Service Learning@ CELL

△ What Is Service-Learning?

Service-learning offers a unique opportunity for America's young people -- from kindergarten to college students -- to get involved with their communities in a tangible way by integrating service projects with classroom learning. Service-learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

△ Why is Service-Learning Important?

A national study of Learn and Serve America programs suggests that effective service-learning programs improve grades, increase attendance in schools, and develop students' personal and social responsibility. A growing body of research recognizes service-learning as an effective strategy to help students by:

- Promoting learning through active participation in service experiences;
- Providing structured time for students to reflect by thinking, discussing and writing about their service experience;
- Providing an opportunity for students to use skills and knowledge in real-life situations;
- Extending learning beyond the classroom and into the community; and
- Fostering a sense of caring for others.

Service-learning also strengthens both education and local communities by:

- Building effective collaborative partnerships between schools or colleges and other institutions and organizations
- Engaging parents and other adults in supporting student learning
- Meeting community needs through the service projects conducted
- Providing engaging and productive opportunities for young people to work with others in their community
How does CELL support Service Learning?

CELL currently supports several service learning initiatives:

- **VETS~ Voicing Experiences through Service.** VETS is a multi-year Program of National Significance, funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. [http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/vets/](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/vets/)

- **Learn and Serve Indiana, Training and Technical Assistance.** The Indiana Department of Education supports Hoosier schools who have adopted national K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice. [http://www.doe.in.gov/ois/servicelearning/index.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/ois/servicelearning/index.html)

- **Voices of Katrina: An Independent Service Learning Course**
  February 15-March 29, 2011. This six week 3 hour course is open to ALL Indiana University undergraduate and graduate students. [http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cell](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cell)

Links to Service Learning Partners:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/
http://www.indiana.edu/~copsl/
http://www.doe.in.gov/ois/servicelearning/index.html
http://www.in.gov/ofbci
http://www.serviceandinclusion.org/index.php
http://www.communityworks institute.org/

For information about these and other Service Learning resources, contact:

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