

CommunityEngagement@Wayne Student Service-Learning Project Activity

Grant Application Process

Wayne State University encourages student participation in service-learning activities that enhance our community by building understanding and working for sustainable change. CommunityEngagement@Wayne, an initiative of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, in collaboration with the CommunityEngagement@Wayne Student Advisory Board has created a grant program for students to access funding for worthy service-learning projects. Grants of up to \$500 are available to groups of up to five undergraduate Honors, Wayne State Community of Scholars, and Urban Scholars Leaders students interested in implementing a project that broadens the Wayne State University academic experience.

To qualify for the grants, the proposed service-learning project must comply with the following definition of service learning and community engagement:

Service learning provides students with the opportunity to implement what they learn in the classroom in “real world situations; community engagement is an active partnership that brings together colleges and community nonprofit agencies, governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and individuals. Service learning is structured as a multi-faceted project in which individuals or groups have the opportunity to connect what they are learning in a way that impacts the lives of others within the community. Service learning, faculty involvement, and student participation and involvement in improving Detroit through service represent the components of community engagement. Well-designed service-learning projects balance student learning and the needs addressed by service sites, to make sure that both are considered in any projects. This ethic of service affirms the responsibility of educational institutions to use their resources for the betterment of the community. Studies show that this approach can improve students’ information recall as well as their ability to successfully apply the concepts in the underlying course content to intricate issues and problems.

Service learning, by definition has three primary components:

- *Addresses a pertinent and prominent issue or problem in Detroit that includes action and reflection*
- *Applies knowledge and skills acquired in an academic setting and is related to an academic course.*
- *Uses meaningful reflection to help students comprehend what they are learning, the framework in which the social issue they are tackling exists, and the best methods for our society to approach this issue.*
- *In addition to creating a connection between classroom concepts and community needs, service-learning upholds one of Wayne State University’s core aims: to strengthen our diverse, metropolitan home.*

By participating in service learning, students should:

- *Increase civic responsibility and engagement through a better understanding of the issues being addressed.*
- *Gain analytical thinking skills; strengthen leadership qualities, through experiential learning that will integrate practical and theoretical course material into service.*

Deadlines

Completed applications for a spring 2010 Service Learning Mini-Grant are due by 5 p.m. on April 2nd, 2010. **Applications may be sent via e-mail to communityengagement.wsu@gmail.com or a printed copy delivered to the Community Engagement Office, 2504 Undergraduate Library. Applications must be typed.**

Selection Process

Members of the Community Engagement at Wayne Advisory Board will review the grant applications and rank and evaluate them based on the criteria of service learning outlined above. Notification of the committee's decisions will be made by April 30, 2010.

Commitment

Once chosen, grant recipients must make an appointment with Katie Etheridge to learn the terms of fund allocation. Grant recipients agree to report expenditures and provide a final report describing what the funding has accomplished. Visual documentation of the service experience is encouraged, and reflective components such as pre- and post-assessment tools must also be included. Recipients are required to present their project to promote service learning among Honors 2000 students at Wayne State University, in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. Funds that are not used in the time allotted will revert back to the service account. Still have questions? Contact Katie Etheridge, Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA, (313) 577-0189.

All grant funds must be expended by August, 2010.

Service learning grants can help to pay for expenses related to project development and delivery, such as:

- Travel to service learning sites
- Supplies and equipment needed to complete the project
- Printing services
- Resource materials

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Service-Learning Mini-Grant Application Form

Please complete the information below on a separate paper. Applications must be typed. An electronic version of this form is available at <http://www.communityengagement.wayne.edu> or by emailing communityengagement.wsu@gmail.com

Completed applications are due by April 2nd, 2010 at 5:00pm.

I. Contact Information

Name:

Area of Academic Interest:

Phone:

E-mail:

II. Answer the following questions with as much detail as you can provide.

- Please describe the proposed service-learning project.
- How will your project enable you to apply what you have learned at Wayne State University?
- What group, organization, or agency will you be partnering with for this project? Have you made contact with them, and if so, to what extent?
- How will this project benefit the community partner(s) or the individuals these agencies serve? How have you determined that this project will meet the needs of the community partner(s)?
- Please describe how you plan to communicate with the community partner(s).
- How will you measure the impact this project had on the community partner and the targeted population? How will you deliver feedback and data to the community partner?
- How will you publicize your project?
- Please provide a summary of anticipated expenses for this project. Mini-grants are limited to a maximum of \$500, but aim to be conservative in your spending. Please be as specific as possible.