Service-Learning and Community Engagement

Spokane Falls Community College

Service-Learning Gears up for the 2007/2008 School Year

Spokane Falls Community College Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Collaboration Award, in the category: Collaboration with Universities. Dr. Mark Palek, President and Rhosetta Rhodes, Director of Continuing Education, Service-Learning and Community Engagement, accepted the award on May 24, 2007 at the CCNCEE Sixteenth Annual National Conference, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Celebration Of Service

A Celebration of Service dinner was held May 30, 2007 in The Falls Conference Room at Spokane Falls Community College to honor the faculty, who helped make the 2006 Service-Learning year a success. The keynote speaker was Bob Peeler from Spokane Neighborhood Actions Program (SNAP).

We also wish to thank all the students who helped make 2006 an award-winning year in Service-Learning. We are looking forward to another successful year.

Written By: Bama Wilson

Upcoming Events

1. September 24, 2007 Farmers Market. Free vegetables and dairy products for students with ID. SUB Lounges B&C 10am-12pm
2. October 1, 2007 Community Service Expo. Students meet with Agency Staff. SUB Lounges B&C. 9am-3pm

Service-Learning Club

The goal of the Service-Learning Club is to engage students in meaningful civic activities. One of the major club projects is fundraising for Alternative Spring Break. This is an opportunity for students to serve outside of their local community. We are recruiting members for the service learning club. Membership is open to all interested SFCC students. Contact Robbin Hansen at (509) 533-3155 for further information. Or go to Building 4, Room 119 and speak to a Community Engagement Specialist.

Rhosetta deserves to be congratulated for landing a prestigious position as Director of Service-Learning and Community Engagement at Whitworth University. Farewell, and good-speed to such an incredible, greatly admired person.

Robbin Hansen is the new AmeriCorps Vista members supervisor in the Service-Learning and Community Engagement department. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as she takes on new challenges at SFCC.

Bama Wilson and Patrick Link are the AmeriCorps Vista members. They work closely with Kerry Rollins-Lampkin, Community Engagement Specialist and Students in Service coordinator.

Kerry Rollins-Lampkin, Bama Wilson and Patrick Link help clean up graffiti at area skate park.
SFCC Students Get Hands Dirty and Clean Up Graffiti!

SFCC Sociology and Service-Learning students recently teamed up with the City of Spokane and Spokane C.O.P.S., a community policing service, to clean up graffiti downtown. The project is part of the Service-Learning program’s aim to get college students involved in their community and work with the city and community agencies to address social problems. Service learning is a method of experiential education where students have an opportunity to apply their knowledge in community settings and share and reflect on their experiences in class.

Kim Kenney, a Sociology Instructor at SFCC enjoys connecting her students to the community and says, “Service-Learning helps students understand abstract sociological concepts and theories by applying them to everyday settings.” Kim related the graffiti cleanup activity to class discussions on crime, deviance, and culture. She says, “It’s a fun way for students to learn about critical issues in the community, interact with each other outside the classroom, and build a strong sense of community.” Patrick Link, a Community Engagement Specialist and a member of the Service-Learning staff at SFCC says, “Service to the community doesn’t have to entail drudgery—we can have fun while learning and making a valuable social contribution.”
SFCC Students Plan to Stay Involved with Agencies and Programs.

Spokane Falls Community College Psychology 101 students participated in Service-Learning during summer quarter as part of their class requirements. Several programs were selected including SNAP’s Homelessness Program (Sack Dinner and Outreach), Women’s Hearth (Community Luncheon), Mid-City Concerns Senior Center (Breakfast and Lunch), Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (DUI Victims Panel), Richard Allen Youth Academy, and Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

As an instructor and an individual actively involved in community work, I feel proud of the students for their efforts and enthusiasm in completing their service-learning hours. Several have completed more than the required 12 hours (in an 8-week class session, I might add), and intend to stay involved with the agencies and programs. One student, leery of children, has “fallen in love” with the kids at Richard Allen Court. Another, now volunteers every week for SNAP’s Sack Dinner and Outreach and has joined the Spokane Homelessness Coalition.

At the first scheduled SNAP event, three students and I served sack dinners and talked with individuals struggling with poverty and homelessness. One student (mentioned above) spent the evening serving soup with a program volunteer. In talking with him, she learned of his own struggle with homelessness after his parents kicked him out at age 16 because of his sexual orientation. Touched by his story, she asked if she could participate every week even if the student volunteer limit was reached. Two other students (sisters) felt nervous about introducing themselves and starting conversations with strangers. By the end of the evening, both said that they met the “nicest people” and had some of “the best conversations” of their lives. They, too, have participated faithfully every Thursday evening.

Always a strong supporter of the concept of service learning, I’ve not included it as a course requirement until this quarter – mostly as I wasn’t sure how to adapt it in my classes. With my experience this summer, I’m now a convert and plan to include it in my courses from this quarter forward. I feel proud, students enjoy and learn from it, and the community benefits. It’s a win for everyone!

Volunteering for the AmeriCorps program has inspired me to explore careers in social fields that will improve the community, its surrounding areas, and the lives of the people who live in them. I have never volunteered at this level of commitment before the opportunity was presented to me as work-study in the Service-Learning Center at Spokane Falls Community College. Rhosetta Rhodes, the head honcho of the Service-Learning office, encouraged me to go on the Students-in-Service website and familiarize myself with the program so I would be able to answer students’ questions about serving in the volunteer program that gives students an educational award upon the completion of their chosen terms of service. I decided to sign up for a 300-hour term. The experience has been very rewarding, not only to me but also to my son who volunteered to help Rhosetta and me deliver Christmas baskets to students who had signed up for them. The opportunity to serve and learn at the same time was invaluable. While helping others, I learned many skills and had fun too. I would like to say thank you to Rhosetta and everyone in the Service-Learning and Continuing Education office for their patience with me and for all the encouragement and kindness during the last 7 months. I will miss you all! Sincerely, Robin Bradley
Service-Learning Project
Fall Quarter starts September 19, 2007
Project start date October 1, 2007

Emergency Responders
Spokane Falls Community College & Spokane Regional Health District

Population Served: Spokane County and surrounding areas.

Project Description: Volunteers are needed to support public health efforts during certain emergencies such as an outbreak of infectious disease or other community health threat. A wide range of skills is needed to perform volunteer tasks such as: greeting the public, data entry, providing health information and administering vaccinations. Volunteers must be 18 or older. A variety of certifications may be required for those volunteers performing medical tasks.

Training will be provided for all positions. A statewide exercise will happen on November 1st where we will practice our preparation efforts. We are recruiting volunteer staff and participants for this exercise.

Skills Desired: All skill levels are needed as Emergency Responders.

Volunteer Details: Location of Service-Learning project: Spokane Regional Health District, SFCC.

Number of Students: 50

Length of Service: 1 day for actual exercise, however longer term opportunities are available for those interested in helping plan/coordinate the event.

Age Requirement: minimum 18 years old

Volunteer Orientation: Yes Length: 2 hours TB Test: Yes Background Check: Yes Will Agency check or will School check: Agency.

Date students needed for actual exercise: Oct 1, 2007; for Coordinating/ event planning date: As soon as possible.

Middle Schools: After school programs need volunteers
Holmes Elementary: Knowledge-at-Work site for at-risk youth program
Northeast Child Development Center: Underserved youth program

For more information contact the Service-Learning Department at 533-3155 for Robbin Hansen, or 533-3259 for Bama Wilson, 533-3257 for Patrick Link, and 533-3694 for Kerry Rollins-Lampkin.