

Service Learning



Combining classroom curriculum with real-life experience
to enrich learning and increase social awareness

How Service Learning Works

A student's service learning experience may include:

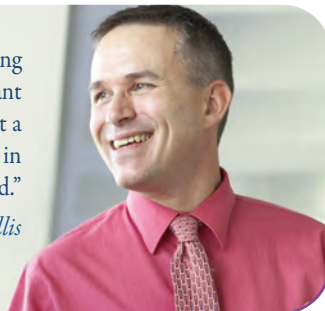
- Enrolling in a class with a Service Learning component
- Selecting a participating organization
- Completing an application, liability contract and background check
- Committing to 10 to 40 hours of service per semester
- Preparing a reflective paper, presentation or portfolio on the service learning experience
- Checking in with the the community organization-class instructor and NHCC's Service Learning Office

To get started, call 763-424-0752. 762-488-0264
or email servicelearning@nhcc.edu

Troy Nellis is the Director of Service Learning and has been with North Hennepin Community College since 2004. His extensive background in higher education administration, business and communications helped him to develop the Service Learning Program which was introduced in 2006.

“Classroom learning becomes more relevant when students see what a difference it can make in the outside world.”

- Troy Nellis



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in alternative format, call 763-493-0555 (V) or 763-493-0558 (TTY).

Mission

To connect students, faculty, and the community in learning activities that blend classroom instruction with civic responsibility.

Vision

To foster collaboration among students, faculty and the community that enhances the educational process, addresses community needs and builds student life skills.

Service Learning integrates academic study with meaningful community service and advocates volunteerism toward meaningful social causes. Faculty who make service a part of their curriculum and community organizations who provide a learning outlet, allow students opportunities to develop real-world skills while contributing to their communities.



“Volunteering is giving your service to your community and this is the most important aspect of education or the learning process.”

Benefits To Community Partners

Service Learning is a fully integrated learning model designed to address an organization’s specific goals. Depending on the goals, the program can:

- Supply workers to assist your staff
- Identify future employees, interns, or volunteers
- Offer a different perspective on specific problems an organization may be facing
- Increase visibility of community partnerships to leaders and state legislators
- Provide lifelong civic, social, and community responsibility and pride
- Facilitate access to NHCC faculty and industry experts
- Build a stronger bond between an organization and higher education

There are currently over 198 active community organizations that have Service Learning partnerships with NHCC. A few examples are:

- **Goodwill/Easter Seals** provides services for people with barriers to education, employment, and independence. NHCC students help people build job and social skills by tutoring English.
- **Ebenezer**, a part of the Fairview Health System, helps make older adults’ lives more independent, healthy, meaningful, and secure. NHCC students serve Ebenezer’s home and community-based seniors.
- **Fast Forward** is a special mentoring program at Brooklyn Junior and Park Center Senior High Schools that helps students who have fallen behind. NHCC students work one-on-one with these local students on homework, test preparation, and improving general academic skills.



“Since the partnership between Goodwill/Easter Seals and North Hennepin Community College, we have been able to expand our capacity and reach larger audiences on the issue of poverty.”



“The Service Learning Program allowed students of the Spanish Culture class live the culture by connecting them to the Hispanic community of the Twin Cities.”

Benefits To Students

Service Learning can be easily integrated into a course curriculum as a reflection paper, a class presentation, a portfolio piece, or extra credit, just to name a few examples. At the end of a Service Learning assignment, many students better understand the relevance of their academic studies and social responsibilities to life outside college. Through Service Learning a student can:

- Link classroom instruction to real-world situations
- Learn from subject matter that is fresh and relevant
- Unify classroom experience
- Foster participation, reaction, and reflection
- Enhance marketability into a four-year program or job
- Develop job skills and reinforce career choices
- Benefit from job shadowing, mentoring, internships, or employment opportunities
- Establish valuable networking relationships
- Improve interpersonal effectiveness
- Teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities
- Make a difference in someone’s life