



Service-Learning Supported by Commitment to Excellence Funds

By Emily Hixon, Ph.D., CETL Instructional Design Specialist

Many IUN faculty members include a service-learning component in their courses, and have been doing so for quite some time. For example, during the 2003-2004 academic year, 15 faculty members reported adding a service-learning component to

at least one of their courses. However, service-learning is an often misunderstood concept and can easily become a catch-all term for any type of learning activity that involves the community.

In *Service-Learning in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices*, a key book in the field, Barbara Jacoby defines service-learning as “a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development” (p. 5). The author emphasizes that reflection and reciprocity are key concepts that set service-learning apart from other forms of experiential education such as internships, field experiences, community service, and volunteerism.

Lou Ann Karabel, senior lecturer in English, has been an advocate for service-learning and has helped many of her colleagues understand how service-learning can fit into their curriculum. In addition to including service-learning projects in her W131 composition course, she has also served as coordinator of service-

learning at IU Northwest for several years. “Our faculty, students and staff have always made significant contributions to the Northwest Indiana community,” she states, “and with greater institutional support, we’ll be able to do even more.” Building on what Karabel and others have done in the past, IUN is seeking to build the service-learning program and further promote service-learning as an instructional technique that can benefit both our students and the surrounding community.

Leaders in the field emphasize institutional commitment as a key sign of a strong service-learning program. Through the use of Commitment to Excellence Funds, IUN is recognizing the value of service-learning and making a commitment to its success on campus. Service-learning now has an official home within the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Professional staff member Emily Hixon, Ph.D., will serve as the Coordinator of Service-Learning, working to promote a better understanding of service-learning, helping faculty members to implement service-learning, and building connections with community groups who may have needs that our students can assist in meeting. In addition to the coordinator of service-learning, there will also be a faculty liaison for service-learning who will work with faculty members wanting to implement service-learning and represent service-learning on various committees. Karabel has agreed to be the faculty liaison for the 2005-2006 academic year.

If you would like more information about service-learning, please contact the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at 219-980-6755, or visit their website at www.iun.edu/~cetl.

Would you like to participate in UITS Faculty Notebook Computer Program at IUN?

If you are: full-time tenured or tenure track faculty, lecturer, clinical faculty, or librarian; are part-time faculty member teaching essential courses for your unit; are a consistent user of course management technology, participate in technology workshops or consultations, and have your dean’s approval, you are eligible to apply to participate in the UITS Faculty Notebook Computer Program.

The program is designed to provide an opportunity for you to use technology in your classroom, particularly Oncourse, to enrich and add flexibility to your students’ learning experience. Faculty members are encouraged to experiment with particular features of Oncourse within their existing courses, to migrate to Oncourse from another course management system, and to develop new courses in Oncourse.

CETL will initially select 10 faculty members for the program. An information session is set for August 30, 2005 in LC 331. Applications and Dean Approval forms will be available on the CETL website and are due by 5 pm September 12, 2005. Laptops will be distributed the week of September 19.

IU Distinguished Teaching Award for Service Learning

The Committee on Distinguished Teaching Awards wishes to bring to your attention the opportunity for submitting nominations for the Thomas Ehrlich Award for Excellence in Service Learning.

Candidates for this award should provide evidence that they have implemented service-learning in a manner consistent with good practice, improved the course, reflected upon it, taken on leadership in their department, campus, and/or discipline and had an impact on students and the community both in and out of the classroom.

Outstanding candidates will have supported the integration of community or public service into the curriculum and made efforts to institutionalize service-learning. Individuals may make nominations directly to the committee or they may submit nominations through departmental chairpersons or deans.

If you would like more information, please see www.indiana.edu/~disteac, or email disteach@indiana.edu, or call 812-855-3761.



Fall 2005 Calendar of Events

October 12, 2005

12:00 - 12:50 pm, (Virtual Brownbag)

Electronic Portfolios as a Tool for Community Engagement: Case Study and Lessons Learned

Gloria Rogers, Director, Research and Assessment, ABET, Inc. (former Vice President - Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology)

This session will present the relationship between student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness and how the use of an electronic portfolio system can promote the engagement of the community

in discussions of what matters most. Things to consider, challenges, examples and a brief demonstration will be included.

October 21, 2005

9:00 - 11:00 am/12:00 - 2:00 pm
(Keynote & Workshop)

Fostering High Expectations in a Culturally and Economically Diverse Urban Institution

James Anderson, Ph.D., Vice Provost, Texas A&M University

The morning will be a keynote address open to faculty, staff, and students. The afternoon will be an interactive session with faculty only.

November 9, 2005

12:00 - 12:50 pm, (Virtual Brownbag)

Beyond Cheating: Individual and Cooperative Engagement through Online Testing

Kevin Valadares, University of Southern Indiana

This session will show how OLT engages learners, individually and in groups, in a form of social interaction that encourages a richer understanding of the subject material and advocates for the uniqueness of each student's contribution to the learning process.

Free Computing Workshops

Workshops are open to IUN faculty, staff and registered students at NO CHARGE.

Descriptions and prerequisites are posted outside of Hawthorn 108 or on the web at: www.iun.edu/~train/

To register, please call Jackie Coven at 980-6960, email jcoven@iun.edu or visit Hawthorn 108.

September

Monday, Sept. 19: 1 – 4 pm
Excel Charting

Tuesday, Sept. 20: 6 – 9 pm
Special Request
Workshop

Wednesday, Sept. 21: 1 – 4 pm
PowerPoint Basics

Thursday, Sept. 22: 1 – 4 pm
FrontPage Basics

October

Friday, October 7: 9 am – Noon
PowerPoint Basics

Monday, October 10: 1 – 4 pm
Excel 2: Tools for
What-Ifs & Lists

Tuesday, October 11: 6 – 9 pm
Excel 2: Tools for
What-Ifs & Lists

Wednesday, Oct 12: 9 am – Noon
FrontPage Basics

Thursday, Oct 13: 1 – 4 pm
Access 1: the Basics

Friday, Oct 14: 9 am - Noon
Word 2: the Essentials

Tuesday, Oct 18: 6 – 9 pm
Excel Charting

Wednesday, Oct 19: 1 – 4 pm
Dreamweaver 1:
Web Page Basics

Directory

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unofficial caregivers for their loved ones. But this is a highly stressful and challenging job, according to lecturer in social work Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D. He said that most of the recipients of caregiving can be physically disabled, but more often they have mental health and cognitive deficits (Alzheimers, Parkinson's, dementia, etc). Therefore, the NWICAC wanted to create a manual and resource directory to be made available at no cost to the caregivers in the region, and MSW students stepped up to the challenge.

The manual is designed to assist the caregivers in learning about their responsibilities, finding support for themselves and their loved ones. The manual talks about safety in the home, several illnesses common among the elderly, financial and legal planning, caregiver support, etc. The resource section was created to enable them to connect with available service providers.

Patty Stovall, assistant director of NWICAC, approached the Division of Social Work for assistance in creating this manual. Pardasani and the five students worked together for five months to create the directory. It should be mentioned that getting five students was a feat because working with the elderly is the least popular field of practice. None of the students had ever worked with the elderly population through work or in the field. "The students said this experience was memorable and eye-opening," Pardasani said. "We are excited to see the manual go to print and be available for free to this often underserved population."

Pardansi and the students plan to present their collaboration experience at social work conferences as an example of service learning. "We are hoping more schools will replicate this model to infuse more gerontological content in their curriculum, and hopefully inspire students to consider this field of practice," he said.