New Class

Spokane Falls Community College

Service-Learning Spring 2010

Disaster Class Offered Spring Quarter

The SFCC Service-Learning department recently partnered with RenegAID, a disaster relief organization to host a new class this spring entitled “Catastrophic Disaster: Affirmative Response.” The class will be offered as a three-credit General Studies course. The class will be scheduled on Tuesday and Thursdays for only an hour and a half. Students will explore the Phoenix phenomenon where loss and rebirth happen together. Students will analyze existing Federal and United Nations Emergency Management protocols. Eunice Stime, president of RenegAID, and an AmeriCorps*VISTA in the SFCC Service-Learning department has first hand knowledge of crisis response, having volunteered in Indonesia, Ecuador and post Katrina Mississippi and Louisiana. Stime states that while in a disaster “it’s not just about death and dying, it is about a whole different level of reality.”

The class will require 20 hours of Service-Learning at Goodwill Industries, The Red Cross, and RenegAID. The class is not listed in the course catalog, but you can find it online under GENST 154, item number 1615. For more information call 533-3308.

Service-Learning Club Haiti Disaster Relief Project

The Service-Learning Club’s Haiti Response Project is focusing on Transportation & Distribution.

How are we doing that?

100%

Of funds will go to:

- Supply fuel for transporting supplies into the disaster area
- Supply fuel to power water purification and direct delivery to the survivors

Benefits to Survivors

- Supporting emergency transportation infrastructure to the survivors
- Reducing risk of survivor complications and deaths

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Financial Donations for Haiti are now being accepted by the Service-Learning Club in partnership with...

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One Day Count of Homeless Persons in Spokane County

The Service-Learning Department coordinated efforts this January for the "One Day Homeless Count" with our students, faculty and community agencies. The "One Day Homeless Count" happens every January in Spokane and is vital to maintaining levels of service to the homeless in Spokane County. Without an accurate count of the number of homeless people served in our area, funding may not continue for these programs.

The work began last fall when our Service-Learning personnel attended community meetings for the country-wide project. Students were recruited and brought on board to volunteer starting January 2010, as part of their class assignment. Cathy Matresse’s sociology classes were involved as well as other SFCC Social Science classes.

Participating in the "One Day Homeless Count" gave our students a real life view of the homeless population in Spokane. It not only allowed them to become familiar with the numbers of people in our community who are homeless, but allowed them to understand the circumstances of their homelessness, and what got them to that point in their lives. Our students had their eyes, minds and hearts opened to the needs of our community while learning and serving.

Service-Learning Homeless Count

The Students in Service (SIS) program is a part-time AmeriCorps program that encourages and supports college and university students to enroll as part-time AmeriCorps members who provide valuable service in their communities. SIS members make a difference in their communities, gain valuable civic and workforce skills, and upon completion of their term of service, earn an education award.

By participating in the Students in Service program, the member becomes a part of the AmeriCorps national service network that improves lives and strengthens communities throughout the United States of America. The Students in Service program offers each student member the opportunity to choose one of three terms of service (essentially, the number of hours s/he agrees to serve). Upon successful completion of a term of service, members are eligible to receive an Education Award (scholarship), which can be applied toward outstanding federal student loans or the cost of attendance at a college or university.

The Education Award amount varies, depending on the term of service:
- 300 Hour Term of Service = $1,000.00 Education Award (scholarship)
- 450 Hour Term of Service = $1,250.00 Education Award (scholarship)
- 900 Hour Term of Service = $2,362.50 Education Award (scholarship)

Students In Service

The Service-Learning Department soon will embark upon a journey to the 13th annual Continuums of Service Conference in Portland, Oregon next month. This year's theme is Vision, Courage, and Leadership: Engagement to Strengthen Communities. Across history, civil societies have relied on bold leadership to survive, sustain, and even thrive in the face of challenges. To effectively lead during unprecedented and complex times, one must be willing to risk and practice selfless leadership. Championing efforts to collaborate with our communities, cultivate student leadership and engagement, and advance Service-Learning and civic engagement initiatives requires vision, courage, and leadership.

Participants will gain a renewed passion and build skills and confidence to lead campus and community partnerships into the future. The Continuums of Service Conference has a long-standing history of invigorating participants to explore issues from diverse perspectives. The 13th Continuums of Service Conference promises to creatively examine strategies for strengthening communities through vision, courage, and leadership.

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The Service-Learning in England (SLE) Program at Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) has been active since 1984. This is the oldest international program at SFCC, with a placement of nearly 500 students over the past 25 years.

Service-Learning in England involves both cooperative education and work experience. Approximately 10-15 students from SFCC are absorbed into the United Kingdom’s (UK) Community Service Volunteer program every 6 months. Community Service Volunteers (CSV) is the largest and oldest voluntary service agency in the UK. The program was founded in 1962 with the objective of providing people age 16-35 with an opportunity to volunteer and help influence positive social change. Our partnership with CSV allows students to spend generally from 6 months to 1 year in their placement which includes housing and a small stipend for basic living expenses. Students expand their horizons in ways that they could never have imagined. In addition, they experience new levels of independence through living and working in another country. The best illustration is through personal testimonies that we receive from our students. Dawn Egan lived with a woman who had Down Syndrome “For me volunteering has been a personal journey in understanding my strengths and weaknesses; understanding my patience, tolerance, humor and love for others. Ultimately, I’ve come to understand the personal importance of volunteering. With the good times and the bad, I wholeheartedly would not change a thing.” For more information, please contact Vance Youmans at 533-3577, vancy@spokanefalls.edu or Britni Weaver at 533-3767.

Service-Learning Athens Greece

In November 2009, Darlene Rickett, Service-Learning Faculty Director and Communication Instructor, and Joana Petridou-Fisher, Chemistry Instructor, attended the “Third International Symposium on Service-Learning” in Athens, Greece. Sixty-five people attended from many parts of the world including South Africa, Belize, Germany, Israel, China, Cyprus, Liberia, and North America. Many of the programs presented dealt specifically with:

- Service-Learning in higher education and international partnerships
- Service-Learning code of ethics: does the International Service-Learning project benefit the parties involved? Lectures were provided to help learn about the history and ancient Greek world. Field trips were also arranged to visit some of the surrounding islands which were enjoyable.

Service-Learning United Kingdom

New Service-Learning International Project: Internship in Japan: Coming Soon!

An internship in Japan can be an incredible experience. Not only will you have an opportunity to learn Japanese and study, you will provide food security for the less fortunate and learn how to teach English as a second language. During your free time you could see the cultural capital of this ancient nation and visit its many serene temples, markets, shrines and mountains...not to mention getting to know the Japanese people with their many unique customs and culture.

Terms are as follows:

- 3 month placement with room and board and 3 meals per day
- Experienced Teachers will give instruction on teaching classes with 20 teaching hours per week
- Survival Japanese course offered
- Great opportunity for Japanese language students
- No requirement to speak Japanese
- Cost: accepted applicants will be responsible for a round trip ticket to Osaka or Nagoya Airports.
- Look for further details as this project becomes available.
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Washington Campus Compact and its membership of 36 two and four-year colleges and universities are committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active, engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education, and strengthening communities.

This Year the Conference will be held Wednesday, March 31 – Friday, April 2, 2010 in Portland, Oregon at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront.

WACC Continuums of Service Conference

Service-Learning Department Personnel

The SFCC Service-Learning Department is proud to be a member of the Inland Northwest Service-Learning Partnership (INSLP), a consortium of Colleges and Universities in this area which are all trying to “grow” Service-Learning on their campuses as well as become a recognized community action leader.

2009-10 INSLP Officers:

INSLP Chair: Cyndy Stevenson, Horizon Hospice
INSLP Co-Chair: Todd Dunfield, Gonzaga University
INSLP Secretary: Molly Ayers, Gonzaga University
INSLP Treasurer: Darlene Rickett, SFCC

INSLP is comprised of the following Colleges and Universities:

Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University,
Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College and Whitworth University

Community partners are local 501.C3 Non-profit Agencies

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