



Building Partnerships Into All Aspects of Service-Learning

A Tool for Service-Learning Programs

Student Recruitment as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- During your school's admissions process, applicants' prior community service and leadership experiences are considered to be desirable. The school's community partners are involved in the interviewing and selection process.
- At the start of the academic year, a community health fair is held on campus. At the fair, agencies from the local community that are involved in your service-learning program each staff booths that display materials about their services and student opportunities. This provides an opportunity for students to become acquainted with the resources available in the community and with opportunities for community service and service-learning
- One of the goals you and your community partners have developed is to increased the educational opportunities available to local students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This has led to programs that involve your school's nursin students serving as mentors and tutors in local area public schools. Over time, you hope to impact the number of students completing high school, pursuing higher education and pursuing health careers.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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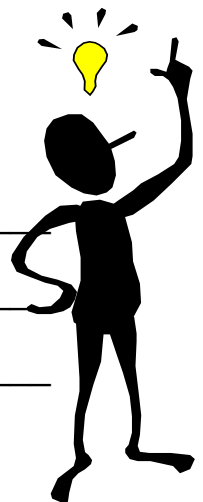
Student Orientation as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- Prior to their community-based experiences, students are oriented to the health and social issues concerning the homeless community near school.
- As part of the orientation, community leaders, homeless advocates, and/or a person in recovery assist in facilitating the student orientation.
- The orientation takes place in a community center/agency or at school. Refreshments are served.
- Ice breakers and role play are incorporated into the agenda focusing on cultural sensitivity and issues related to homelessness.
- As part of the orientation, students, community partners, and faculty discuss strategies for recruiting more students and raising student awareness about service-learning.
- Community partners facilitate the reflection activity associated with the student orientation.
- Students and community partners are involved in the planning of the orientation.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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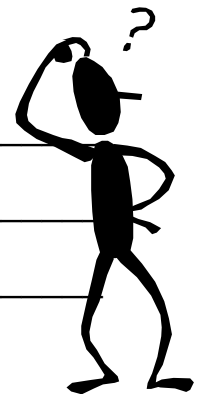
Reflection as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- Following their community-based experience, students participate in ongoing reflection seminars. The seminars are an integral component of the service-learning experience.
- Strategies to promote critical thinking vary, but you decide to engage your students in a weekly journal and class discussion, and a graded essay at the end of the semester.
- Community partners are involved in designing the reflection activities.
- Community partners facilitate the afternoon group discussions.
- Community partners provide input into the critical thinking questions that are part of the graded essays.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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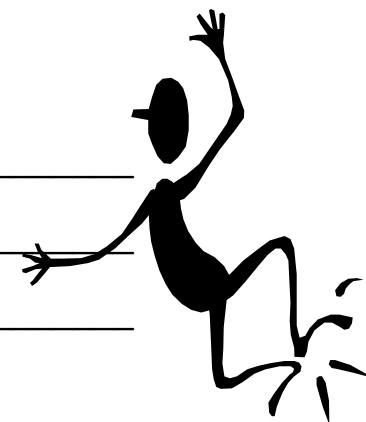
Community Service as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- Your community-based learning component involves a group of students addressing poor nutritional behaviors among school age students.
- Local elementary school teachers have expressed an interest in not only teaching elementary students about nutrition and its role in mood and performance, but in mobilizing the community to address the issue of the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- During the course of the semester, the 5th grade students participate in an experiment to see the effects of eating a healthy breakfast and comparing this to not eating a healthy breakfast. Additionally, the 5th graders conducted a health assessment to determine the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in their local markets.
- The findings compiled by the elementary students and nursing students are shared with the local community.
- Steps are considered to mobilize the community on ways to bring more produce to the community.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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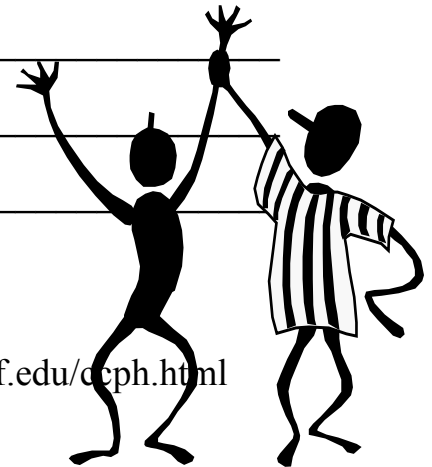
Faculty Development as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- In developing your upcoming faculty development workshop, you consider the assets that community-based preceptors bring to your faculty development seminars.
- You decide to create a workshop, "The Role of the Community Preceptor in Student Education and Community Health." Community preceptors are involved in the design of the workshop, and some members of the community who receive care in the community are also invited to share their experience in working with the preceptors. This allows all stakeholders to share their lessons learned, strategies for effective student learning, and roles that community members can play in the service-learning experience.
- The final component of the workshop is a faculty reflection exercise led by university- and community-based faculty involved in service-learning.
- You offer a package of benefits for community-based preceptors that includes an adjunct faculty appointment and access to email, library services and on-campus parking.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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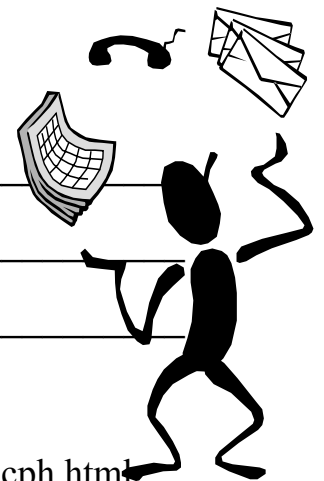
Curriculum Development as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- In preparing for your community-based educational program, you invite community partners to serve on your curriculum advisory committee.
- In this role, the community partners provide input into what courses are most appropriate for the community setting (not all courses can or should be community-based courses), what their expectations are for the students, and how they may be able to contribute to the learning objectives of the students.
- This committee also provides an opportunity for frequent communication with the community partners.
- When the community partners attend the curriculum advisory committees, they have parking available to them. When they are unable to attend a meeting, you follow-up with them via the electronic email account you were able to set up.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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Assessment and Improvement as a Partnership Building Tool

Partnership Building Examples:

- In the past, your course evaluations examined the impact of community-based learning experiences on student learning. However, you have decided to take a different approach; you have decided to examine the impact of community-based learning on all stakeholders involved, including students, community partners, and faculty.
- You approach your community partners to determine their interest in participating in the evaluation, including shaping and designing the evaluation, and implementing the various components of the evaluation (ie; disseminating surveys). Your community partners agree to participate since it was outlined earlier in your service-learning partnership agreement!
- Once the evaluation summary has been finalized, the report is shared with all community partners and institutional leaders.
- Students, community partners and faculty involved organize a forum to discuss the findings and identify recommendations for future service-learning efforts.

Your Partnership Building Examples:

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