

**The Office of Service-Learning
University of Missouri-Columbia
2000-2001**

Annual Report

**Anne-Marie Foley, Ph.D.
Director**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Office of Service-Learning was founded in January of 1996 to support academically-based community outreach campus-wide, serve as a consulting center for program design and implementation, and provide and maintain partnerships with service agencies and organizations in the Boone County area.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote and support service-learning pedagogy on a campus-wide basis.
2. To support formalized partnerships with community agencies and organizations and to provide MU undergraduates with service placements that are fulfilling, responsible, and respectful of students as learners.
3. To uphold and promote the MU Service-Learning Mission Statement:

MISSION STATEMENT:

Service-learning at MU strives to create an expectation of service to others as an integral part of students' academic experience. This service should provide students with an opportunity to enrich and apply classroom knowledge, explore careers or majors, improve citizenship, understand and appreciate cultural traditions and values, develop civic, corporate, and social responsibility while enhancing the students' personal growth and self-image and enriching the lives of persons within the community.

Goals:

1. To provide opportunities and academic credit for experience based learning to promote life long commitment to social responsibility and public service.
2. To develop faculty incentives for involvement in service as a learning resource for students.
3. To establish collaborative, reciprocal partnerships between MU and the community which meet social needs.
4. To integrate service-learning into the culture of the University.
5. To engender independent thinking and problem solving through community service.
6. To ensure safe, accessible and structured learning projects.
7. To educate and monitor community agencies as to their rights and commitment to service-learning at MU.

OFFICE OF SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. The Service-Learning transcript designation and new course development:

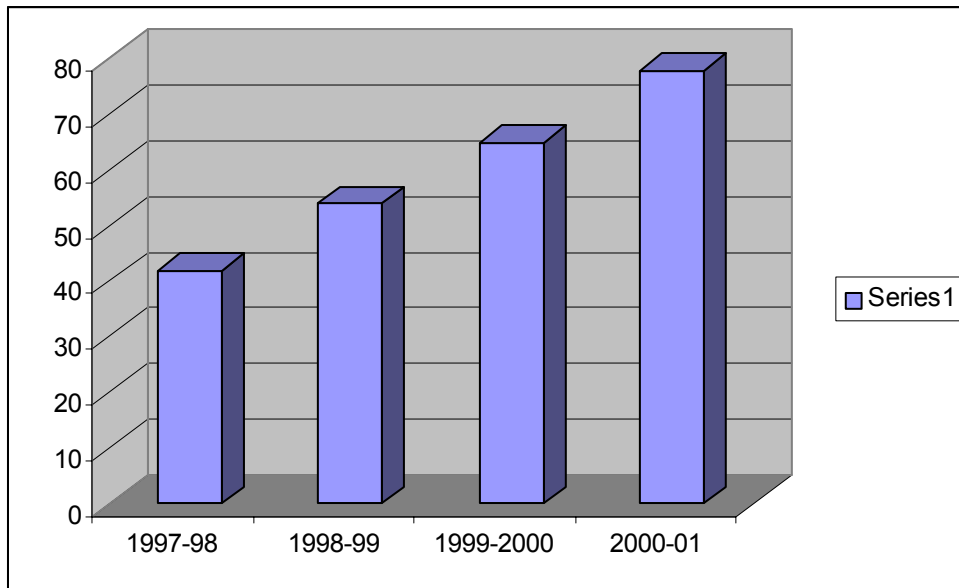
Courses with the service-learning designation must include a minimum of 45 hours/semester of community outreach and must formally integrate the service experience in the classroom context.

During the 1999-2000 academic year, the Office of Service-Learning supported 78 service-learning courses. As of this semester, the Service-Learning Advisory Board has approved 64 courses for the service-learning designation next year.

Total Service Learning Courses

Year	Total #	% Increase as compared to previous year
<i>1997-98</i>	<i>42</i>	
<i>1998-99</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>28.5%</i>
<i>1999-00</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>2000-01</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>20%</i>

Service-Learning Course Increases



2. Partnerships with community service organizations:

Number of Partnerships-Since our founding in January of 1996, the Office of Service-Learning has established formalized partnerships with 150 community service agencies and organizations and the Columbia Public Schools.

Partnership Development Activities-Community/Office of Service-Learning partnerships involve mutual development of program goals and activities; partnerships are created with respect for the education and experiences of the students who are performing community service and with attention to the efficacy of the service for the clientele of the agencies and organizations receiving the assistance. A service-learning project is thus mutually beneficial for both the undergraduate and the community. In addition, the academic foundation of the course, and the support of the Office of Service-Learning, provides essential training, supervision, and monitoring of the service activity.

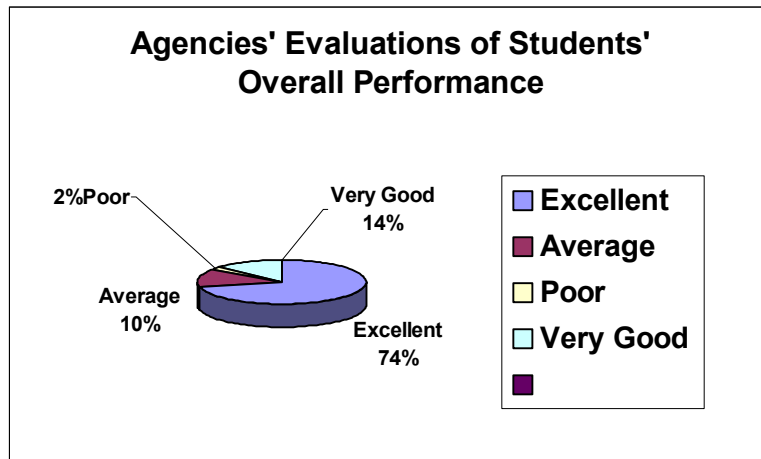
Community Agency Workshop-In October of 2000, 29 community agency directors attended a workshop entitled "How to Effectively Work with Service-Learning Students," co-sponsored by the Voluntary Action Center and the Office of Service-Learning.

3. Agency Final Evaluations of Student Service:

The following table and graph demonstrate student service performance in the community:

Agency Final Evaluations of Students' Volunteer Service

<i>Performance Area</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Attendance	73%	16%	8.5%	2%	2%
Cooperation	77%	14%	8.6%	2	
Acceptance of responsibility	77%	14%	8.6%	2	
Completion of Assignments	75%	14.6%	10%		
Dependability	72%	12%	14.6	2	
Resourcefulness/	72%	16%	11.6	2	
Communications Skills	72%	16%	13.6	2	
Overall Evaluation	74%	14%	10%	2%	



4. Student support:

Over the 1999-2000 academic year the Office of Service-Learning placed 765 students in community service projects, tracked their activities, and evaluated their progress.

The following table shows the rate of growth in our support of student service-learning activities over the last four years:

Office of Service-Learning Student Support
Total Number of Students Receiving Assistance with Volunteer Placement

Year	Total Number	% Increase as compared to previous year
1997-98	400	
1998-99	425	6%
1999-00	765	80 %
2000-01	778	2%

5. Students enrolled in Service-Learning Courses and total service hours:

A total of 1,916 students enrolled in service-learning courses during the 2000-2001 academic year. Students contributed more than 81,000 service hours to community agencies, public schools, and the state government.

6. Service-Learning Forum:

On April 3, 2001 the Office of Service-Learning sponsored a statewide Service-Learning Forum attended by 200 community leaders, faculty from MU and 6 other Missouri campuses, and students. The meeting included a keynote address by Provost Brady Deaton, a breakfast and luncheon, displays of program and agency materials, the presentation of model programs, and smaller workshops with discussion panels comprised of agency representatives, faculty, and students.

Results of our post-forum survey showed that 90% of the attendees felt that the meeting was very useful in broadening their understanding and possible involvement in service-learning. When polled regarding future workshop topics of interest, attendees requested further training in how to design a service-learning course, create successful partnerships with agencies, and promote service-learning opportunities utilizing available resources.

7. Special Projects:

We have inaugurated several special projects this year which we hope to continue in the future.

- **Developed 50 service learning capstone projects within Interdisciplinary Studies, such as: designing press packets for an American Cancer Society event, designing a website for the Voluntary Action Center, coordinating a blood drive for American Red Cross, establishing a home repair program for senior citizens, establishing a summer program for inner city school children, developing a resource guide of program activities for at-risk youth, translating agency brochures into Spanish for Centro Latino clients, researching and presenting information regarding smoke free residence halls and teaching English as a Second Language classes.**
- **Supported the Young Playwrights Festival—held in April 2000 in which students from Play Writing 311 class with Dr. David Crespy, Theatre Professor assisted school age students in writing their own plays. MU students acted out the young student’s plays at a community wide Young Playwrights festival.**
- **Coordinated the Young Writer’s Program with the Service Learning Creative Writing classes in which approximately 50 Creative writing students in poetry and fiction assisted school age children with writing enrichment workshops. The MU students produced a literary magazine of the children’s works and assisted with a Young Writers’ Festival at the Black Culture center. The Young Writers read their pieces and received certificates for their work.**
- **Placed and supported several students in the Honors College Independent Studies Service-Learning course who developed and conducted a Smoking Cessation program through a \$10,000 grant for the Family Health center.**

8. Civic Leaders Internship Project and the Honors College Community Involvement Program:

See separate annual reports for these two programs.

IMMEDIATE PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Our greatest challenge for the upcoming year is lack of space and staff support for the increasing demands on our office. We have a proposal now on the table for strengthening our programs for undergraduates in leadership, civic engagement, and community service by creating a Center for Civic Leadership and Service on the MU campus.

OFFICE OF SERVICE-LEARNING STAFF:

Anne-Marie Foley, Ph.D. (25% Office of Service-Learning/75% Honors College)

Directs Office of Service-Learning

Directs Honors College Community Involvement Program

Directs Civic Leaders Internship Project

Teaches:

-one section of Humanities, Fall and Winter semester

-the HCCIP large discussion group, Fall and Winter semester

-the HCCIP mentoring lab, Fall and Winter semester

-State Government and Leadership

-Service-Learning FIGS, Fall semester

Nan Povinelli (Full time, 9 month position)

Field Coordinator

Ellen Fitch (75% Office of Service-Learning/25% Honors)

Office Support Staff III