Engaged Mizzou:
Annual Report of the Office of Service-Learning
2022-2023

Summary:

Curricular Engagement at MU:
Each year, thousands of University of Missouri students enroll in courses that include community engagement and development as part of their classwork. Courses train students to apply classroom learning in community settings, providing invaluable opportunities for student success and professional growth. This engaged curriculum creates contexts in which students positively impact Missouri communities and the Missouri economy.

The Office of Service-Learning was founded in January of 1995 to support community engaged coursework and experiential learning campus-wide. We maintain partnerships with 200 non-profit organizations and 90 government offices, and engage in global service study abroad activities in 5 developing nations. Despite having to recover from the COVID era and a great loss of staff, we have worked our way back up to continue serving our faculty, students, and local community.

Student Participation and Community Impact:

During the 2022-2023 academic year:

* 4,762 students enrolled in community engaged courses for
* 14,286 credit hours,
* 20% of MU undergraduates participated in service-based experiential learning,
* 135 Missouri non-profits and schools and 30 government offices were impacted by MU service-learning courses,
* 131,975 service hours were contributed to Missouri communities
* $2,870,456 in positive economic impact created in the state of Missouri,
* 92% of MU students were rated Excellent/Very Good by Missouri Community Partners in every professional assessment category,
* 56% of MU graduates participated in a service-learning course prior to graduation.

In the past 16 years, MU students in service-learning courses have served approximately 4,330,429 hours and have contributed $61,136,639 in positive economic impact to the state of Missouri.
Campus-wide:

Service-learning is a campus-wide collaboration involving an impressive and diverse group of academic fields, including Animal Sciences, Nursing, Public Health, Psychology, Interdisciplinary Studies, Education, Social Work, Health Professions, Sociology, International Studies, to name a few. The Office of Service-Learning supports interdisciplinary programs, international service, as well as senior capstones.

*During the 2022-2023 academic year, 147 sections of service-learning designated courses were offered.*

High Impact Educational Practice--Service-Learning and Experiential Education:

The Office of Service-Learning offers many high-impact experiential learning opportunities to students at the University of Missouri, including curriculum-based community engagement, internships, and global service study abroad.

*Important goals for service-learning/experiential education include:*
  * gaining professional competencies
  * developing capacity to contribute to communities
  * exploring possible careers and academic majors
  * better understanding people with diverse backgrounds and life situations
  * encouraging engaged citizenship and public service careers

*547 students filled out assessments during 2022-2023. Of those students, those “agreed/strongly agreed” when asked about the following learning outcomes:*
  * 90% practiced professional skills, including communication, problem solving and critical thinking;
  * 94% learned about community and social challenges;
  * 93% became more aware of issues of diversity and inclusion; “people who are different than myself and who have different challenges than myself;”
  * 93% pushed their comfort zone and accepted new challenges;
  * 91% would recommend community engaged courses to other students.

*92% of students who served in 2022-2023 reported that they will continue to participate in public service in the future due to their service-learning experience*
Feedback from 2022-2023 students:

“I loved serving at the Central Missouri Therapy Spot! I had a consistent volunteering schedule and my time was very well used. The staff got me very involved with the children and I formed so many connections!”

“I would just like to say this was one of the most moving experiences of my life and I will look to be further involved in this organization in the future.”

“Riley Equine Center opened my eyes to a new part of the community. I learned a lot about myself throughout the process. Every time I left Riley Equine Center I felt a feeling of accomplishment.”

“I loved volunteering in this environment and have a lot of respect for my supervisor. It was definitely a valuable experience that will stick with me.”

“I would recommend this class to others because it gives you an experience outside of the classroom and gets you involved in your community.”

“Being a volunteer at Coyote Hill was more than just a service project it was an amazing learning experience and I knew my service meant more to the kids than I could have imagined. I would recommend this site to all students.”

“Service learning was the best part of the class because it was not on zoom.”

“I had an amazing time with State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO). I chose SHSMO because I wanted to be able to develop my professional skills while serving my community and I was able to do just that.”

“I really enjoyed working with the kids at the Moving Ahead Program. Working with them made me realize how fortunate I was as a kid to have a stable home I could always go back to. I hope I was able to brighten the day of the kids I worked with. I really appreciate the work that Janice and the rest of the Moving Ahead staff does every day to support those kids.”
Impacting Missouri Communities and the Missouri Economy:

More than 180 community development projects are staffed by MU service-learning students each semester, many of which would not exist without MU/community partnerships. Many of our partners are able to pursue their due to the assistance of Mizzou students. Their service makes a tremendously positive impact on the Mid-Missouri community.

*In order to better serve the state of Missouri, we focus on 6 high impact areas for community partnership:*

*Children and Youth*
*Basic Needs*
*Senior Citizens*
*People with Disabilities*
*Public Health*
*Environment and sustainability*

*We aim to partner with as many organizations as possible that allow valuable learning experiences for students of every major at Mizzou.*