Engaged Learning Can be Collaborative Learning

By Andrea Malouf, SLCC Service-learning Faculty

Students looking for service-learning projects have new options that can be done locally and as a group.

Alternative Weekend(s) on October 22nd and 29th (Saturdays)

Newly launched Alt-Weekends will take place over two back-to-back Saturdays. Students will be able to complete a total of eight hours of service over two Saturdays (plus a two-hour training), as well as any hours to create a collaborative resource guide. Students will also be given reflective assignments to complete over the connecting week.

We will be working with the new Youth Resource Center. Day one we will assist the center (cleaning of the shelter, preparing harm-reduction kits, etc). Day two, we will prepare and serve a meal for Youth Resource Center clients with the help of the SLCC Food pantry and SLCC Community Garden. Students are also encouraged to creatively create a resource guide of food pantry ingredients (and some recipes without a kitchen), and other helpful information.

Spots are limited to a cohort of ten students. Schedule as follows:

- **Training TBA**
- **10/22, 12:00 – 4:00pm**
- **10/29, 3:00 – 7:00pm**

(Priority for students enrolled in English, Sociology and Humanities courses.)

Contact Andrea Malouf (andrea.malouf@slcc.edu) or Brandon Devlin (brandon.devlin@slcc.edu) for more information on fall semester Alt-Weekend.

Alternative Fall Break on October 13th, 14th, and 15th (Thursday, Friday, Saturday).

The Thayne Center is offering two opportunities this year available to all students:

- Local service with Global Impact at the International Rescue Committee
- Local service with Community Food Systems addressing food insecurity: Community gardens, food pantries, and Business partnerships addressing hunger

Pre-trip Orientation and Training: September 26th, October 3rd.

If you have any questions about the Alternative Fall Break opportunities, please email Brandon Devlin, the Service Leadership Coordinator at Brandon.devlin@slcc.edu or call 801-957-4881.

Real Food Rising

By Lisa Packer, SLCC Service-learning Faculty

For Spring semester 2016, students in my English 1010 Food-themed class volunteered for Real Food Rising, a community partner for SLCC, to plant crops for the 2016 harvest. Real Food Rising or RFR, a program of Utahns Against Hunger, is a community farming program with a youth development core. They use sustainable agriculture to transform the lives of young people and to increase access to healthy food in Salt Lake. RFR incorporates innovative and traditional growing techniques with a diversity of vegetables, fruits, and animals. The food they grow is donated to emergency food pantries.

Students worked closely with RFR to prepare the soil, organize donated seeds, and plant the gardens. At the end of the experience, students wrote a reflection narrative about their experiences on the farm, interacting with youth and staff, and what they learned and gained from volunteering. They also discussed what they felt the impact was that RFR is making in the community. The assignment included references and commentary on the readings discussed in class (Wendell Berry, Holly Bauer, and Camille Kingsolver, among others). Students also provided a digital picture of themselves that included a short excerpt from their reflection paper. (These are now being used for RFR’s website to showcase and advertise the volunteer experience.) Lastly, students researched and provided RFR with recipes that incorporated the food being grown on the farm to be distributed at their local farm stands.

My classes will continue working with RFR in the fall semester. They will be involved with harvesting the food that students helped plant in the spring. They will also be helping RFR with post-market surveys and analysis, interviewing and creating photo essays about the youth who are employed by RFR, and working at their Fall Celebration in mid-September.

Upcoming Events

- September 13-- Faculty Networking and Q & A (new and existing service-learning faculty) Jordan Campus Student Pavilion-drop in anytime between 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- September 22--Community Partner/Service-Learning Speed Dating (new and existing service-learning faculty and community partners)
- Redwood AAB 135 3:30-5:00p.m.
- October 5-- Faculty/Partner Mixer Informal Gathering (full time faculty, administrators, staff, and community partners)
- Bohemian Brewery 3:30-5:00p.m.
- Ongoing: Service-Learning 1000--Service-learning professional development modules introduce the theory and practice of service-learning pedagogy. This is a hybrid professional development course for PT/FT faculty and administrators. (Contact Lucy Smith for more information at lucy.smith@slcc.edu.)

About Reflections

Reflections is a newsletter for and about service-learning in English published twice a year by the SLCC English Department. We welcome submissions on students experiences, faculty perspectives, pedagogical insights, community partner engagement, civic involvement, staff profiles, and upcoming events. Photos or written submissions should be sent to Elisa.Stone@slcc.edu.

Editors: Elisa Stone and Clint Gardner

English Department Service-Learning Committee: Benjamin Solomon (Chair), Jason Roberts, Louise Bown, Lisa Packer, Lucy Smith, Elisa Stone, and Clint Gardner
The St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall provides hot meals to those in need. Each of these programs help those who are homeless in different ways. The St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall and second the Weigand Homeless Resource Center. St. Martha’s Baby Project helps parents with low incomes with accruing the infants’ layettes. Finally, Bridging the Gap is a program to fight child hunger in our community with mobile food pantries homes each month of the year. St. Martha’s Baby Project helps parents with low incomes with accruing the infants’ layettes. Finally, Bridging the Gap is a program to fight child hunger in our community with mobile food pantries.

Volunteers looking for something more of a short term, or have limited time, the Homeless Services and Northern Utah Services are great options. They have flexible options that can fix almost any schedule.

Homeless Services is a two-part program, first being the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall, and second the Weigand Homeless Resource Center. Each of these programs help those who are homeless in different ways. The St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall provides hot meals to those in need seven days a week under the watchful eye of Monica Rich. They average 2,000 nourishing hot meals a day and provide an opportunity for volunteer students to help the homeless by serving meals. The Weigand Homeless Resource Center offers a safe shelter for individuals and families facing homelessness. They assist in case management, providing help so those in need can reach self-sufficiency.

The final branch of the CCS is the Northern Utah Services, which is divided into three sections: The Joyce Hansen Hall Food Bank, St. Martha’s Baby Project, and Bridging the Gap. Joyce Hansen Hall Food bank is the largest food pantry in the State of Utah, distributing food to over 2,100 homes each month of the year. St. Martha’s Baby Project helps parents with low incomes with accruing the infants’ layettes. Finally, Bridging the Gap is a program to fight child hunger in our community with mobile food pantries that help bridge the gap of a weekend when school is not in session. All of these programs need volunteers to help get the food and services to where they are needed, again providing a great opportunity for us as students. In total CCS have 20,000 volunteers a year and average in over 80,000 man hours of service and are always excited to have the student of Salt Lake Community College as part of their team.