

Project Details

Title	Enhancing the Serving to Learn and Learning to Serve Initiative	Status	REVIEWED
Category	1-Helping Students Learn	Updated	08-27-2010
Timeline		Reviewed	09-26-2010
Planned Project Kickoff		Created	08-12-2010
08-13-2010			
Target Completion		Last Modified	09-26-2010
07-31-2012			

- **1: Project Accomplishments and Status**
- A:

This is a new Action Project that was enacted in August 2010.

A Service Learning Coordinator-Interim professional staff position was posted on July 22, 2010. It is hoped that the person hired as interim will be able to assist in the goals of this Action Plan to continue and expand the current Service-Learning efforts of the institution and continue the retention study.

The responsibilities listed for this interim position state: The coordinator will support, develop, and evaluate Service-Learning programs and research. Additionally, this person will manage day to day program functions, work with faculty and staff to demonstrate the value of Service-Learning as a pedagogical tool, represent the college as a member of the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning, and assist faculty with integrating Service-Learning activities into their courses. Finally, the coordinator will facilitate campus communications, course assessments, publicity, project reporting and serve as a liaison to community partners involved in projects and events. Other duties may include grant writing, fiscal accountability, program assessment, as well as development and training for faculty, students, and community partners. Research and presentation skills are a must.

During the Spring 2010 Semester, Service-Learning at Wayne State involved over 460 students, 25 faculty/staff from 10 disciplines, completing 18 projects, two Alternative Spring Break trips and two campus club (co-curricular) projects. Over 40 area agencies/organizations partnered with faculty/staff and students on a project to meet community needs. The students as colleagues program remains successful with three students taking key leadership roles on campus projects. Student-Learning at WSC was also awarded an institutional Students Beyond Boundaries (SBB) grant to be used in the 2010-2011 semesters, and the first SBB grant continued into its second semester.

- R:

Wayne State College has embarked on an excellent action project that connects to many components and principles of high performance organizations and AQIP. The project also addresses objectives identified at the federal level. The hiring of an interim Service Learning Coordinator will certainly help with the forward momentum of the action project. The responsibilities of the position address several AQIP categories including AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn, AQIP Category (5) Leading and Communicating, AQIP Category (8) Planning Continuous Improvement, and AQIP Category (9) Building Collaborative Relationships. From the activities the College was involved in Spring 2010, it sounds as though a coordinated effort of service learning would be of great benefit and help with further growth and development of the existing projects and partnerships (AQIP Category (8) Planning Continuous Improvement). Wayne State College has robust service learning in place and this action project will benefit student learning and retention (AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn) and has also been developed in the spirit of continuous quality improvement. The accomplishments thus far are worth celebrating!

- **2: Institution Involvement**

- A:

All academic departments and organizations will be involved with this project through academic activities and projects.

- R:

Academic department involvement is excellent especially the identification that all departments will be involved as students from across disciplines will have opportunities to be engaged in the greater community (AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn). This level of involvement will also lend itself to building stronger and new relationships with outside constituents (AQIP Category (9) Building Collaborative Relationships). Consideration may be given to reviewing how student services personnel may be involved in the initiative such as any impacts on counseling/advising services, registration, financial aid, career services, etc. and identify and acknowledge the impact on their service to the College (AQIP Category (4) Valuing People) and this initiative. This type of analysis would be in the spirit of the principles of AQIP, specifically collaboration and campus-wide involvement. It is commendable that all academic departments will be involved in the initiative. Students will obtain a rich learning experience through extensive academic activity in service learning (AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn).

- **3: Next Steps**

- A:

An interim Service Learning Coordinator will be hired and the position will become a permanent one. Once hired, the coordinator will be able to direct and coordinate the Service-Learning initiatives. Project information is available on the Service-Learning Web site at: http://www.wsc.edu/service_learning/.

- R:

The hiring of an interim Service Learning Coordinator is an excellent next step in efforts to coordinate service learning activities. The College has much happening currently and coordination and direction will benefit and enrich the program (AQIP Category (8) Planning Continuous Improvement). The long term effects will have a positive impact on student learning experiences and assist faculty in enhancing course learning outcomes, activities, and assessment measures (AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn). The Service Learning Coordinator will also be able to evaluate stakeholder needs both internally and externally (AQIP Category (3) Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs) and aid in the quality improvement of education at Wayne State College.

- **4: Resulting Effective Practices**

- A:

The Wayne State College Service-Learning program mission promotes, mobilizes, and supports the efforts of our institution, united in strengthening our academic and co-curricular programs through service-learning in our communities, state and nation.

- R:

The practices of the service learning initiative seems to be integrated into the culture of the College which is excellent as the initiative certainly enriches faculty teaching and student learning experiences (AQIP Category (1) Helping Students Learn). The initiative also allows the institution to be involved in the community at large which is an important component of higher education systems (AQIP Category (3) Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs and AQIP Category (9) Building Collaborative Relationships). It will be important for the College to measure the effectiveness of the initiative, complete analysis and share the information with students, college personnel, and external stakeholders (AQIP Category (7) Measuring Effectiveness and AQIP Category (5) Leading and Communicating). This type of research will also lend itself to the celebration of successes and identification of areas for improvement (AQIP Category (8) Planning Continuous Improvement). The program is worth celebrating as it has value to students and the greater community and seems to be a robust part of the College culture!

- **5: Project Challenges**

- A:

The major challenge is with the current budget and economic conditions. Budget cuts and grant funding will determine if this interim Service Learning Coordinator position will be able to transition into a permanent position.

- R:

The economic situation is a major challenge and has had a huge impact on higher education. Since service learning is an important initiative at the federal level there may be grant opportunities that are worth investigating. Perhaps the foundation director and College President can assist in identifying corporations who have a passion for service learning and are willing to entertain a proposal for funding. Other large foundations may be worth investigating such as the Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, and federal grants such as Title III, FIPSE, etc. Wayne State College has a rich service learning program in place and the continuation of a coordinator would continue to help the program grow and develop. Good luck as you navigate the grant funding waters and manage the budget during these difficult times!