



ANNUAL REPORT

Office of Service-Learning
and Volunteer Programs

West Chester University
2015-2016



Annual Report Overview

Throughout WCU, there are many examples of institutional commitment to supporting a culture of public service. The University's values statement asserts that "...as a university owned by the citizens of Pennsylvania, we value our mission to provide the best educational opportunities possible, which will enable the University community to successfully address the concerns of a global society." The Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs (OSLVP) supports this vision by promoting community-engaged learning experiences that address critical community needs by building mutually beneficial partnerships and empowering students to be active citizens in their local, national, and global communities.

The Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs' 2015-2016 Annual Report aims to portray and quantify both the department-led efforts as well as community engagement initiatives reported to the department by faculty, staff, and students. Although an effort was made to be inclusive, it is important to note that this report is not an exhaustive list of all community engagement efforts. The report merely aims to capture academic service-learning, as well as co-curricular public service and philanthropy. Community engagement efforts happen at every level of the institution from faculty participating in community-based research to students fundraising for a cause. This annual report is just one section of a larger tapestry woven by students, faculty, and staff who pride themselves on taking an active role in bettering their community.

For more information about this report or public service at West Chester University, please contact Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs Jodi Roth-Saks at JRoth@wcupa.edu.



Meet the Team

Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs Staff

Jodi Roth-Saks, *Director*

Jamie Williams, *Assistant Director*

Dr. Liz Wang, *Service-Learning Faculty Associate*

Joellen Reindl, *Secretary*

Dylan Lahm, *AmeriCorps PACC*VISTA Member*

Jessica McCoppin, *Graduate Assistant*

Service-Learning Faculty Work Group

Jodi Roth-Saks, *Co-Chair*

Dr. Liz Wang, *Co-Chair*

Dr. Hannah Ashley, *Department of English*

Dr. Ellie Brown, *Department of Psychology*

Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak, *Department of Graduate Social Work*

Dr. Ashlie Delshad, *Department of Political Science*

Dr. Martin Helmke, *Department of Geology & Astronomy*

Dr. Travis Ingersoll, *Department of Undergraduate Social Work*

Dr. Whitney Katirai, *Department of Health*

Dr. Bill Lalicker, *Department of English*

Dr. Sara Lamb Kistler, *Department of Early & Middle Grades Education*

Dr. Lisa Marano, *Department of Mathematics*

Dr. Elizabeth Munz, *Department of Communication Studies*

Dr. Katie Solic, *Department of Literacy*

Dr. Linda Stevenson, *Department of Political Science*

Dr. Andrea Varricchio, *Department of Languages & Cultures*

Dr. Anne Walsh, *Department of Communication Studies*



Academic Service-Learning

208

Faculty

7,363

Students

119

Courses

593

Course Sections

674,108

Hours of
Service-Learning

Supporting Faculty

Workshops and Consultations

Throughout the academic year, Service-Learning Faculty Associate Dr. Liz Wang and Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs Jodi Roth-Saks met regularly with faculty interested in integrating service-learning pedagogy into their teaching. During faculty consultations, individuals received a service-learning course design workbook, examples of service-learning learning outcomes, a guide to integrating reflective practice, and additional information about finding community partners.

OSLVP staff also facilitated several workshops, which included an overview of the pedagogy, best practices, and a step-by-step process for curriculum development. During the spring semester, Service-Learning Work Group Member, Dr. Ashlie Delshad facilitated a similar presentation for 30 faculty at the Sustainability Workshop and shared how she integrates both service-learning and sustainability into her teaching. For a list of service-learning courses offered during the 2015-2016 academic year go to: www.wcupa.edu/volunteer.

Community Engagement Scholars Program

Community Engagement Scholars (CE Scholars) supported 10 faculty who were teaching or developing service-learning courses. CE Scholars prepared orientations for volunteers; coordinated logistics; liaised between faculty, students, and community partners; and led reflective dialogue in the classroom. Highlights from this year's CE Scholars Program include:

- Dr. Elizabeth Munz and CE Scholar Nikki Cattan facilitated a Service-Learning Colloquium for the Department of Communication Studies.
- Dr. Mary Beth Gilboy and CE Scholar Jill Altimare coordinated a nutrition education field trip to WCU for one-hundred 2nd graders from Fern Hill Elementary School.
- Dr. Katie Solic and CE Scholar Lindsey Whitlock partnered with St. Agnes Outreach Services to offer the literacy enrichment program for pre-kindergarten aged English Language Learners. Teacher-candidates provided weekly literacy skill development during fall and spring semesters.
- Dr. Sara Lamb Kistler presented findings from research conducted on the CE Scholars Program at the Center for Scholastic Inquiry Fall International Academic Research Conference in Charleston, SC.



Community Engagement Scholar Lindsey Whitlock working with youth and volunteers at St. Agnes Parish.

"By tutoring kids, I gained more confidence in myself as a leader."
- Sophomore, EDR 307:
Foundations of Reading

"Great experience, very relatable to class lectures and activities."
- Junior, MKT 330: Consumer Behavior

"I had a positive experience volunteering and I think I will continue to volunteer there next semester. This service has helped my understanding of poverty."
- Junior, NTD: 415 Community Nutrition

Master of Public Health Community Service Committee

In Fall 2012, Dr. Debra Bill established and chaired a Master of Public Health Community Service Committee to develop policies, and best practices, as well as

implementation and assessment guidelines for the department. Since then, Dr. Bill partnered with Director Jodi Roth-Saks to expand and strengthen the MPH service-learning program, which includes 200 students and four distinct tracks. Service-learning, a valued pedagogy by the department, became an accreditation requirement in Fall 2015. The Environmental Health track implemented service-learning in ENV524: Industrial Hygiene, Health Care Management implemented service-learning in HEA613: Advocacy and Quality of Health Care Services, and Nutrition implemented service-learning in NTD515: Public Health Nutrition. Students used a new MPH Community Service website to apply to work with 110 vetted community organizations to complete the requirement, which was especially useful for online courses in nutrition and health care management.



For the Community Health track, Dr. Bill designed a new service-learning course in Fall 2014 entitled HEA531: Community as a Basis for Health. In Fall 2015, Dr. Whitney Katirai taught the course and 23 students completed a service-learning project with La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) in Kennett Square. Students had the opportunity to: apply community needs assessment methods in a Latino community; partner with LCH to plan, implement and assess a health education activity (learning station/poster/lesson plan) at a designated community-based event, Vive tu Vida; and complete a written reflection paper on the service-learning activity. The service-learning project was fully integrated into the course, linked to specific learning outcomes, and included reflection and reciprocity components.



Expanding OSLVP's Web Presence

During the summer of 2015, OSLVP launched an online, searchable [directory](#) that allows students, staff, faculty, and alumni to search for volunteer opportunities. This online resource, created with the support of Academic Computing, was borne out of a vision of providing immediate and tailored information when searching for public service experiences. Over 130 local non-profit organizations are sorted by areas of interest, such as children and youth, animals, and hunger relief, as well as by transportation needs. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have also allowed OSLVP to expand outreach and engage more students in public service.



Community Service

130

Student Organizations Participated in Community Service

\$223,700

Donated to Community Organizations

109,984

Hours Served in the Community

"The students at West Chester University are the heartbeat of our program because they provide an immeasurable service to our younger students... We view West Chester University as a really important partner. Together, we are providing academic, social, cultural, and civic support to the most underserved community of West Chester."

Ken Winston, Executive Director,
The Charles A Melton
Arts & Education Center

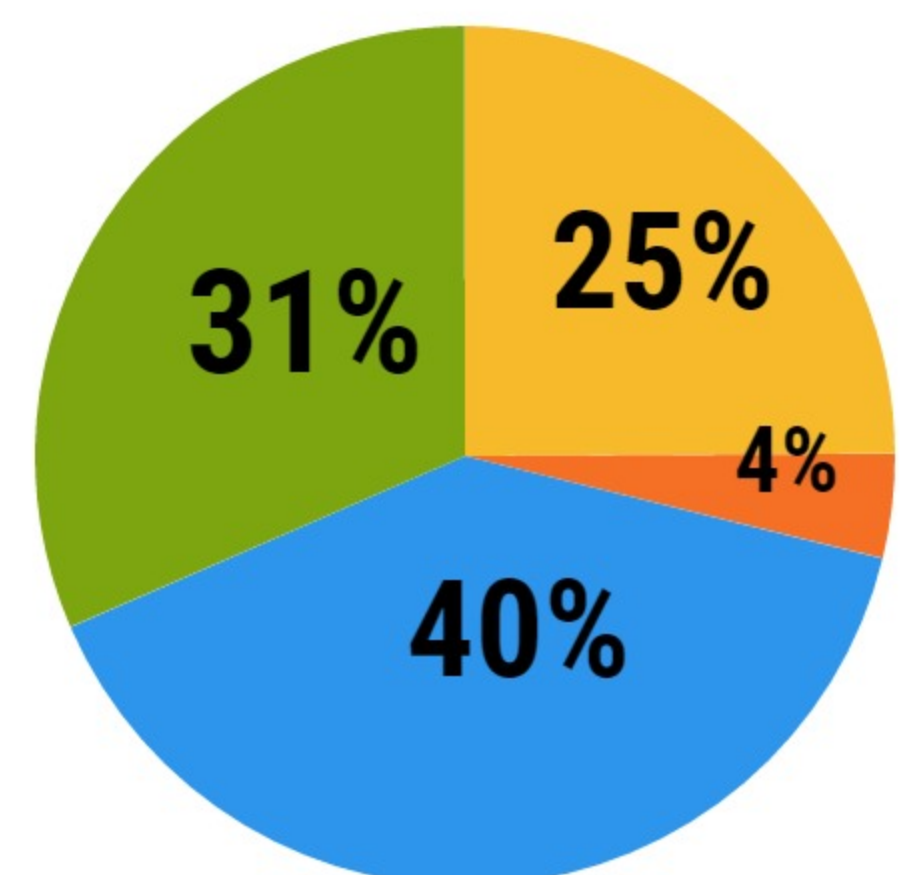


Connecting Students to Public Service

The Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs engages thousands of students each year in public service opportunities to connect students to the community and empower them to become lifelong, active citizens.

This year, OSLVP hosted two Volunteer Fairs, which allowed 74 unique agencies to share their missions and visions for change with over 1,121 students motivated to serve their community.

Community Service Hours



- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Athletics
- Clubs/Orgs
- Faculty/Staff-Led Projects

Service Projects and Events

America Reads

Over 30 Federal Work-Study students and 112 volunteers served as Youth Mentors with America Reads, an academic enrichment program that sends college students into the community to mentor youth in local after-school and childcare programs. This year, mentors served over 488 children in the following community programs: The Melton Center: Middle School Program, The Melton Center: New Directions, St. Agnes Outreach Services, West Chester Area Day Care Center, YMCA: Believe and Achieve, and YMCA: Childcare Early Learning Center.



"After working with America Reads, I realized how much I love working with children. They are so much fun and they're so silly... I always have a good time working with kids, so much so that I have decided to change my career path to be geared towards working with youth."

America Reads Youth Mentor



Outstanding Public Service Award

Assistant Director Jamie Williams recognizes Khalil Surray and James Vadas, Fall 2015 Outstanding Public Service Scholarship Recipients at the Student Leadership Awards.

Voter Engagement

1 Voter Engagement Video

A video highlighting why WCU students vote played on TVs across campus during the Spring Semester.

30 Hours of Outreach

February - May Student Campus Election Coordinator Aileen Assumma and a team of volunteers staffed tables across campus, passed out flyers, and registered students to vote at campus events.

100 Students Voted in Lawrence

Students lined up with community members to vote during the primaries. Students at the wrong location were given directions to the correct polling location by the Student Campus Election Coordinator.

800 Facebook and Twitter Posts

Launched in February, the Dub C Votes facebook page and @WCU_Votes has been the hub for WCU voter engagement, sharing important dates and registration information.

15,000 Flyers in Circulation

February - May flyers were distributed across campus. Flyers at the Trump Rally encouraged students to "Take Action! VOTE" and included the TurboVote link, which allows students to register online, find their polling location, and request an absentee ballot. It even sends text reminders!

1,564+ Students Registered to Vote through TurboVote

As a part of the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, WCU will receive a report on the University's election engagement efforts from the primary and general election. OSLEVP engaged faculty and staff throughout campus to assist with voter engagement efforts. From emails from Dr. Bricketto, Vice President of Student Affairs to announcements in classrooms in the English Department, the campus united to encourage students to be active and engaged citizens in their community.

Careers in Public Service Panel



Panelists from Planned Parenthood, Community Volunteers in Medicine, Peace Corps, and Habitat for Humanity, along with an immigration attorney spoke to 60 students from a variety of disciplines interested in exploring careers in public service. This event was co-sponsored by the Career Development Center.

Turkey Trot



Rain on a November evening couldn't stop over 150 students from coming out for the First Annual Turkey Trot 5k to increase awareness of food insecurity and to collect food for the Chester County Food Bank. Co-sponsored by Campus Rec, SAC, Sykes, & Wellness Promotion.



"We dedicate our time because we enjoy being near and growing with others. Volunteering is a way to positively impact and connect with our community."

Service Chair of Student Org



Community Service Retreat

Student leaders from various student organizations came together at the beginning of each semester to learn about the meaning of service, coordinating projects, the importance of reflection, and building partnerships.

Soar: New Student Leadership Retreat

Approximately 100 new students kicked-off their tenure at WCU by enhancing their leadership skills, connecting with others, and participating in various service projects throughout West Chester during this two-day retreat.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, around 600 students, staff, and community members congregated to make no-sew fleece blankets for children at Chester County Hospital's NICU and Pediatrics Department, A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital, and Fleece for Keeps.



America Reads & Good Cause Café

Children participating in America Reads, an academic enrichment youth mentoring program, were invited to campus to pick out books at Good Cause Café, WCU's event to give books a second life and raise money for Family Service of Chester County's Project One program. After-school and childcare programs partnering with America Reads also received books to enhance their libraries.

"I have fallen in love with helping the students and bonding with them and being a person that the students can trust."

America Reads Youth Mentor

Giving Tuesday

On Giving Tuesday, a day created to raise money for charities, students from Cheyney University and West Chester University united to take this initiative a step further. Not only did students participate in philanthropic activities, they also volunteered at The Hickman, The Melton Center, Chester County Hospital, YMCA Oscar Lasko Youth Program Center, Planned Parenthood, and Friends Association. After volunteering throughout the afternoon, students and community members came back to WCU's campus to share a meal, reflect upon their experience, and build Caps Kits (an educational learning tool for children).





Alternative Break

"Go in with an open mind and be ready to have a positive, life changing experience."
Alternative Break Participant

Addressing Issues of Affordable Housing with Habitat for Humanity

14 students accompanied by 1 staff advisor built homes for families facing issues of poverty in rural West Virginia



Creating Sustainable Food Resources for Urban Communities with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

8 students accompanied by 1 faculty advisor served the Philadelphia area by seeding produce, building community gardens, assisting local food banks, and exploring the connections between urban poverty and access to fresh produce

Improving Youth Engagement through Play with Junior Achievement

7 students accompanied by 1 staff advisor facilitated educational lessons in the form of games and team building activities for youth in the Bronx



Serving the Community Impacted by HIV/AIDS with the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

12 student members of Fraternity & Sorority Life accompanied by 2 staff advisors increased awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and services available in Pittsburgh, PA.



International Service Trips



4 students and 1 faculty served with Voices4Peru in Peru to serve youth and assist the community of Ventanilla (Summer '15: CRJ455/555)



13 students and 1 faculty served with the MAMA Project's medical and construction brigades in Honduras (Winter: NTD435/HEA581)



9 students and 1 faculty served with Voices4Peru in Peru to serve youth and assist the community of Ventanilla (Winter: CRJ455/555)



5 students and 2 faculty served with the Rafiki Africa Foundation in Kenya to address hunger, education needs, and women's empowerment