

Strategic Focus: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement

Vision Statement

Creation of school-based and community-based programs through which citizenship, academic subjects, skills and values are taught and adopted in the community. These programs involve active learning and the experience of performing service work to address issues of importance to the community. These programs will also combine community service with classroom instruction and will unite students, faculty and community members and will focus on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility.

Desired Characteristics:

- Students are involved in community service activities and apply the experience to personal and academic development.
- Academic course objectives are linked to real community needs designed in cooperation with community partners and service recipients.
- Students at all levels are engaged in a three-part process, to include: classroom preparation through explanation and analysis of theories and ideas; service activity that emerges from classroom context; and structured reflection tying service experience back to specific learning goals.

Expectations: Students, Instructors, Communities and Academic Institutions are the key participants in, and receive specific benefits from Service Learning and Civic Engagement programs.

- **Students** benefit from service-learning through:
 - Increased relevance of academic knowledge through hands-on application
 - Different learning styles are recognized and implemented
 - Increased interaction with people of diverse cultures and lifestyles
 - Increased sense of efficacy and social development
 - Practical career preparation
 - Meaningful involvement in the local community
 - Moral and ethical growth
- **Instructors** benefit from service-learning through:
 - Enhanced teaching repertoire
 - Increased contact with students
 - New perspectives on learning and increased understanding of how learning occurs
 - Increased awareness of community issues and their relationship to instructors' academic interests
 - Identification of current trends and issues that might inform research
 - Potential for interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Scholarly contribution to tenure (and promotion)
- **Community** benefits from service-learning through:

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- Increased awareness of and ability to articulate community issues
- Short and long term solutions to community problems
- Access to campus resources
- Relationship opportunities with academic institutions
- Opportunities to contribute to the educational process
- Opportunities to foster future active community members

- **Academic institutions** benefit service-learning through:

- Enhanced teaching, research and outreach activities
- Engaged faculty and students in local and state issues
- Extended campus resources and programs into the community
- Positive community relationships
- Increased preparation of high school, community college and university graduates

NMSU and Community Goals (not prioritized)(preliminary phrasing of objectives)

NMSU Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Goals

- Institutionalize Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in all colleges and campuses
 - As part of university tenure and promotion policy: In support of scholarship and community engagement, SL program and activities that honors the principals of engagement and standards of scholarship
 - Academic credit for service-learning and civic engagement in all colleges
 - NMSU community of faculty, staff and students more engaged with PK-12 community, non-profit community and local government community.
 - Service learning and civic engagement linked to real community needs
 - SL and CE developed and designed in cooperation with community partner and service recipient.
 - Innovative programs and projects
 - Enhanced teaching, research and outreach activities
 - Faculty and students engagement in local and state issues
- Educate community about NMSU's capacity for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement
 - Comprehensive service-learning and civic engagement web site.
 - Relationship opportunities with NMSU and academic units
 - Access to campus resources
 - Opportunities for campus/community partnerships to address critical community needs
 - Opportunities to extend campus/university resources throughout the state
 - Encourage and support existing school-based and community-based Civic Engagement programs
 - Encourage and support Service Learning initiatives in Native American communities

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- Enhanced learning opportunities for NMSU students
 - Promote critical and reflective thinking
 - Reach students of all social and economic background and academic interest
 - Service corps opportunities to support service-learning and civic engagement
 - Increase civic responsibility
 - Increase sense of efficacy and social development
 - Meaningful involvement in local community
 - Meaningful involvement in national and international communities

Community Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Goals

- Increased awareness of and ability to articulate community issues
- Encourage and support Service Learning initiatives in Native American communities
- Encourage and support existing school-based and community-based Civic Engagement programs
- Access to campus/university resources
- Short and long term assessments to community problems.
 - PK-12 Student Success (inclusive of current outreach programs)
 - Mentoring
 - Increased graduation
 - Early college high school/dual enrollment
 - Family Success
 - Parenting and child care
 - Early childhood development
 - Financial literacy
 - Community Success
 - Issues of sustainability
 - Sustainable local food systems
 - Community involvement in alternative energy and energy efficiency
 - Adult Basic Education/GED
 - Community service activities
 - Community development for unincorporated areas
 - Improved community health and wellness

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