Service Learning Handout

Goals:
• Heightened awareness of social problems
• Deepened sense of community
• Appreciation of cultural diversity
• Concretized understanding of self in relation to community
• Increased responsibility for local and/or community issues
• Enhanced understanding of the ways volunteerism intersects with citizenship
• Development of teamwork skills

Elements of Service-Learning
• Meaningful Service – Because service dovetails with course aims, students clearly envision the links between in-class learning and out of class skills
• Reciprocity – Students realize that Service-Learning is a two way street; they gain as much as the community does
• Reflection – Systematic reflection on the Service-Learning process encourages development of critical thinking and awareness of students’ integrative and integral place within the larger community and/or agency structure
• Development - Students coordinate and participate in a wide array of stages learning to not only serve, but also to observe, analyze, plan, enable, exhort, and lead
• Diversity – The diverse cross-section of agencies and community partners interested in Service-Learning partnerships allows students to move beyond their own cultural parameters to engage with others of different backgrounds

Benefits of Service-Learning
For Students
• Gain instruction and knowledge from a wide array of community stakeholders including agency personnel, community leaders, instructors, and community members
• Explore majors and job possibilities while gaining marketable job skills and hands-on job experience
• Extend critical thinking skills
• Enhance ethical development and understanding of different cultural values
• Understand real-world application of in-class knowledge and skills

For Faculty
• Develop strategies for further engaging students in the classroom
• Provide more genuine and ethical motivations for learning
• Move classroom learning beyond the classroom into real-world situations
• Encourage individual reflection via student engagement with the community
• Deepen ties with the community as well as generate support for the University

For the Community
• Educate college community about local issues and needs
• Expand network for potential collaboration and development of possible solutions
• Enhance the learning of current college students
• Create partnerships both within the college and with other agencies