



Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Scholars Compass

Service-Learning Institute

2014 Service-Learning Institute

Service-Learning Mini-Institute Agenda

VCU Division of Community Engagement

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Abstract

Service-Learning Mini-Institute Agenda. Day 1: Introduction to Service-Learning. Day 2: Reflection and Community Partnerships.

Disciplines

Higher Education

Virginia Commonwealth University
Service-Learning Mini-Institute Agenda
ASPiRE Classroom
West Grace Street South Residence Hall

Day #1
Introduction to Service-Learning

All institute readings are available on the service-learning website.

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|------------------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 am | Light Breakfast |
| 9:00-9:30am | Opening Reflection |
| 9:30-10:30 am | Service-Learning Foundations: Cycles of Action and Reflection
This introductory presentation will provide participants with an overview of the theoretical foundations of service-learning pedagogy and commonly used definitions, including VCU's definition for designated service-learning classes. Principles of high quality practice will be explained and the research evidence supporting the efficacy of service-learning will be described. |
| 10:30-11:15 am | Service-Learning Classes at VCU
This session will teach participants how to find service-learning classes online within the Banner System and will introduce the requirements for service-learning course designation. The importance of service-learning class designation in VCU's strategic plan, <i>Quest for Distinction</i> , will also be explained. Participants will have time to explore recent service-learning class offerings and the VCU Service-Learning Office website. |
| 11:15-11:45am | Tour of ASPiRE
VCU ASPiRE is a living-learning community promoting community engagement and co-curricular activity. The mission of VCU ASPiRE is to enrich and deepen students' understanding of their capacity to create positive change in communities and address critical societal needs through long-term sustainable partnerships. Service-learning instructors have a unique opportunity to work with the ASPiRE program in various ways and utilize the building space for course work and meetings. |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Lunch On Your Own |
| 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Service-Learning Course Models: Panel Discussion
There is no one 'right' way to incorporate service-learning into a class. Before instructors design a service-learning class they must consider a wide range of variables including their students' pre-knowledge (of the academic content and of the community), the learning objectives of the course, appropriate community partners and service activities, service logistics, and assessing student learning and community impact. This afternoon panel presentation will bring several experienced service-learning instructors to the group to share their experiences in setting up and running service-learning courses. Instructors who represent a variety of disciplines and who use a variety of course models will be included on the panel. |

Day #2
Reflection and Community Partnerships

All institute participants will be emailed a packet of readings prior to the day's presentations.

- 8:30- 9:00 am** **Light Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:30am** **Opening Reflection**
- 9:30- 10:30 am** **Reflection: Connecting Service to Learning**
This session is designed to help participants understand the importance of reflection activities within service-learning classes. A model of critical reflection will be described, and several resources for reflection activities will be provided. By the end of this session, participants should be able to describe a variety of reflection activities that would be appropriate to use in their own (future) service-learning classes.
- 10:30- 12:00 pm** **Mobilizing Community Partnerships**
Not every community organization will make an appropriate community partner for a service-learning class. Like a good marriage, even the best community-university partnerships needs ongoing attention and care. This session will describe strategies for establishing and maintaining mutually-beneficial community-university partnerships for service-learning. By the end of the session, participants should have an increased awareness of issues community organizations face in working with student volunteers and concrete steps they can take to insure that critical community-identified needs are met through service-learning.
- 12:00-1:00 pm** **Lunch On Your Own**
- 1:00- 3:00pm** **Community-Campus Partnerships: Panel Discussion**
This highly interactive session will begin with a panel presentation given by representatives from local community organizations that have collaborated with VCU service-learning classes. Speakers will describe both the benefits and challenges they face in welcoming student service-learning volunteers into their organizations and will share their perspectives regarding how instructors and Service-Learning Office staff can facilitate more successful collaborations. Participants will have opportunities to ask questions and share insights during a discussion that follows the panel presentation. Participants should leave this session with a richer understanding, and a more complete "toolkit" of ideas and strategies that will enable them to establish and maintain mutually-beneficial community partnerships.
- 3:00-4:00pm** **Capstone Session**
This session is intended to help participants reflect on and synthesize what they have learned during the institute. The Service-Learning Office staff will share some of the faculty resources and funding opportunities that are available to participants. Participants will have the opportunity to work independently, in small groups, or engage with Service-Learning Office staff on specific ideas for using service-learning in their teaching and for integrating service-learning and scholarship.