Our International Faculty Fellows include Kristi Tyran, Business Management; Marie Eaton, Fairhaven College; Liz Mogford, Sociology; and Shearlean Duke, Journalism.

New Strategic Plan for the Center

The Center conducted a strategic planning initiative in Spring 2009 to create a framework for maximizing service-learning at Western in FY 2009/2011, and to assist WWU in achieving its core academic mission of high quality teaching and learning. We invite you to read the plan and share your thoughts and feedback, or ways you'd like to join our efforts.

Thank you to the CSL Strategic Planning Task Force:

Steven Vanderstaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Angela Harwood, Secondary Education
Cyndie Shepard, Director, *Compass to Campus*
Joyce Hammond, Anthropology
Kathleen Saunders, Anthropology
Anna Carey, Director, New Student Services/Family Outreach
John Korsmo, Human Services
Kristi Slette, Human Services
Jennifer Keller, Journalism
Jennifer Dorr, Executive Director, Washington Campus Compact
Elizabeth Jennings, Executive Director, Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Comm.
Tim Costello, Director, Center for Service-Learning
Kelly Barefield, Special Education student/Woodring College

Rex Dudley, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington, with service-learning students from Dr. Mary Sass's MGMT 413 course.

Community Partner Highlight:
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington

BBBSNW has experienced tremendous growth since Rex Dudley joined the staff as CEO in 2007. They have expanded from 3 full time and 4 part time staff to 11 FTE staff members, and have grown to 418 mentoring relationships matched in 2009, almost doubling the size of the program in the past two years.

BBBSNW has hosted many different service-learning courses, and are currently working with students from COMM 224 and 416, and MGMT 413. Management students have been working to research and analyze the possibility of BBBSNW serving new populations in the region. The data they have provided and analysis they have done was vital to a business decision made by the board to expand, as funds allow, to serve at-risk children who need and want an adult mentor in Skagit County.