Louise Bown Receives Community Engaged Scholar Award

Louise Bown was selected as SLCC’s Community Engaged Scholar for 2015. Louise is a service-learning faculty practitioner and an advocate for community engagement in her department. She has been instrumental in helping to move the English department forward with their engaged department goals. As a part of this, she supports and promotes faculty service-learning professional development and has recruited many new faculty to the pedagogy.

Louise also is a leader with service-learning course development with her colleagues. On an institutional level, she spearheaded the inclusion of community engaged scholarship language into the faculty sabbatical leave policy. As the faculty convention chair, she supported the SLCC President’s civic engagement focus by theming the convention “Igniting service-learning faculty, community partners bring to higher education and includes them in her grading process. She is a force for change across the college.

The Community Engaged Scholar Award from the Utah Campus Compact recognizes faculty who use service-learning as a successful pedagogy and show innovation in employing strategies to connect students’ service with academics. These faculty members also demonstrate civic engagement through teaching, community based research, or promotion of service-learning at their institutions.

Connecting classrooms to local organizations

By Benjamin Solomon

The English Department has teamed up with three local organizations working on the front lines of the same social issues our students often take up in class:

- The United Way: Reading, Literacy, Education
- Catholic Community Services: Poverty, Substance Abuse, Homelessness
- Utahns Against Hunger and Real Food Rising: Food Insecurity, Nutrition, Local Food

Research shows that service-learning students are more apt to see problems as systemic, and to see the world from multiple perspectives (Deans 3). Both critical reflection and hands on experience make service-learning a high impact practice in the writing classroom.

It’s easy to set up service-learning projects for your students with our partner organizations, who understand the goals of service-learning and have an ongoing need for volunteers.

For more information, contact Service-learning Committee coordinator Benjamin Solomon [benjamin.solomon@slcc.edu], and have a look at our partner organizations’ volunteer information below:

- www.uw.org/volunteer
- www.ccsutah.org/volunteer
- www.uah.org/help-fight-hunger/volunteer

Thayne Center for Service & Learning and The Service-Learning Program

Networking, Mixers, and Meals!

Join us for our Service-Learning mixers! Enjoy refreshments, network with other faculty and community partners. Discover why service-learning is a high-impact practice. Discuss how to incorporate service in your academic curriculum and how to utilize the community as a living text.

- Sept 16 – Faculty Roundtable and Q & A (primarily for new faculty)
  Redwood Campus STC 223 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Sept 30 – Community Partner Speed Dating lunch (for new and existing faculty, community partners, and students)
  Miller Culinary Institute bldg. (CART 116) 12:00 p.m.
- Oct 28 – Faculty Mixer (for new and existing faculty)
  Bohemia Brewery 94 E. 7200 S. 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Service-learning now in Academic Affairs

By Lucy Smith

Service-learning has moved to the Learning Advancement division within Academic Affairs. This new division houses not only service-learning but also ePortfolio, Libraries, Faculty Services, and Study Abroad. What this means for the service-learning program is better realignment of the pedagogy alongside other academic high-impact practices. As a part of this, we foresee increased collaboration with academic committees and improved integration with academic processes and procedures. This move starts a new chapter with the service-learning program, which has already been recognized regionally and nationally. Service-learning is a key component of SLCC’s community engagement efforts and accreditation metrics and also our Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement designation. Because of this, the program seeks to gain increased institutionalization and growth.

The service-learning program works with faculty interested in experiential teaching and learning techniques. Recent research by Kuh (2008) demonstrated that service-learning pedagogy helps students achieve deep learning, and personal and practical gains. Academic achievement and student retention are also positively impacted by High Impact Practices such as service-learning (Brownell & Swaner, 2010).

The service-learning program supports faculty and administrators by offering professional development opportunities such as boot camps, service-learning (SL) 1000, networking opportunities such as community partner speed dating, and mixers, and also provides individual guidance as a part of the Service-Learning Grant & Designation program. Funding is available to faculty interested in designating their course with service-learning. The new web site for the service-learning program is under development but in the meantime, the Thayne Center for Service & Learning still houses the information you need. You may also contact Lucy Smith, service-learning coordinator at 801-957-4688 or lucy.smith@slcc.edu for more information.
Upcoming Events

- **Service-Learning Infoshop (9/14/2015 2-4 pm AAB126)**
  Faculty, are looking for ways to help your students get more engaged with their writing? Are you interested in learning more about high-impact pedagogies? Studies show that service-learning students do better academically, develop stronger commitments to their communities, and are more prepared to enter their careers. Join us for an infoshop on community engagement and service-learning pedagogies in the writing classroom. Both full- and part-time faculty are invited. Part-time faculty will be compensated for their time. RSVP Benjamin Solomon at 801-957-3930.

- **Service-Learning Teaching Circle (To be determined)**
  Benjamin Solomon will lead a Fall Semester Teaching Circle focusing on Writing the Community: concepts and models for service-learning in composition, emphasizing the book’s practical approaches to service-learning in composition. No previous experience with service-learning is required. For details, contact Benjamin.Solomon@slcc.edu.

---

**SLCC English Community Engagement Retreat**

By Jason Roberts

The English Community Engagement committee met this last summer at the Silver Fork Lodge. It was a beautiful sunny day in an otherwise very rainy month.

Our purposes in having this retreat were to finalize a civically engaged pathway in the English program; get to know some of the major community partners and find ways to better coordinate our collaboration efforts for creating community engaged scholars; and identify other means of encouraging classroom engagement; and disseminating information for our department including a newsletter, mission statements and syllabi templates and literature. Finally, we discussed the future and our goals and vision for moving our department to be even more civically engaged.

Our first item of business was to finalize an Engaged Scholar Pathway in the English department. This will allow students an opportunity to show prospective employers or academic institutions that they’ve not only studied writing and communication, but also already applied it in a variety of professional/public contexts associated with community organizations.

This pathway incorporates (a) 100 hours of service with a community partner, (b) 2 English service-learning classes (recommended ENGL 1010 and 2010), (c) SLSS 2100 and (d) ENGL1900 Independent Study/Capstone Class. Students create a Capstone Project that includes: Written or multimodal document on ePortfolio, showcase of the project, with an audience other than instructor. In addition to the above, students will complete all other requirements of a degree in English (the AA or the AS), log their hours in OrgSync and write any required reflections.

As part of our ongoing effort to assist the English Department’s approach to service-learning, attendees agreed to adopt a syllabus statement and make it available to all faculty for use. If you are interested in reading this statement and/or using it in your own syllabus, please talk Benjamin Solomon, English Department Service-Learning Committee Chair.

At our retreat we also had the pleasure of meeting with a select number of community partners. Advice from the Thayne Center encouraged working closely and developing long-term relationships with these community partners. To this end, we identified three community organizations whose missions and volunteer capacities seemed well-aligned with both the focus and the number of community-engaged courses in the department.

---

**Service-Learning Boot Camp**

Our summer 2015 English department service-learning boot camp was a great success with six faculty members, three community partners, two staff, and one student attending. We discussed English Studies and Public Service while also discussing the essential framework of service-learning pedagogy. In addition, Catholic Community Services, Utahns Against Hunger, and Real Food Rising discussed the needs of their organizations and how SLCC students could serve in order to learn course content.

We will host a retooled English Department Service-Learning Infoshop on Sept 14, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Contact Benjamin Solomon at 801-957-3930 or Benjamin.solomon@slcc.edu or Lucy Smith at 801-957-4688 or lucy.smith@slcc.edu to RSVP or for more questions.

---

**Thayne Center for Service & Learning and The Service-Learning Program Presents**

**Community Partner Speed Dating**

**Wednesday September 30**

**12:00-1:30 p.m.**

Miller Campus Culinary Institute Building (CART 116)

- Enjoy lunch with community partners, students, faculty, and administrators.
- Gain resources for your course, department, or program; build your network, and discover volunteer opportunities.
- Whether you are new to service-learning, a long-term practitioner, administrator or student, this event is for you!

Please RSVP by September 21 to: Sean Crossland Community Partnerships Coordinator at 801-867-4674; sean.crossland@slcc.edu; or Lucy Smith Service-Learning Coordinator at 801-867-4688; lucy.smith@slcc.edu

Representatives from United Way, Utahns Against Hunger, and Catholic Community Services joined us at the retreat for a roundtable discussion about mutual goals, needs, and possibilities. Some of these needs and possibilities include: interviewing and write-ups, technical writing, publication materials, mentoring/tutoring in reading and writing, website design, research, and book drives, just to name a few. These will provide ample opportunities for our students to learn, practice and develop the skills we are teaching them in community-based setting. We also hope these partnerships will create further training and leadership opportunities for our students who could work as student liaisons to these partners.

In addition to curricular engagement, these organizations mentioned other opportunities that our teachers and faculty who have the expertise and desire to serve in the community could fulfill. This conversation reminded us that we can and should be involved beyond our classroom assignments in order to build our community.

Finally we set goals to complete this year:

1. To provide the book Writing the Community: concepts and models for service-learning in composition to all full-time English faculty.
2. To have a teaching circle to discuss and implement this book. (See upcoming events.)
3. Create a Newsletter. Here is our first edition!
4. To provide faculty training sessions on how to start with service-learning.
5. To Create a “Service-learning Resources” page on the English Canvas site and the English Department’s website.

Overall it was a fun and engaging event. We were pleased with the turnout and what we were able to accomplish. We also are more committed now than ever to help build us into a civically minded and community engaged department.