

Service-Learning:

From Vision to Reality at UDMercy

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Articulating the Vision

- Teaching modality that makes sense
- Dental School mission
 - to be a source of oral health education and information to city of Detroit
 - to graduate socially and ethically sensitive dental professionals
- Role of reflection

Building the reality

by using what is already in place

- Existing community-based clinical sites
- Other outreach activities
- Current partnerships and community contacts
- Student volunteer interests and contacts

Dental health education is always in demand

Service-Learning

in the Dental Hygiene Program

- Small class size
- Oral health education is always in demand
- Community health program planning competency already included in the DH curriculum
- Service-Learning components
 - Specific info about community they will be in
 - Site orientation
 - Education project plans made after orientation
 - Variety of reflection tools



Service-Learning in the Dental Program

- 76 dental students
- Only one class - Special Patient Care
- Limited community contacts
- Pilot program for 2 years
- Last year a 3 hour service learning experience became a requirement of the course

Approximately 50 community agencies serving special needs individuals were contacted and provided service-learning opportunity for students.

Service-Learning

Objectives and Desired Outcomes

- **Course Learning Objectives**
 - significant treatment planning considerations
 - operational/procedural modifications in providing dental care for individuals with special needs.
- **Service Objectives**
 - oral health education
 - individual focused time and attention

Service-Learning Objective

- The student will be able to
 - describe observations of special needs of individuals by identifying course concepts that apply
 - correlate those observations with modifications that might be necessary during clinical treatment of similar individuals

Service-Learning Reality Check

- Student preparation
- Service requirement linked specifically to course content
- Student learning about community
- Interaction and reciprocal learning
- Student reflection

Reality of Student Learning

- Classroom concepts brought alive
- Ability to articulate modifications in standard methods of providing care
- Realization of barriers to receiving dental services
- Realization of ethical responsibility to under-served populations

Future Vision

- Not just one class requirement, but rather, a program requirement
- Community context of dental care interwoven throughout curriculum
- Linking service provided in outreach clinics and community rotations to existing courses
- Orientation / reflection components

The image features a white background with several vertical bars of varying heights and shades of gray on the left side. A prominent dark gray bar is positioned on the far left. To its right, a lighter gray bar is partially visible. A horizontal light gray bar is centered in the upper portion of the image, containing the text 'A student's viewpoint' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

A student's viewpoint