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Creighton
UNIVERSITY

UPDATE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ASSESSMENT

February 2017

Contact Us



The Office of 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).



SERVICE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY: PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT OMAHA

On any given night in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, it is estimated there are approximately 1500 homeless in shelters and on the streets. Project Homeless Connect Omaha (PHCO) allows these individuals access to important services which improve their lives on the streets. The one-day event serves as a “one-stop shop,” connecting homeless individuals to services including housing, healthcare, legal resources, Social Security, and food-stamp benefits.

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. Consider volunteering your time and talent to aid in support of the area's homeless at the annual **Project Homeless Connect Omaha on Friday, March 31; 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Skutt Student Center.** [More information.](#) | [To volunteer.](#)

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

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 [trends and highlights](#), [state and city rankings](#), or [demographic profiles](#) to learn more about the [report](#).

Nebraska was ranked sixth. [Nebraska 2015 trends and highlights overview](#).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature the **Youth Leadership Omaha** and the **ILAC Water Quality** 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. Contact [Charisse Williams](#) for additional information or questions regarding the program.



The [Institute for Latin American Concern \(ILAC\)](#) hosts the [Water Quality Program](#), where students spend time visiting rural campos to analyze water samples and correct problems with their filters. Following the analysis, students return to the campo to explain the results and educate the Dominicans about correct usage and maintenance habits. By working with the Dominicans, this program has the ability to impact the current and future health of rural communities.

The students' experience is about serving within the community and creating a shared sense of dignity and accomplishment. [View ILAC video.](#) For more information contact: [Gary Michels, Ph.D.](#), Chemistry Department.

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.

CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

HAND-IN-HAND EVENT

[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 planned by student organizations, such as bingo, karaoke, a photo booth, games, crafts and more. The event will be held on **Sunday, March 26; 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 any more than \$10-\$20 in value. **Deadline for donations is Friday, March 24.** Questions can be directed to [Erica Reist](#).

RECOMMENDED READING



[Service-Learning as Independent Course: Merits, Challenges, and Ways Forward](#), provides information on a case study report with particular emphasis on the course development process of service-learning as an independent course. The lessons learned from the study specifically help to inform the course design and improve the quality of service-learning courses and programs in higher education in general.

Reference: [International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IJRSLCE\)](#), Vol 4, No. 1.

UPCOMING NEWS TO SHARE

SHARE YOUR NEWS

It is energizing to witness the students becoming "men and women for others" on their educational journey at Creighton University. To that, AEA would like to continue in the spirit, by inviting you to share information on service that will be taking place in your division/college/school during the spring 2016 semester, focusing on:

- campus events (are you hosting any campus event



which incorporates service-learning activity?

- course work (are you incorporating a service-learning event or activity to your fall schedule)
- recommended reading (any service-learning article that you've recently read that would benefit the Creighton community)
- upcoming conferences (any upcoming conference in your area related to service-learning?)
- community connections (any outside organization/non-profits you are working with on upcoming events which may need volunteers?)

To submit information or if you have questions, contact [Mary Emmer](#) at 402.280.1190.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

BENSON AREA REFUGEE TASKFORCE

[Benson Area Refugee Taskforce \(BART\)](#) is an Omaha-based collaboration of individuals, organizations, and houses of faith, founded to make a difference in the lives of refugees in our community. For six years, BART has celebrated, educated and advocated for this vulnerable population--and continues to do so, regardless of country of origin, faith or gender.



Volunteers are needed to the areas of ESL tutoring, computer assistance, and preparation for the Clothes Closet event. [For more information and to volunteer.](#) | Questions contact [Beverly Horning](#).

EARTH DAY OMAHA 2017

Volunteers are needed for the [Earth Day Omaha 2017](#) on Saturday, Apr. 22; 11 a.m.-6 p.m at Elmwood Park. Every year, dozens of volunteers help make Earth Day Omaha a reality. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the event to contribute to our success. To volunteer, complete [online application form](#).



TED E. BEAR HOLLOW

[Ted E. Bear Hollow \(TEBH\)](#) provides a safe, supportive environment where children, teens, and adults can learn healthy ways to cope with the death of a family member or friend. TEBH also performs community education and outreach to meet the needs of Omaha's bereaved youth.



Volunteers are needed to assist with weekend day camps, monthly and evening support groups, and program preparations. *Spanish speaking volunteers especially needed.* For more information or to volunteer, contact [Kathy Bigelow](#), Program Director.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The [International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IJRSLCE\)](#) is now accepting proposals for the 2017 conference in Galway, Ireland. The conference will take place September 14 - 16, 2017 and is hosted by NUI Galway. [Submit proposal information.](#)
Proposal deadline: Fri., March 10.



The theme of this year's conference is Gateways - Charting New Territories & Forging Authentic Relationships.

NEW THIS YEAR: IARSLCE will be holding a **free webinar** for those planning to submit proposals on **Tuesday, February 21** at 10AM CT. It will be led by 2017 Conference Chair Lorraine McIlrath and IARSLCE Vice-Chair Marshall Welch. Space is limited, so to reserve your space, please click [here](#). A weblink will be provided via email the day before the webinar.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

[National Service-Learning Conference](#),
March 22-24, 2017, Anaheim, CA.

[Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), June 19-21, 2017, Seattle, WA.



[Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities \(AJCU\)](#) conference, "*Through the Eye of the Needle: Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education*," hosted by Seattle University; Aug. 10-13, Seattle, WA.

[International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement \(IARSLCE\)](#), Sept. 14-16, 2017, Galway, Ireland

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