

# **Service Learning**

linking service to learning

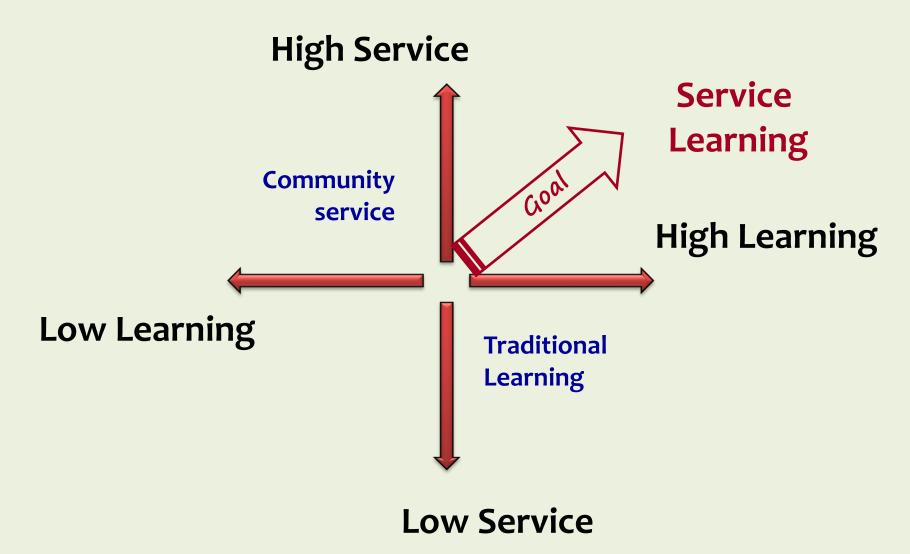
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### Service-learning is not ...

- An episodic volunteer program;
- An add-on to an existing school or college curriculum;
- Completing minimum service hours for school's need;
- Service assigned as a form of punishment;
- Only for high school or college students;
- One-sided: benefiting only students or only the community







## Community service example

If students remove trash from a streambed.....
they are providing service to the community as volunteers.





# Service-learning example

When students, who are taking an environmental education course, remove trash from a streambed.....

- analyze what they found,
- share the results and offer suggestions for the neighborhood to reduce pollution,
- and then reflect on their experience and the impact of their service

**THAT is service-learning!** 



## Community service example



Students well versed in computers offer help in cataloguing books in the library by using certain software.



# Service-learning example

Students well versed in computers...

- Visit a public library and analyze the record of books
- Develop a software to catalogue the books
- Reflect on the challenges of problem solving in cataloguing software
- study the impact of their service.

**THAT** is service-learning!



# Service Learning targets 21<sup>st</sup> century educational skills

**Critical thinking & Collaboration** 



# Main components of Service Learning



## Investigation

what ......

priorities and needs valued by the community

why ......

- community becomes partner and not just recipient
- participants become true collaborators
- youth develops research skills and techniques

- take community walk
- research official documents
- survey

#### Preparation

what ......

to learn, serve and grow

why ......

- to have positive experiences
- to reinforce commitment to civic engagement
- to make an impact

- link curriculum to community needs
- research and reflect
- collaborate with community partners



#### **Action**

what ......

- for a meaningful difference
- taking social issues from head to heart and hands

why ......

- experiential learning
- getting connected
- personal growth

- making clear assignments and schedules
- focusing on learning goals
- collecting data to evaluate and reflect



#### Reflection

what .....

- integration of learning through service
- analysis and interpretations

why ......

- for deeper understanding of the community
- for moral & political awareness
- become open to new ideas

- weaving cognitive challenges throughout the process
- by experiential learning
- providing time



#### **Demonstration & Celebration**

what .....

- learning process
- impact on participants

why ......

- reinforces learning
- consolidates commitment
- for broader action

- display of project work
- writing and publishing stories
- photos and videos

## Sustaining

what ......

service learning projects

why ......

- for participants to see effects of education
- for preparing responsible citizens
- for linking community needs to curriculum

- taking youth voice
- thinking innovative methods of teaching & learning
- finding more resources



# www.servicelearning.org

- Site-wide search to find resources on your topic
- Hot Topics, Fact Sheets & Quick Guides
- Service-Learning Lesson Plans, Syllabi & Curricula
- 1600+ service-learning examples
- Service-learning links to related Web sites
- Publications offered for purchase

more in ... www.campuscompact.org



# Thank you

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