Service-Learning Scholars Workshop

“A Faculty Development and Mentoring Program to Build Capacity for Academic Service-Learning”

August 18th – 20th, 2014
University of Nevada, Reno
Overview:

The Service-Learning Scholars Workshop consists of three consecutive training sessions

- August 18th, 9am -3pm
- August 19th 9-11:30 am, and
- August 20th 9:00 11:30am PLUS
- Two follow-up mentoring sessions (2 hrs. each) during the fall semester.

The faculty development program provides an opportunity for faculty members to integrate service-learning into their teaching, research or public service work while becoming recognized campus leaders in service-learning pedagogy and community engagement. We anticipate providing a small stipend for faculty who are selected to help assist in their service-learning initiatives.
The Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement is a recent formal initiative under the Office of the Provost. While we recognize service-learning has been underway at UNR prior to the establishment of an office, our role is to help facilitate meaningful community-based learning experiences, assess learning, and track impact. A primary task in meeting this role is to assist and build the capacity of our faculty in providing best practices for service-learning and community-based research. The Service-Learning Scholars Workshop is a Faculty Development and Mentoring Program designed for UNR faculty to learn from fellow colleagues both within and outside of our institution. The goals of the program are as follows:

- Increase familiarity and exposure to service-learning theory and current research.
- Apply best practices of service-learning research and pedagogy.
- Explore and apply evaluation and assessment strategies for measuring student learning, and impact on faculty, community partners, and social issues.
- Develop and transform a course to incorporate service-learning or community-based research.
- Connect and develop partnerships with community organizations and agencies.
- Develop a network and collaboration among faculty across disciplines.
- Become a part of a core group of campus leaders knowledgeable about and engaged in service-learning pedagogy.
Participant Outcomes:

- Understand the fundamentals of service-learning and best practices.
- Conceptually apply and integrate the structure of service-learning into a specific course.
- Develop student-learning objectives (SLOs) to meet course outcomes.
- Explore potential community partnerships that best meet your course objectives.
- Learn and use effective reflection strategies that help students think critically and learn content deeply.
- Gain new avenues for publication and scholarship.
Eligibility:

The Service-Learning Scholars Workshop is open to all permanent, full-time UNR faculty members. This includes academic tenure and non-tenure track, administrative faculty with teaching appointments, lecturers and research faculty members with teaching appointments or an interest in community-based research practices. Previous experience in service-learning pedagogy or familiarity with service-learning or community-based research is not required.
Expectations:

To ensure a high-quality workshop and mentoring program, space is limited to only 20 faculty members. Of faculty members who are selected, we expect the following:

- Full participation and attendance in all workshop-training sessions (three sessions: 9am – 3pm August 18th and 9am – 11:30am August 19th and 20th).
- Full participation and attendance in the two subsequent mentoring sessions (two-2hr sessions over the fall semester, one in September, one in October). Date and time to be decided by workshop participants.
- Workshop Scholars are expected to develop a service-learning course or define a community-based research project to be implemented for the Spring Semester.
- Participate and share your work and your students’ work in the culminating Engagement Showcase Event to be held in April. This event provides a venue for you and your students to present your final projects and be recognized by the larger campus community.
- Assist in mentoring future faculty scholars in the succeeding year.
What is Academic Service-Learning?

Service-Learning is a specially designed model of experiential-learning in which students engage in meaningful activities that address community needs together with structured opportunities for reflection in order to achieve learning outcomes and teach civic responsibility. Equal emphasis is placed on both the service and the learning (service-learning). Reflection and reciprocity with the community are essential components of service-learning.

What is Community-Based Research?

Community-based research (CBR) is a collaborative research effort between academic researchers and non-academy based community members. The research model aims to generate social action and positive social change through the use of multiple knowledge sources and research methods.

(Strategy et. al., 2003)

What is Civic Engagement?

"Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivations to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." (Ehrlich, 2000).