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# Mobilizing Partnerships

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**Abstract**

Objectives:

**Disciplines**

Higher Education

# Mobilizing Partnerships

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# Objectives

- \* Discuss why partnerships succeed/fail
- \* Define the 3 Cs
- \* Learn effective ways to implement community standards for service-learning
- \* Discuss primary tensions between service-learners and host agencies
- \* Begin developing your own set of community standards for service-learning

# EVERY GROUP PROJECT



**IN SCHOOL YOU HAVE EVER DONE**

# Think, Pair, Share

- \* Think about the worst collaborative experience you ever had. What made the collaboration challenging? What could have made the collaboration successful?

# The 3 Cs in Community Partnerships

- \* Commitment
- \* Communication
- \* Compatibility

## Group Activity:

- \* Draw a picture of an ideal partnership between a service-learning course and a partner agency

# Partner Checklist

- Location(s)
- Hours of Operation
- Mission
- Student supervisor/contact person
- Volunteer Capacity
- Volunteer Tasks
- Volunteer Orientation Activities





# Community Standards for Service-Learning

- \* Communication
- \* Developing Positive Relationships
- \* Providing an Infrastructure for Service-Learning
- \* Managing Service Learners
- \* Promoting Diversity in Service-Learning

Stoecker, R. and Tryon, E. (2009). The unheard voices: Community organizations and service-learning. Pp. 163-186. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

# Communication Counts

Read the sample e-mail message from a service-learning instructor and discuss whether it is an effective way to engage a community partner.

YWCA Staff,

Thank you for agreeing to host the service-learning students in my class. They will begin coming next week and can help you with anything you need done. They will need someone to sign their service logs each time they come. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Professor X  
828-xxxx

# Brainstorm



- \* What are some effective ways for service-learning faculty to communicate with their partner BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER their course is completed?

# Tips for Communicating Effectively with Your Partner

- \* Have an initial meeting on-site with the partner
- \* Make sure you have a specific point person as your main contact
- \* Communicate using the most effective method for your partner
- \* Provide information about service-learning (what is it, why important)
- \* Provide a course syllabus to the partner
- \* Discuss your expectations
- \* Have partner come speak with the class *before* they begin service
- \* Limit and/or explain ‘academic speak’
- \* Have a written agreement between the partner, students, and instructor

# Tips for Positive Relationship Building

- \* Make sure the relationship has mutual benefit
- \* Be accountable
- \* Have clear expectations
- \* Guide partner on working with students
- \* Respect the work of your partner
- \* Be flexible

# Managing Service Learners: Questions to Consider

- \* What will the partner's role be in evaluation?
- \* How will students be evaluated?
- \* When will students be evaluated?
- \* What documentation will be used to track hours?
- \* Who will be responsible for tracking student hours?
- \* How will students be prepared to serve an agency?

# Promoting Diversity

- \* Consider a foreign language service-learning course that partners with a local organization devoted to assisting refugees. Think about your students, what items should the instructor cover? What ways could this be done?
  - \* Before service
  - \* During service
  - \* After service

# Tensions between Service-Learners and Host Agencies

## Student Emphasis

vs.

## Agency Emphasis

- \* Hours
- \* Learning
- \* Flexibility
- \* Idealism

- \* Commitment
- \* Efficiency
- \* Dependability
- \* Realism

Mills, Stephen (2012). The Four Furies: Primary Tensions between Service-Learners and Host Agencies. *Michigan Journal of Community Service-Learning*. Fall 2012, pp. 33-43.



# Getting Started

- \* Review the Faculty Toolkit found at the service-learning website ([www.servicelearning.vcu.edu](http://www.servicelearning.vcu.edu))
  - \* SL Designation Course Form
  - \* Sample student hours log
  - \* Sample contract
  - \* Sample Memorandum of Understanding
  - \* SL articles

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