

[View this Service Learning Newsletter in a web page](#)

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

## UPDATE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ASSESSMENT

September 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](#).



### ASSESSMENT ESSENTIAL TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE- LEARNING

Every summer, three professors and a group of students travel to one of the poorest areas of Lima, Peru. Working with Kyle Woolley (Sociology) and Ryan Spangler (Modern Languages, Spanish), Tom Kelly (Theology) shares: "What we have consistently seen over time and in different countries is a depth of learning that we cannot replicate in the classroom. The students' direct contacts with people, which must occur outside the classroom, engages them in the 'deep learning' that epitomizes the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm of experience, reflection, action." Kelly has implemented service-learning into a Faculty Led Program Abroad (FLPA) for more than 10 years.

Three assessment tools of community-based service-learning are essential to this FLPA program. First, journal questions, which are specific and clear, accompany the readings and experience and are centered on particular themes and realities. Second, communal reflection allows for students to share their perspectives, listen to other perspectives and validate their own experiences in the midst of a community. The final assessment, an integration paper, reveals whether the students' encounter with the community was enhanced by the academic coursework and vice-versa.

[Read full article.](#)

See **Program Spotlight** for more information on FLPA Discovering Peru: Language, Church and Society in Context.

---

#### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATES

---

##### **PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL**

The Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment gathered and submitted the 2012-2013 service-learning institutional data for the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll program, managed by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions in four categories: general community service, interfaith community service, economic opportunity and education. A special thank you to the individuals from many Creighton offices, colleges and schools who helped compile the data for our 2012-2013 submission.



Last year, 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.

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.

## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER - A NEW INITIATIVE



The Corporation for National Community Service and the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services are launching a campaign, **My Brother's Keeper**, to recruit individuals to serve as mentors to boys and young men of color across the country. [Learn more.](#)

---

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature the **Youth Leadership Omaha** and **FLPA Discovering Peru: Church, Language and Society in Context** programs.

**Youth Leadership Omaha**, sponsored by the Heider College of Business, is an interactive leadership development program, which informs, motivates and increases the leadership awareness of selected high school sophomores through issue-oriented seminars and interaction with community decision-makers. The program's outcome is an investment in the Omaha community's future leadership. [Learn more.](#)

\*\*\*

**Discovering Peru: Language, Church and Society in Context** recently completed a very successful summer 2014 program and has begun planning for the next learning community in the summer of 2015. In addition to offering nine credits over six weeks, this past summer, faculty and students engaged a new community-based learning site at the Jesuit Parish of El Agostino in Lima and expanded home stays from one day a week to two days a week at the request of the community!

Additionally, faculty added a two-day retreat on a beach in the northern part of Peru to help students appropriate and integrate a very intense immersion experience into their lives. [More program information.](#)



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.

---

#### CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Creighton faculty and staff attended the Citizen Engagement in Higher Education program in mid-August. The program addressed how students are exposed to a range of social problems faced by our community through service-learning activities. Program attendees examined best practices for projects and explored political roots and solutions to social problems. The program was co-sponsored by the College of Saint Mary and Nebraska Methodist College in partnership with MACSL. To learn about the community partners who participate in the program, see the Community Contacts section.

---

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

---

#### CREIGHTON RECEIVES COMMUNITY CULTIVATOR AWARD

Creighton University was the recipient of the Community Cultivator Award from City Sprouts. The award was presented at the organization's gala reception at Lauritzen Gardens on Aug. 17. Mary Ann Vinton, director of the environmental science program and



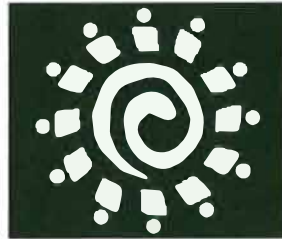
associate professor of biology, was an early member of City Sprouts. She accepted the award for Creighton University, noting the essential contributions of Andy Waltke, biology lab and greenhouse coordinator. City Sprouts uses the Susan Stuppy Greenhouse at Creighton to propagate plants each spring. Barbara Dilly, associate professor of anthropology, was recognized for teaching students the research skills to be community partners in sustainable gardening. Vinton also acknowledged the contributions of the Cortina Program and the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity; both Creighton groups have contributed many student volunteer hours at the City Sprouts garden sites. [Read more.](#)

---

## CAMPUS EVENTS

---

### SERVICE AND JUSTICE VOLUNTEER FAIR



Are you looking for a service opportunity to incorporate into class, for a student-sponsored club activity or for your own personal development? If so, be sure to attend the Service and Justice Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1-4 p.m., Harper Center, Ahmanson Ballroom. More than 75 community partners and agencies will be available to share with you what needs there are in the community and how your class, student organization, and you can meet the needs of the community.

---

### JAYWALK 2014 BENEFITS JESUIT ACADEMY



The Creighton Students Union annual Jaywalk 2014 will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20. The race will start at 9 a.m. with a pancake feed following the race. The walk benefits the Jesuit Academy, an all-boys Catholic school serving young men in grades 4-8. [For more information and to register.](#)

---

### NEBRASKA WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Nebraska Women in Higher Education Leadership (NWHEL) invites you to attend its 2014 annual



conference, "Citizen Leadership." The conference takes place Friday, Sept. 19, at the Weitz Community Engagement Center at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Creighton conference presenters will include: **Isabelle Cherney** and **Jennifer Moss Breen**; **Sue Selde** and **Ann Oertwich**; **Faith Kurtyka** with sophomore **Krysta Larson**; and **Amanda Drapcho**, who is presenting twice, once with **Love Wallace** and then with **Joey Kimes**. Conference fees include breakfast and lunch. [Click here](#) for the conference program, breakout sessions and directions. To register, [click here](#). **Registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 15.**

---

#### RECOMMENDED READING AND RESOURCES

---

##### TOOLS AND METHODS FOR EVALUATING SERVICE-LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



The Corporation for National and Community Service offers resources on service-learning, civic engagement and student learning. The article *Tools and Methods for Evaluating Service-Learning in Higher Education* provides a variety of tools and methods to evaluate service-learning. Evaluation is an ongoing process that provides opportunities to be deliberative, reflective and creative. [Read full article.](#)

---

##### SERVICE-LEARNING TOOLKIT



The purpose of this toolkit is to inspire faculty, through these foundational "nuts and bolts" documents, to develop, implement and evaluate their own service-learning partnerships and experiences in their communities. The [Using the Community as a Classroom: A Toolkit for Educators Working with Communities](#) is rich with information and supporting materials to aid faculty in service-learning. Originally designed in health sciences, the toolkit is a great resource for faculty of all disciplines.

---

#### COMMUNITY CONTACTS

---

VOICES FOR CHILDREN IN  
NEBRASKA



#### Voices for Children in Nebraska

educates and motivates Nebraskans to take action to better the lives of Nebraska's vulnerable children in the areas of health, education, safety and economic stability. The organization has played a major role in changing policies through skilled advocacy, serving as a constant voice for children wherever decisions are made. By advocating for changes in public policy and investing in effective programs, Voices for Children in Nebraska has been improving the lives of Nebraska's children since 1987.

Volunteers are needed occasionally to assist in assembling materials and mailings. Please contact [Chris Triebisch](#), 402.597.3100.

---

#### OMAHA TOGETHER ONE COMMUNITY



For the past 18 years, [Omaha Together One Community](#) (OTOC) has been the coalition of congregations, community organizations and other groups that share a commitment to renew the fabric of community life in Omaha. OTOC focuses on areas of housing and revitalization, immigration reform, mental health, environmental sustainability, public education, refugee support, workforce development, and Medicaid expansion and state tax policy. For volunteer opportunities, please contact OTOC at 402.334.4401.

---

#### NEBRASKA APPLESEED



The [Nebraska Appleseed](#) organization focuses on economic justice, health care, child welfare, immigrants and communities and legislative issues. Volunteers are needed to assist with events or provide administrative support. Please contact [Nebraska Appleseed](#) to volunteer or call 402.438.8853.

---

#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

---

[Nebraska Women in Higher Education Leadership](#) (NWHEL), Sept. 19, Omaha. Registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 15.



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

- [Conference program available online.](#)
- Award winners for 2014 are Sarena Seifer, Distinguished Research Award, and Kendra Brewster, Dissertation Award Winner. [Learn more about the award recipients.](#)
- Conference attendees will have the opportunity to hear presentations from the winners at the 2014 IARSLCE conference.



IMPACT National Conference, Feb. 19-22, 2015, Los Angeles. Look for additional information in future newsletters.

[Campus Compact Heartland Conference 2014](#), Oct. 2-3, 2014, Lincoln, Neb. [Download conference program.](#)

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

[creighton.edu/aea](http://creighton.edu/aea)

Creighton University  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178

[click here](#) to manage your email preferences or to unsubscribe