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Creighton
UNIVERSITY

UPDATE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ASSESSMENT

March 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,



INVITED TO SERVE: 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.](#)

and/or the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

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

SUBMISSION OF 2016 DATA

The 2016 submission has yet to be announced. Creighton University reported **more than 1.25 million total student service hours for the reporting year (2014-2015)**. The actual number is 1,338,234 hours. The report shows that **4,799 Creighton students engaged in academic, co-curricular or community service; 72% (3,470) of those Creighton students engaged in some form of academic service-learning and 3,736 students participated in more than 20 hours of service in a given semester.**



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Continuing our series highlighting the programs in which our students have participated in service, we feature a **senior perspective course with focus on poverty in America** and the **Spring Break Service and Justice Trips** programs.

During the summer pre-session, Creighton offers a senior perspective course, [Poverty in America](#), in which students travel to West Virginia and live with a community that serves those of the area in various forms of outreach.

There are opportunities for students to assist in home repair, tutor children, gather and cook for community night, visit the elderly and/or homebound, and come to know the particular strengths and perspectives of those who deal with poverty day-to-day, all of their lives. Another component of the course is to understand the systematic causes of poverty experiences in the area.



The community students emphasizes the importance of simplicity, prayer, service, community and sustainability; they integrate these into the work they do in the surrounding areas. If you are interested, have questions or would like an application, please contact [Alice Smith](#) at 402.280.3623 of the [Faculty-Led Abroad Program, Global Engagement Office](#).

Nearly 150 Creighton students participated in the [Schlegel Center for Service & Justice's 34th annual Spring Break Trips](#) which provided students an opportunity to live, work and learn in communities. During the week, students engaged in dialogue, social justice advocacy and service work at 19 different sites around the country, including Memphis, Minneapolis, Albuquerque, Cleveland, and along the southern border with Mexico.



In addition, SCSJ had teamed up with Abide Omaha, a nonprofit center, which reaches out to neighbors and helps weave together components of a safer and healthier neighborhood.

Learn more from students who went on service trips this past spring break. **Wednesday, Apr. 5; 11:30-12:30; Lower St. John's Parish Hall** (lunch provided). They will share the graces they personally received in the various places they visited, including stories about people they met and what they learned. [RSVP for Program](#)

METRO-AREA COALITION FOR SERVICE-LEARNING NEWS

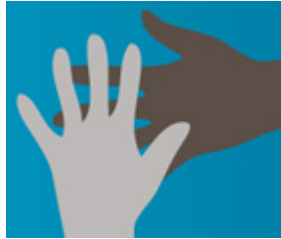
Creighton is a member of the **Metropolitan-Area Coalition for Service-Learning (MACSL)**, along with representatives from the College of Saint Mary, Metropolitan Community College, Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Iowa Western Community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



[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 this **Sunday, March 26; 1-4 p.m.; Skutt SC Ballroom.**

Faculty/Staff volunteers are needed to either be matched with one of the guests from the Omaha community that has a developmental disability or to run an activity during the event. It's an exciting opportunity to give of yourself personally. [Register as a Partner.](#) | [Sign Up to Run an Activity.](#) Questions can be directed to [Erica Reist.](#)



MISSION, OF COURSE!

Brain Kokensparger, Senior Academic Excellence and Assessment Associate will facilitate the workshop which will examine Creighton's Catholic Jesuit mission from the individual course perspective, with a focus on simple but effective ways to bring an element of mission into any course.

Wednesday, Apr. 5; 11-1; Skutt SC 105 (lunch provided) [To Register](#)

FOCUS ON EXPERIENTIAL AND SERVICE LEARNING: ASSOCIATES' PROGRAM CALL

With a focus on experiential learning such as service learning, the [Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment](#) invites Creighton faculty and professional staff (full-time only) members to apply for the Associates' Program.



Each Associate will be provided \$2,000 for their professional development use in each of the two years in the program. Associates will be supported in their role and efforts to develop and deliver university-wide faculty/professional staff development programming by the AEA staff and former Associates.

[Associate Expectations and Application Instructions](#) | [AEA Associate Contact List](#)

Application deadline: April 7, 2017 by 5 p.m.

Award announcements will be made by May 2, 2017. Questions about this program should be directed to [Mary Ann Danielson](#).

RECOMMENDED READING



The [Service Learning Program](#) at [Marquette University](#) facilitates student learners who are involved with the community in several different ways. They may work alone, in pairs, in small groups, or with their entire class. The university has identified **five** models of service learning to summarize the variety of ways students participate in the Service Learning Program. [Learn more about the five models.](#)

Are you ready to plan a community engaged course? The [Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University](#) offers several useful [step-by-step guides](#) as resources on the topic of community engagement. One common guide PARE (Preparation, Action, Reflection and Evaluation) is designed for community-based course planning.

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



URGENT! HELP WITH EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The Salvation Army Kroc Corps Community Center is seeking volunteers to assist with the annual Easter family activity! Bring smiles to the faces of children and their families by helping to keep activities organized, fun, and exciting! **EGGstravaganza will be held on Saturday, Apr. 8; 1:30-3:30 p.m.** [More information.](#) | [To volunteer.](#)



EARTH DAY OMAHA 2017

Volunteers are needed for [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.](#)

YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY



[Healthy Kids Day](#) is an annual YMCA event and national YMCA initiative promoting the health and well-being of children. The **YMCA of Greater Omaha's Healthy Kids Day will be held on Sunday, Apr. 23; 11-2; Stinson Park in Aksarben Village.** Volunteers will be needed to work at different activities throughout the park for the duration of the event, as well as for set up and tear down. [More information.](#) | [To volunteer.](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

[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.

[Engagement Scholarship Consortium](#), Sept. 26-27, Birmingham, AL.

[Association of American College and Universities \(AAC&U\) 2017 Global Engagement and Social Responsibility: Higher Education's Role in Addressing Global Crises](#), Oct. 12-14, New Orleans, LA.

[Imagining America 17th National Conference](#), Oct. 12-14, Davis, CA.

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