

CommunityEngagement@Wayne

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In partnership with the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University, CommunityEngagement@Wayne provides: faculty with the tools necessary to strengthen their course content; students the opportunity to give back and apply classroom theories in a hands-on way; and community organizations the chance to receive assistance from some of Wayne State's most dedicated citizens.



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
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HONORS COLLEGE



To get the most out of their education, students need both academic courses and real-world experiences. *CommunityEngagement@Wayne* provides the mechanism you need to strengthen your class and implement service-learning opportunities in our vibrant metropolitan Detroit community. Your expertise, coupled with meaningful first-hand experiences, provides students with multiple — and meaningful — contexts for learning.

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a community-based pedagogy. It provides opportunities for students to put into practice concepts and theories from your classroom. This uniquely effective approach facilitates a connection between community service and academic coursework. Faculty members, in collaboration with community partners, decide how service can enhance the learning objectives of their courses, and how the work our students do can make a valuable contribution to the world around us.

Local organizations become learning laboratories, providing an environment in which students test classroom principles and theories in addition to working with community organization staff and clients to leave behind something of value to all concerned. Upon returning to the classroom, faculty set the tone for guided discussion and reflective assignments that tie the field experience to coursework.

In addition to creating a connection between classroom concepts and hands-on service, students strengthen one of Wayne State University's core aims: to better our diverse, metropolitan home.

Service-learning helps faculty:

- connect scholarly interests with community issues and needs;
- increase students' classroom engagement and participation;
- enhance course experience with hands-on opportunities; and
- bolster WSU's ability to serve the metropolitan Detroit community.

Service-learning helps students:

- actively engage in hands-on learning in a real-world setting;
- link coursework to real-life experience, making learning more useful and relevant;
- effect change in the community; and
- improve interpersonal and human relations skills.

How can *CommunityEngagement@Wayne* help?

CommunityEngagement@Wayne is committed to providing resources and assistance for faculty who are interested in service-learning as a tool for enhancing their courses.

The following resources are available to support WSU faculty in developing service-learning opportunities for all our students:

- course development assistance;
- community organization site placement;
- access to our resource library;
- grant-finding service to help faculty identify internal and external resources;
- interdisciplinary teaching and learning opportunities; and
- community experts from our speakers' bureau.