

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

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UPDATE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ASSESSMENT

February 2014

About Us



The Office for Academic
Excellence and Assessment
(AEA) at Creighton University
provides ongoing support and

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

resources to enhance teacher effectiveness and student learning.

To learn more about faculty development programming, assessment, course design, student learning processes and/or effective teaching methods, or the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), contact [Mary Ann Danielson](#) at 402.280.2535.

Find past issues of this newsletter [here](#).

CALL FOR 2012-2013 INSTITUTIONAL DATA ON SERVICE-LEARNING

The Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment is accepting and gathering 2012-2013 service-learning institutional data to submit for the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll program, managed by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll will recognize higher education institutions in four categories: general community service, interfaith community service, economic opportunity and education.

Definitions that the Corporation for National and Community Service use for community service and academic service-learning are:

- **Community service** means activities designed to improve the quality of life of off-campus community residents, particularly low-income individuals. Community service activities may include but are not limited to: academic service learning, cocurricular service-learning (not part of an academic course but utilizing service-learning elements) and other cocurricular student volunteer activities, as well as work-study community service and paid community service internships. Community service includes both direct service to citizens (i.e., serving food to the needs) and indirect service (i.e., assessing community nutrition needs or managing a food bank).
- **Academic service-learning** means service that is integrated with academic course content. It may involve direct or indirect service and may include academic research.

Watch for additional communications about the 2014 President's Honor Roll in upcoming weeks. If you are in a position that gathered 2012-2013 institutional data on service-learning and community service, please contact [Mary Ann Danielson](#) or [Michele King](#) to ensure the data is reported in the Honor Roll report.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Creighton University has participated in the [President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) since it launched in 2006. The Honor Roll annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

Last year, our joined efforts in collecting the service-learning data was instrumental to the communication of the success of more than 4,000 Creighton students engaged in more than 389,000 hours of community



service in 2011-2012. Creighton University has been named in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll since 2006.



PROGRAM/COURSE SPOTLIGHTS

Continuing our series highlighting the programs/courses in which our students have participated in service, we feature the **Student Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic** and the **English/SRP 438: Literacy and Community** course.

The **VITA Clinic** celebrates its fifth year in coordinating free tax return preparation for low-income taxpayers and those taxpayers vulnerable to exorbitant refund anticipation loans. Students from Creighton University's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society, and Business Law Society in the School of Law staff one-day clinics in the Harper Center in February and March. Volunteers completed supervised training and successfully passed several qualification exams administered by the IRS. In addition, IRS personnel will be on site.

One-day clinics will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, March 2. For questions contact: [Thomas J. Purcell III, JD., Ph.D., CPA](#) or [Kiley Eccker](#).

[More information](#)

Students in the **English/SRP 438: Literacy and Community** course took a field trip to the [Learning Community Center](#) of South Omaha in early February. The students practiced conversational English with the center's clients and toured the center's new facility. They [tweeted](#) about the event and wrote [reflections](#) following the event.

METRO-AREA COALITION FOR SERVICE-LEARNING NEWS

ABOUT THE COALITION

Creighton is a member of the Metropolitan-Area Service-Learning



Coalition (MASLC). The 2014 theme is "Literacy: Broadly Defined."

The Coalition seeks to: (1) increase collaboration and share selected service-learning programming among nine metro-area universities; (2) offer coordinated programming on a selected topic each semester; and (3) bring university and college resources together in educating students and the public about selected significant local, national and international issues.



HEALTH LITERACY EVENT

Save the Date: April 3, 2-4 p.m., for a "Health Literacy" event hosted by MASLC. In addition to topics related to the event title, the program will encourage and foster faculty networking. More information will be available in the March Service-Learning Newsletter.

CAMPUS EVENTS



PROJECT CURA SAVOR THE FLAVOR EVENT

The 8th annual Savor the Flavor: Dinner, Silent Auction and Cultural Celebration will be held Monday, March 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the Skutt Student Center, Mutual of Omaha Ballroom. Project CURA is a Creighton student-run organization established in 2001 that sends medical students and supplies to Ghana, India, Romania, Guatemala, Ecuador, Cambodia and Vietnam. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students (includes meal, wine, beer and wonderful conversation). To purchase tickets, contact [Megan Barlow](#).



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT RETURNS TO CU

Project Homeless Connect Omaha 2014 will be held Friday, March 28, in the Kiewit Fitness Center. The one-day event serves as a "one-stop shop," connecting homeless individuals to needed services, including: housing, healthcare, legal resources, Social Security, food-stamp benefits and employment. [Volunteer registration and information](#).

HAND-IN-HAND DONATION REQUEST

Hand-in-Hand is an annual event that invites adults with developmental



disabilities to campus for an afternoon of fun. They are partnered with Creighton students and take part in activities put on by student organizations, such as bingo, karaoke, a photo booth, games, crafts and more. The event will be held on Sunday, April 6, from 1-4 p.m., in the Skutt Student Center, Mutual of Omaha Ballroom. Donations such as movie gift cards, bath sets, sports equipment and household items, etc., are needed for door prizes. Items do not need to be anymore than \$10-\$20 in value. Deadline for donations is April 2. Questions can be directed to [Katherine Johnson](#) or [Jennifer Kennedy-Croft](#).

[More Information](#)

RECOMMENDED READING

2011-2012 PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL REPORT



The 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recipients were announced at the American Council on Education's 95th Annual Meeting, "Leading Change," on March 4, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The Honor Roll annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve. [Read full 2011-2012 recipient report.](#)

COMMUNITY CONTACTS



HOSPICE HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed who can commit to an hour or two a week to sit with patients and provide a break to caregivers for companionship. Orientation is provided. More information: contact [Progressive Home Health and Hospice](#).



COMPUTER TUTORS NEEDED

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., is in need of volunteers who can help teach the computer literacy class for refugees. Interested volunteers should have an interest in helping refugees and experience working with computers. Contact [Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.](#), for more information.

TEACHER NATURALIST VOLUNTEERS



Teacher Naturalists (TNs) volunteers are needed to lead weekend and evening education/recreation programs at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center and Neal Woods. Programs include guided hikes, lectures and presentations with Fontenelle Forest's resident animals. Fontenelle Forest offers training for the Teacher Naturalist program. More information: contact [Fontenelle Forest](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROPOSALS FOR PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE NOW OPEN



Papers are now being accepted for the Midwestern Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 11-12, at Creighton. Submission deadline: March 1, 2014. Keynote speaker: Jason Taylor, Ph.D., of Regis University will present "Socratic Citizenship: A Role for Philosophy in Service-Learning." [More information.](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS ON SERVICE- LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) is now accepting proposals for the 2014 IARSLCE Conference, Sept. 29 through Oct. 1, New Orleans. Proposal deadline: March 21. [More information.](#)

NEW PUBLICATION ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

The International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IJRSLCE) is an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal that features high-quality research focused on campus-community engagement, service-learning and the promotion of active citizenship through education.



This new publication is now accepting submissions for its fall 2014 issue. The journal is multidisciplinary and draws upon literature and contributions from numerous fields, including education, psychology, political science and sociology.

The editorial board invites manuscript submissions to the following four sections: research articles, theoretical or conceptual articles, review articles

and book reviews. Submission
deadline: May 15. [More information.](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

[Applied Learning in Higher Education \(CALHE\) 8th Annual Conference](#), hosted by Missouri Western State University, March 20-22, St. Joseph, Mo.

[4th Annual Service Engagement Summit](#), March 27-28, Indianapolis, Ind.

[25th Annual National Service-Learning Conference](#), April 9-12, Washington, D.C.



The Midwestern Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 11-12, hosted by Creighton University. More information, contact [Brandon Leppke](#).

[2014 Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit](#), June 12-13, Menominee, Wis.

[National Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), June 16-18, Atlanta, Ga.

[2014 International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IARSLCE\)](#), Sept. 29-Oct. 1, New Orleans, La.

[Assessment Institute 2014](#), Oct. 19-21, Indianapolis, Ind.

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