

February 2015

Contact Us



The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is dedicated to Creighton University's commitment to excellence in teaching and student learning by offering faculty and staff the opportunity to:

Imagine...the Opportunities.
Reflect...on Best Practices.
Collaborate...with Campus Colleagues.
Transform...Student Learning.

Creighton University exists for students and learning. Faculty and staff pursue an excellence in teaching and student learning that extends beyond the brick and mortar of our classrooms into the communities in which we live, to include service learning.

Contact AEA to learn more about service learning processes, faculty development programming, assessment, course design, effective teaching methods, and/or the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

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



OISSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

The [Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service and Education's \(OISSE\)](#) engagement opportunities connect students in the [School of Pharmacy and Health Professions \(SPAHP\)](#) with community health outreach opportunities in rural and urban areas in eastern Nebraska. Community health outreach is offered to all students in SPAHP as part of professional formation, aligned with the Ignatian values of Creighton University. Furthermore, OISSE best practices for interprofessional community engagements include tools such as a student team planning matrix, health literacy module templates, health education course materials, orientations, [Community Engagement CUEs](#), online registration and assessment.

OISSE was created under the belief that community engagement activities act as powerful learning tools for students in the health professions. OISSE engages students in service learning, reflection and action as an integral part of their Jesuit education, while gaining invaluable clinical skills.

The office supports over 6,000 community engagement hours for 800 students and 80 faculty per year. OISSE's customized, database tool provides reporting and tracking data to respective health science programs, accrediting bodies, and the University Assessment Committee. The OISSE database is an innovative asset to school and institutional strategic initiatives and accreditation requirements.

Read full article: ["OISSE: An Infrastructure Supporting Innovations in Interprofessional Education"](#)

To learn more about OISSE, [watch a brief nine-minute video](#).

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 and recognized "With Distinction" in 2014 (previously 2007). [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.

Watch for additional communications about the 2015 President's Honor Roll in upcoming weeks.

VOLUNTEERING AND CIVIC LIFE IN AMERICA AND NEBRASKA



The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently issued the following reports on volunteering and service. The [Volunteering and Civic Life in America](#) annual research report shows that volunteering and civic engagement are the cornerstone of a strong nation, across generations, enriching both our communities and those who serve.

Americans continued to strengthen their communities through volunteering. Explore [key findings](#), [state and city rankings](#), or [demographic profiles](#) to learn more [about the report](#).

[Nebraska 2013 trends and highlights overview](#).



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature **Project CURA** and **Project Homeless Connect** programs.

[Project CURA](#) is a Creighton student-run School of Medicine organization established in 2001 that sends medical students and supplies to Ghana, India, Romania, Guatemala, Ecuador, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Since its foundation, Project CURA has provided service through medical assistance, public health education, English instruction, youth education, sanitation, infrastructure support, vocational training, and other forms of collaborative projects.



Project CURA Savor the Flavor and Silent Auction Program; Tuesday, Mar. 24; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Skutt SC Ballroom. Share the evening program with the students who will be traveling and immerse yourself in the various cultures and taste the cuisine of each country. [More information.](#) Questions about the event can be sent to Emily Lowry or Mandy Marsh at savortheflavor.projectcura@gmail.com



[Project Homeless Connect](#) is a one-day event that serves as a "one-stop shop," connecting homeless individuals to needed services, including: housing, healthcare, legal resources, Social Security, food-stamp benefits, and additional services. Government agencies, non-profit agencies, local businesses, volunteer groups, medical providers, legal experts and many other service providers come together in Creighton University's Kiewit Fitness Center to offer on-site immediate assistance to individuals, families, seniors, veterans and youth who find themselves homeless.

Project Homeless Connect Omaha 2015; Friday, Mar. 27 at the Kiewit Fitness Center. [To volunteer.](#)

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 2015. Look for email announcements on sustainability programs.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND NEWS



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Heider College of Business Accounting students will be providing free income tax preparations for families on **Saturday, February 7, Saturday, February 14, and Sunday, March 1.** In addition, students also travel to the Winnebago Indian Reservation to prepare tax returns for its residents.

[More information about VITA program.](#)

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 in the Harper Center Ballroom. A silent auction will be held 11-12; with lunch at 11:30; and oral auction starting at 12:10.**

Individual tickets are available for \$20 the day of the event. [For more](#)



[information or to see the auction items.](#)

HAND IN HAND

[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, Apr. 6; 1-4 p.m.; Skutt SC 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](#)



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The School of Dentistry received more than \$230,000 from Building Healthy Futures to provide preventive oral health services in elementary schools, provide dental care coordination and to increase capacity for treatment of children at local federally qualified health centers. **Kelly A. Gould**, assistant professor of community and preventive dentistry and director of extramural programs in the School of Dentistry, also serves as an oral health services coordinator for Building Healthy Futures. This partnership has resulted in 2,615 children in eight northeast Omaha schools receiving dental services that they otherwise may not have received.



Third-year dental students provide education, fluoride varnish treatments and dental sealants in Omaha public schools for children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade to prevent decay. Fourth-year dental students provide follow-up restorative and surgical treatment at the School of Dentistry, Charles Drew Health Center and OneWorld Community Health Centers. According to **Dean Mark Latta**, this partnership provides excellent learning experiences for Creighton dental

students while increasing Creighton's service to the community.

RECOMMENDED READING



Physics professor, [Gintaras Duda](#), was featured in an Creighton article, [Gee-haw! For gifts to get the kids interested in science, we've got some whammy diddles](#), written by Adam Klinker, public relations specialist in Marketing and Communications. The article highlights student service-learning experiences in the [PHY 491/791 – Physics Seminar: The Physics of Toys](#).

COMMUNITY CONTACTS



NEBRASKA 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

Nebraska 4-H invites you to make a difference in the life of a young person and discover even more in the process: friends, fun, memories, and special talents! There are various involvement opportunities in the topics STEM, youth development, community outreach, science education, robotic, public speaking, horse, and dance. To volunteer, contact [Maria Walker](#), 4-H Extension Educator, Douglas/Sarpy Counties, UNL Extension. [More information](#).

READERS TO LEADERS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS



[Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands](#) is seeking volunteers for the [Readers to Leaders Program](#), a 90-day results-driven program targeting 7 and 8 year-old Club members who could benefit most from a reading performance boost. The program teaches important reading skills necessary to connect with and understand text. It adapts to each child's needs and has checkpoints along the way to show growth. [For more information or to volunteer](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Proposals are being accepted for the 2015 Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit, June 9-10, 2015, St. Peter, MN. The summit theme: The Global is Local: Civic Engagement across Cultures, Communities, and Nations. Submission deadline: February 13, 2015. [More information.](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

[IMPACT National Conference](#), Feb. 19-22, 2015, Los Angeles, CA

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

[National Service-Learning Conference](#), Apr. 8-11, 2015, Washington, D.C.



[2015 Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit](#), June 9-10, 2015, St. Peter, MN.

[National Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), Oct. 19-21, 2015, Houston, TX.

[International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IARSLCE\)](#), Nov. 16-18, 2015, Boston, MA.



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