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Creighton
UNIVERSITY

UPDATE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ASSESSMENT

November/December 2014

About Us



The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) at Creighton University provides ongoing support and resources to enhance teacher effectiveness and student learning.

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

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



SERVICE-LEARNING INCORPORATED INTO A NEW COURSE

Teaching English 476 for the first time coupled with incorporating a service-learning activity into the course, assistant professor of English, **Faith Kurtyka, Ph.D.**, raised the academic standard for student learning engagement in "Writing and Working for Justice."

Questions Kurtyka contemplates when deciding to implement a service-learning activity into a course are: (1) Will this learning complement in-classroom learning or will it feel like extra work to the students? (2) Will this service-learning project allow students a new and different perspective on an issue or topic that they couldn't have learned from in-classroom learning? (3) Does the service learning meet students where they are at while challenging them and engaging their existing strengths?

Kurtyka wanted to give students an idea of how a non-profit literacy organization works to reflect the needs and values of a local community and partnered with [The Learning Community Center of South Omaha](#). "It's important that students see the 'big picture' and engage in the Learning Community Center's work. I wanted it to be more than just a 'fun day' or a 'service day'--I wanted them practice English conversational skills with the English language learners at the Center and have the opportunity to see how literacy relates to social justice, which relates to the actual lives of people in South Omaha and engage with those in the Center," Kurtyka shared.

Read [full article](#) to include student testimonial of service-learning

activity.

See article Kurtyka highly recommends on sustainable service learning programs in the Recommended Reading section.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATES

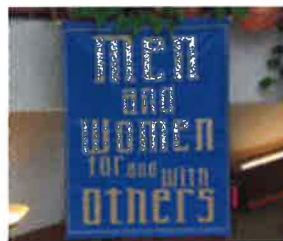
PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Creighton University has participated in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll since it launched in 2006. [Learn more.](#)



In 2012-2013, our joint effort in collecting the service-learning data was instrumental to celebrating the success of **more than 4,750 Creighton students engaged in more than 471,000 hours of community service in 2012-2013** — an all-time high in our reporting. For the first time, Creighton reported more than 2,500 students engaged in academic service-learning. For more information, contact [Mary Ann Danielson](#), 402.280.2535.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature the **Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC)** and the **Dental Clinics at One World Community Health Center** programs.

Creighton's [Institute for Latin American Concern \(ILAC\)](#) program emphasize the importance of global vision and understanding in the process of educating well-rounded individuals. To this end it offers dental, medical, nursing, pharmacy, law, physical therapy and occupational therapy, undergraduate and high school students, and also to faculty-led groups, medical/surgical teams and other colleges the opportunity for service-learning and immersion experiences in the rural Dominican Republic.

The [One World Community Health Center Dental Clinic](#) program is student-led and faculty supervised, in which students provide weekly screenings, treatment sessions, and emergency care services to low-

income patients who could not afford regular dental services. This is an invaluable service learning experience for the students, as well as an intercultural service opportunity.

METRO-AREA COALITION FOR SERVICE-LEARNING NEWS

Creighton is a member of the Metropolitan-Area Coalition for Service-Learning (MACSL), along with representatives from the College of Saint Mary, Metropolitan Community College, Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Iowa Western Community College.



The coalition seeks to: (1) increase collaboration and share selected service-learning programming among seven 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.

Sustainability is the theme for 2014. Look for email announcements on sustainability programs.

CAMPUS EVENTS

THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR STUDENTS



Volunteers are needed to cook turkeys, provide roasters, bring pies, deserts and side salads; serve and clean up for the student Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday, Nov. 26 in lower St. John's. For more information or to volunteer, contact [Richard Super](#) at 402.551.9412.

CCSJ ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON AND AUCTIONS



The Creighton Center for Service and Justice will hold the Annual Soup Luncheon and Auctions on Friday, Feb. 13; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Skutt SC Ballroom. [For more information.](#) To reserve a table contact [Wendy Maliszewski](#) at 402.280.1290. Reservation deadline: Friday, Feb. 6.



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT OMAHA 2015

Project Homeless Connect Omaha 2015 will be held on Friday, March 27 at the Kiewit Fitness Center. [More information](#). Registration to open mid-January.

RECOMMENDED READING



Referenced in the lead article, Faith Kurtyka, Ph.D. recommends the article [Sustainable Service Learning Programs](#) by Ellen Cushman, published by the *National Council of Teachers of English*. The role of the professor in community service writing courses factors into the teaching, research, and overall institutional viability of these initiatives, yet too little has been written about the role of the professor in service learning.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS



HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Give the gift of your time and talent, volunteer at the Open Door Mission during the holidays. Get involved with these opportunities: toy sorting and bagging, prepping food, sorting winter wears. Consider participating in the Project Santa Drive Thru Christmas or Drumsticks on Wheels. [For more information/volunteer](#).

DOING GOOD ONE RING AT A TIME



Volunteers make a significant contribution to society by positively impacting those in need by assisting the Salvation Army's efforts to meet the changing needs of our world. Join the many volunteers this holiday season and [register to volunteer as a bell ringer](#). Contact [Kay Weinstein](#) at 402.898.6000 with questions.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



The International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IJRSLCE) invites conference presenters to submit papers for consideration for the third issue of the journal. IJRSLCE is the peer-reviewed, online journal of IARSLCE. [Learn more/Submit article.](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



[2nd Annual International Service-Learning Workshop hosted by the Institute for Sustainable International Studies](#), Dec. 13-18, 2014, Punta Gorda, Belize.

[IMPACT National Conference](#), Feb. 19-22, 2015, Los Angeles. Look for additional information in future newsletters.

[Annual Service Engagement Summit](#), March 26-27, 2015, Indianapolis.

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Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178

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