

Service-Learning Fellows Program

The Office of Engagement invites applications for the 2019-2020 Service-Learning Fellows Program, designed to foster the development and institutionalization of service-learning courses and curricula, projects, and scholarly pursuits at Purdue. Faculty (including non-tenure track) and graduate student instructors seeking to implement service-learning pedagogy are encouraged to apply.

This year, in partnership with the United Way, four community partners were selected for fellowship projects: HomesteadCS, Northend Community Center, River City Community Center, and Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. Purdue fellowship recipients will incorporate service-learning into their courses in partnership with one of these organizations, responding to a community-identified need described in the project proposals below. Interdisciplinary Purdue teams are encouraged, or may be formed by the Service-Learning Director based on applications. Up to \$4,000 is available per project.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Understanding and prioritization of community-identified needs and community partner input
- Plans for long-term, sustainable collaboration with the community partner and Purdue University
- Potential for innovative, high-impact transformational learning experiences
- Intention to serve as an ambassador for service-learning activities campus-wide
- Ability to implement service-learning courses with departmental support

Fellowship Terms of Service May – April

- Collaboratively develop a plan for course and project implementation with community partner and Service-Learning Director (Summer/Fall)
- Participate in cohort meetings twice a semester (Fall/Spring)
- Complete two reports: mid-term and final reports
- Present at the annual Purdue Engagement & Service-Learning Summit
- Apply for the Purdue University Scholarship of Engagement Fellows Program, Indiana Campus Compact grant or other equivalent engagement and service-learning grants, and/or produce a scholarly contribution (on-going)
- Contribute to the assessment of service-learning

Expected Uses of Funds

- No funds may be used for salaries or honoraria.
- Funds may be used for travel needed to support the course/project.
- Funds may be used for materials, supplies, publicity, printing, postage, etc. needed to support the course/project.
- Funds may be used for professional development related to the project (per approval by community partner)
- Funds may be used to support undergraduate or graduate research directly related to the project.

Application

To apply, complete the online application [HERE](#) by April 26, 2019, 5:00 PM. In addition to basic demographic information, the application requires a signature of support from the applicant's department (supplemental document) and a service-learning course proposal responding to the prompt below.

In no more than two single-spaced pages, 12-font, describe your proposed course including the following:

- Community partner project of interest
- Course you are teaching to incorporate service-learning
- Proposed service-learning activities that will meet identified community need(s) and prioritize community partner input
- Linkage of course content and/or discipline to service-learning activity
- Description of student reflection activities that will support: a further understanding of course content, broader appreciation of the discipline, and/or enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibilities
- Preliminary calendar for community partner collaboration and service-learning activities
- Proposed usage of fellowship funds

Selection Process

A selection committee consisting of Office of Engagement representatives, United Way representatives, and former service-learning faculty grantees will select the final award recipients. Announcement of award recipients will be on or before May 1, 2019, and the program will officially begin in May of the selection year and end in April of the following year. The Office of Engagement will manage and coordinate all functions and activities thereafter.

Questions

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Assistant Professor, Environmental & Ecological Engineering
Purdue University

Project Title:

Marketing

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- HomesteadCS
- Project Coordinator available Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Other hours arranged as needed.

Project Goals & Objectives:

Our organizational goal is to keep families in their homes. In 2018 we did a survey of families that use our services, our community partners and others in the community. The number one complaint was that no one is aware of our services. The second complaint was that no one knew all the services we offer. Most people find us by accident and think we do only one thing (whatever it was that brought them to us). We would like to change that and need some help. We are a small 4.5 person staff that serves 10 Indiana counties. We keep families in their homes by offering financial education, foreclosure prevention, pre-purchase counseling, reverse mortgage counseling, a small loan program and other programs related to housing. We would like help to implement ideas we have such as videos of our families, help with social media, with coming up with great marketing ideas and with telling our story both in writing and at events. Our goal is to ensure that our name becomes a household name. That each time someone thinks of housing, especially homeownership, they automatically think of us.

This would help our organization reach more families that need housing knowledge. Since the house crisis, we have saved over \$138 million dollars' worth of homes from foreclosure, helped over 300 families purchase their first home and counseled over 7,000 families on their housing options. We know there are more families that need our help, but we need to make them aware of our services. Students that participate would gain workplace experience, be able to use their expertise to make a community difference, test out marketing ideas, develop and implement a marketing plan and gain real world experience. This as an ongoing need that can start in the fall or spring

Project Title:

Financial Education

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- HomesteadCS
- Project Coordinators available Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Other hours arranged as needed.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Our organizational goal is to keep families in their homes. One of the tools we use is financial education. We currently have a Purdue class helping us with advancing our marketing connection to Purdue Students. We would like to continue this outreach, and also have the students help us teach the classes. Our goal is to have well-organized education classes that helps the families and students we are serving, have enough instructors to teach the classes, and have measureable outcomes. We can accomplish this by having help with the teaching and the marketing of the program.

This would help our organization reach more Purdue Students. As a nation we have found that many students are coming out of college with large debt, mostly student loans and little idea how to manage their finances. In order to maintain stable house, financial knowledge is vital. Working with a Purdue class would allow us to reach more students. Students that participate would gain workplace experience, be able to use their expertise to make a community difference, learn to communicate to a public audience, gain an understanding of adult education, and apply financial planning in a real-world context. This as an ongoing need that can start in the fall or spring

Project Title:

Youth Educational Programming

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- Northend Community Center
- Project coordinators are available during regular work schedule Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Other hours as needed.

Project Goals and Objective:

The Northend Community Center opened in September of 2018, and upon opening, it was not long before there was a number of youth (13-18 year olds) at the center on a regular basis. As a result, we have discovered a desire and need for programming for youth at the community center during after school hours (4pm-8pm) on weekdays. The goal of this programming would be to develop teens into leaders within their families and communities. Some of the objectives are to strengthen teens in the following areas: leadership skills, community service, job skills, scholastics, soft skills, and art.

The goal of this project is not to benefit the community center staff but rather to benefit the community of youth in the Northend of Lafayette. These youth are mostly at-risk youth, which means there is a lack of mentorship and care in their lives. That would be the greatest benefit: loving a greatly neglected population within our community. Another benefit of this program will be the love and care that can strengthen family units in the Northend. Purdue students will have many opportunities to learn by being a part of this program.

- 1) Learning to use their skills to love and serve others
- 2) Learning to build into the next generation
- 3) When working with non-profits, you learn what it takes to serve a community selflessly
- 4) Working with this program will also provide opportunities to communicate and work through issues with youth as well as staff/volunteers in the program. Problems will certainly arise. Students will need to navigate these issues.
- 5) Students will also learn how to take ownership of a program because there will be great responsibility on their shoulders.
- 6) Students will grow in their care for those who are under-resourced
- 7) Students will have opportunities to grow in their ability to create and develop opportunities to accomplish the goals of the program.

The goal would be to see if we could do a full launch some time in the fall. I would like to have a pilot group begin in the summer. This is flexible, however, based on class availability.

Project Title:

412 Leadership Academy: a college prep & character development program

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- River City Community Center
- Project coordinators are available during regular work schedule Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Other hours as needed.

Project Goals & Objectives:

In most high schools across the country, guidance counseling staff provide most, if not all, of the college guidance. Unfortunately, guidance resources are spent on a myriad of other worthwhile but time-consuming tasks. Time spent counseling students and promoting postsecondary education is directly proportional to caseload size, which for Greater Lafayette high schools, are far greater than the 250:1 ratio recommended by the American School Counseling Association. Oftentimes those that are affected most by inaccessibility to postsecondary guidance are low-income students that would be first in their family to attend college.

The River City Community Center has a vested interest in the area surrounding the property. Statistics show that communities with higher levels of educational attainment are, on average, financially more stable, more physically healthy, have stronger familial relationships, and serve their communities more frequently while adding more value than those that conclude their formal education with high school diplomas. Thus, any efforts to provide long-term benefit to residents in its proximity should include an intentional and aggressive strategy to promote educational attainment to those who need it most.

412 Leadership Academy objectives are:

- Host monthly meetings with grade-appropriate activities and engagement
- STEM exposure, including projects/lab time on college campuses and trips to the sites of partnering firms & local universities to showcase potential STEM professions
- Leadership development, including engagement with local business & community leaders and lessons on dress, financial literacy, interpersonal relationship development (i.e. small talk & handling conversations), the importance of diversity, and entrepreneurship
- Community service
- Age-appropriate college search activities
- Assigned mentors from the Greater Lafayette community

The goal of this program is 100% college matriculation for participants. A program such as this is possible only with collaboration between local school corporations, businesses, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and private supporters. A long-term, sustainable program should be based on qualitative and quantitative research that verifies the need and provides baseline knowledge with which to compare its results.

Expertise from Purdue would be helpful in a number of ways: guide and establish a process for data collection and evaluation; develop a model that supports students socially and academically; and develop marketing and outreach plans for private and public support. This project has the potential to cultivate long-term impact for young students that are most vulnerable. Purdue students will gain real-life understanding of the barriers to upward mobility, possible avenues to remove those barriers, and community collaboration strategies.

Project Title:

Community Program and Services Needs Assessment

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- River City Community Center
- Project coordinators are available during regular work schedule Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Other hours as needed.

Project Goals and Objectives:

In September 2018, renovation and construction on a former grocery store to be converted into the River City Community Center began. When it is complete in June 2019, the 45,000 square foot facility will house a café, four small conference rooms, a private counseling suite, two multi-purpose rooms, a community boardroom, an auditorium and banquet center capable of seating up to 600 people, a commercial kitchen, and an indoor play space connected to STEAM Academy, a high-quality preschool education center.

The River City Community Center has interest in utilizing this new facility by creating programs and services that meet the needs and desires of residents surrounding the property. The Community Center's mission is to provide effective programs and services used to empower families and individuals to achieve sustained self-sufficiency and improved quality of life. All resources will be dedicated to the pursuit of community transformation through a focus on strong families, educational enrichment, mental & physical wellness, equitable employment, engaged community service, and leadership cultivation. Relative to this proposal, understanding the physical and mental health needs of area residents and the barriers of young families that restrict upward economic mobility are the primary foci.

It's critical for any programs and services offered to be founded upon qualitative and quantitative data that support their creation and help demonstrate their sustainability. Simply written, programs should meet the needs and desires of their targeted audience to maximize their effectiveness. Data will place confidence in our program offerings and greatly assist conversations around non-profit and business collaboration and with potential funders.

Expertise from the Purdue campus would be helpful in a number of ways:

- Guidance and establishment of a process for data collection and evaluation
- Collection of mental health, physical health, and demographic data for neighborhoods within a 3-mile radius of the community center
- Analyzation of collected data
- Development of a program model(s) that meet residents' health care needs in some way
- Development of a program that provides relief, guidance, and/or education for parents with young children

This project has the potential for long-term impact for the families living on the southside of Lafayette. Purdue students will gain real-life understanding of the barriers to upward mobility, possible avenues to remove those barriers, and community collaboration strategies. Because of the existence of these problems in population centers across the country, learnings can be applied post-graduation.

Project Title:

Urban Management Planning

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- Project Coordinator available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, evenings/weekends as needed

Project Goals & Objectives:

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Wabash River corridor by providing sustainable opportunities to improve health, recreation, education, economic development and environmental management. Within Greater Lafayette, industrial and municipal wastewater inputs, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, development pressures, combined sewer overflows, and stormwater directly impact the Wabash River. As a result, this reach of the Wabash River is impaired for nutrients, pH, *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen, and biotic communities. Since the fall of 2011, WREC and our partners have implemented more than 300 urban best management practices (BMPs) focused on improving water quality in our watershed. Many of our partner organizations require additional support to maintain these practices and keep them functioning at their best. Additionally, WREC has acquired numerous properties along the Wabash River for long-range planning of sustainable development.

Program Goal:

- Develop and implement management plans for urban BMPs and natural WREC-owned properties in order to improve water quality. Below are three different projects that need to be completed to achieve this goal. A course could participate in one or more of the projects for this grant.

Potential Projects:

- #1: Seed and Plug Production Program
Establish a seed and plug production program for native grasses for erosion control, including: creating and establishing seed beds; harvesting seeds; creating plugs; and planting and dispersing plugs and seeds as needed within management plan for natural areas or urban BMP
- #2: Urban BMP Management
Work with community members with urban BMPs to create and implement a plan for BMP management including partner capacity-building; volunteer recruitment; invasive species removal; and maintenance (weeding, mulching, mowing, prescribed burning, etc.).
- #3. Natural Areas Management
Develop and implement management plans for woodlands, wetlands, and bottomland hardwoods ecosystems, including invasive species removal and erosion control practices

These projects would greatly improve water quality in the Wabash River, improve the aesthetics and perception of urban BMPs, increase the acceptance and use of urban BMPs, and reduce invasive species. Students will: gain experience working with multiple stakeholders; solve issues relating to water and environmental quality; learn about the multi-faceted reality of environmental degradation in urban environments; and gain meaningful hands-on experience related to habitat and/or urban BMP management. The goal for this program would be to begin in the fall of 2019 and repeat each semester. Students would work on program goals as they are seasonally appropriate.

Project Title:

Marketing, Education, and Outreach

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- Project Coordinator available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, evenings/weekends as needed

Project Goals & Objectives:

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Wabash River corridor by providing sustainable opportunities to improve health, recreation, education, economic development and environmental management. Within Greater Lafayette, industrial and municipal wastewater inputs, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, development pressures, combined sewer overflows, and stormwater directly impact the Wabash River. As a result, this reach of the Wabash River is impaired for nutrients, pH, *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen, and biotic communities. Since the fall of 2011, WREC and our partners have implemented more than 300 urban best management practices (BMPs) focused on improving water quality in our watershed. Unfortunately, the general public is too often unaware of the positive impact on the health of the river.

The goal of the project partnership would be to develop marketing, education, and outreach materials to highlight the efforts of WREC and educate stakeholders. These projects might include the following:

- Promotional material describing who we are, what we do, where we do it, and the impact of our efforts
- Educational banners about the Wabash River for Riverfest, i.e., facts, animals in and out of the water, history, etc.
- Educational signs for urban best management practices, i.e., rain gardens, rain barrels, native plantings, pervious pavement, etc.

These projects would greatly improve public awareness of the water quality in the Wabash River, improve the perception of urban BMPs, and increase the acceptance and use of urban BMPs. Students will: gain experience working with multiple stakeholders; solve issues relating to water and environmental quality; and learn about the multi-faceted reality of environmental degradation in urban environments. The goal for this program would be to begin in the fall of 2019 or spring of 2020.