“Make a Difference Now” Expo Scheduled for September 9 at CSCC

The Department of Service-Learning at Cleveland State Community College and TENNder CARE will be co-sponsoring a Community, Health, and Safety Volunteer Expo on Thursday, September 9 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m in the George L. Mathis Student Center on Cleveland State’s campus.

The theme of this event, “Make a Difference Now,” centers around Cleveland State’s desire to give students the opportunity to become civically engaged in their community by learning more about various agencies in the surrounding areas and finding out how they can become involved. This expo allows students, faculty, and community participants to browse and interact with community agencies on an informal basis.

For more information on the Department of Service-Learning at CSCC, visit the website at www.clevelandstatecc.edu/service_learning.

How Do I Add A Service-Learning Activity To My Course?

At Cleveland State, service-learning isn’t just the future, it is the present. Many full-time and adjunct faculty members are taking the lead in this new wave of civic engagement. Students are not only gaining knowledge of course material through service-learning, they are increasing self-esteem, understanding about their community, and gaining awareness of how they can make a difference. If you would like to join the movement to create a diverse and innovative learning experience that will extend from the classroom to the community, or if you are a student who is looking for opportunities to serve, please contact us.

Tunes 4 Troops Packing Party–participants included students from Cleveland State, Lee University, and Tennessee Tech along with Kaylee Radzynski, founder of Tunes 4 Troops.

“We can all make a difference if we just give a little of ourselves. The question I have been asking myself after this experience is why did I wait so long to volunteer?”

–Heidi
Service-Learning Student

“Make a Difference Now” Through Cleveland State Service-Learning Programs

Fall 2010

Service-Learning Faculty Consultants
Susan Webb-Curtis, (423) 614-8718
Debbie Felton, (423) 473-2386
Visit our webpage for more information:
http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu/service_learning/

At our Service-Learning website, you will find community agencies looking for student volunteers and faculty partners, as well as forms, sample syllabi, and other resources to help you with your service-learning activity. Also check out “101 Ideas for Service-Learning Projects” at www.2.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/ideas.html

Computer Aided Design

The Spring 2010 semester has come and gone, but the impact of Chuck Barkley’s “CAD Projects” class still remains with his students. Chuck gave his “CAD Projects” students the opportunity to serve a local company. These students worked on projects that involved mapping coordinates for the Cleveland Greenway, surveying massive areas of land, and inspecting buildings to see if they were up to code – to name a few.

Chuck hosted a Reflection Session for the students and the companies that they assisted at the end of the semester. The companies were clearly happy to have had students to assist in their projects, but the students were the real winners with service-learning. Each student seemed more confident with their abilities, had a better understanding of their field of study, and had gained valuable experience to add to their resume.

“It doesn’t matter how big or small of a job you volunteer your time for...everything counts and helps at least a little bit! Choose to make a difference!”

–Heather
Service-Learning Student
Dr. Seuss Day: A Community Service Success

On March 6th, 2010, Cleveland State celebrated its 7th annual Dr. Seuss Day. Dr. Seuss Day is sponsored by the Early Childhood Education division. This is a fabulous festival of reading, music, children’s games, face painting, egg decorating, hat making, and the list goes on and on! The first year, there were 50 participants. This year, Dr. Seuss Day had 750 in attendance.

This event is offered to promote literacy in young children. We are proud of Suzanne Wood, the Early Childhood Education division, and all of the faculty and volunteers that pull off this extravagant event each year. Thank you for making a difference!

New History Service-Learning Course to be Offered Fall 2010

Bryan Reed and Sarah Copeland have collaborated to form a new Service-Learning History course. This class will prepare students to work with digital archiving. Students will go to public libraries in the surrounding area and use the skills taught in this class to digitally archive historic documents.

This is an amazing opportunity for students to actually see photos and documents of our local history. Also, these documents will be available online for other citizens to view. Kudos to Bryan and Sarah for implementing such a creative Service-Learning course! Students can sign up for this new class beginning Fall 2010.

Adjunct Faculty Joining in on the Service-Learning Movement!

Karen Rutledge teaches “Principles of Nutrition” at Cleveland State. She is no stranger to service as she offers extra credit for her students who participate in a food drive each semester. To take this service to the next level, Karen is incorporating several new service-learning activities that connect with the curriculum that she teaches. From raising awareness with art and newsletters to managing statistical information about the nutritional content of foods collected from her food drive, students will be given several avenues to approach service-learning.

“These options will allow each student to use their own talent or gift to participate in service-learning,” states Karen. “Principles of Nutrition” is offered in both the fall and spring semesters. All food donations are given to The Caring Place.

In addition to her service projects, Debbie Felton has been encouraging her peers to participate in One Million Acts of Kindness. This movement is a goal for each person to perform one million acts of kindness in their lifetime. This past summer, Debbie Felton incorporated this idea into her Learning Strategies class by bringing in our AmeriCorps*VISTA to speak to her class to encourage participation in service opportunities.

Tunes4Troops was created by Kaylee Radzyminski, a Cleveland area native. Tunes4Troops has sent over 12 million dollars in CDs, DVDs, and other types of media to troops stationed overseas. Students from Debbie Felton’s Learning Strategies class went to the “packing party” on June 19th at Cleveland High School to assist Tunes4Troops.

Thank you, Debbie Felton, for seizing every opportunity to commit acts of kindness! Debbie was named the CSCC 2010 Service-Learning Champion.

And the Service-Learning Goes On!

Patti Hunt, CSCC adjunct faculty member, was recruited by Associate Professor Ann Cunningham to teach the evening Office Procedures class Spring 2010. For the past two spring semesters, Ann has incorporated a service-learning project to this course with students working all semester to plan and coordinate a job search seminar for local high school students. Ann assisted Patti Hunt in adding the same component to the evening course. The evening seminar, titled “L.I.F.E – Learning Information For Employment”, was open to the public. Both Ann and Patti had successful seminars!

True Commitment to Service

This year, Debbie Felton has been one of the faculty at the forefront of making a difference at CSCC. Debbie coordinated Days of Service for faculty and staff in the Spring 2010 semester. During Days of Service, faculty, staff, and students served Taylor Elementary School and Vonore Middle School, two of Cleveland State’s BEST partners. Debbie also took the lead by contacting Gary McDonald with the Civilian Club and coordinating volunteers from CSCC to serve at the 2010 Special Olympics in Cleveland, Tennessee. This event had over 900 participants.

“Volunteering was so phenomenal. This experience of helping others just does something good for your heart.”

–Kristy
Business Management Student

Heidi Helm, Business Management Student

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