How can Career Placement Services help faculty and students with their Service Learning (SL) course?

The Career Placement Services (CPS) office is the campus center for Service Learning information and resources for faculty and students.

CPS staff members can assist by:
- Offering one-on-one consultation and planning for SL courses
- Providing faculty toolkits and sample syllabi for SL courses
- Offering classroom visits, info sessions and orientations for SL students
- Maintaining an online database of service learning agencies
- Providing logistical support (contacting and orienting agencies, record keeping, etc.)
- Maintaining student co-curricular transcript of SL courses
- Providing technical assistance (tutorials, webinars, workshops, etc.)
- Researching and providing discipline-specific resource materials and best practices
- Researching potential funding opportunities for Service Learning projects
- Maintaining a listing of upcoming local, regional, and national Service Learning Summits, Conferences, and other informative events

Service Learning Faculty Comments:
“A transforming learning experience for the student and community partner.”

“It brings a whole new dynamic to the education process.”

“The students work twice as hard as they normally would, because they realize they’re ‘servicing’ a community with genuine needs.”

Service Learning Student Comments:
“Challenging as it was, what I’ve gained in the service learning project has been priceless.”

“The team worked very hard and everyone contributed equally. I think that we can be proud of our work.”

“Great Job! Sounds like you guys had a great time… makes me wish I had participated.”

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**What is Service Learning?**
According to Learn and Service America, “Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

**What is the difference between Service Learning and Community Service?**
*Example:* Removing trash from a Streambed

**Community Service:** Students remove trash from a streambed, providing a service to the community as volunteers.

**Service Learning:** Students remove trash from a streambed, and they:
- Analyze what was found and research best practices
- Share the results and offer suggestions to reduce future pollution
- Reflect on their experience
- Spend a required minimum number of hours on the project for academic credit

**What are the benefits to faculty of incorporating Service Learning into their course?**
- Greater student retention of course content and increased student participation
- More innovative approaches to classroom instruction and more lively class discussions
- *Supports QCC General Education Learning Outcomes for the related course* (i.e. Communication Skills, Information Literacy, Multiple Perspectives, Ethics, Civic Literacy)
- Enhanced opportunities for research and publication

**What are the benefits to students who participate in Service Learning?**
- Broadens horizons and enhances critical thinking skills
- Improves preparation for work or transfer to 4-year institutions
- Provides future job contacts
- Connects students to the institution
- Helps students define future goals
- Prepares students to be global citizens
- *Transcript notation of a service learning course (pending)*

**Sample Service Learning Projects**
- **Anthropology** – Archiving for a local museum
- **Art** – Design a mural for an elementary school and have children help with the painting
- **Biology** – Partner with a garden club to conduct soil testing
- **Business/Entrepreneurship** – Develop a Business Plan for a non-profit
- **Chemistry** – Work with family agencies to help parents better understand the chemistry behind food labels
- **Economics** – Work with Lutheran Services to help immigrant populations understand basic concepts of the US economy
- **Education** – Assist students in after-school programs in developing learning plans to achieve their goals
- **English** – Facilitate a book discussion group at an assisted living or other in-house facility
- **Foreign Language** – Launch a Pen-Pal partnership with a high school foreign language class, writing in non-English
- **History** – Help a local, understaffed historical society complete an archiving project
- **Math** – Students offer workshops to family and other agencies in budgeting and financial literacy
- **Political Science** – Assist the League of Women Voters in hosting candidate debates
- **Philosophy** – Facilitate discussions of how the faith communities can work together to solve local problems
- **Psychology** – Create brochures for pre-school parents on “Cultivating Self-Esteem in Children”
- **Sociology** – Students work at a local food bank
- **Speech** – Collecting oral histories at senior centers
- **Science/Environmental Science** – Help agencies collect and study data on invasive species