Get Involved!

**Community Clean-Up**
Detective Lopez from the Reno Police Department Regional Gang Unit is coordinating a community clean-up effort geared towards removing graffiti. If you'd like to participate, meet up at 1st street (opposite the Greyhound Bus Station) at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 29. The target area is the river path from Virginia Street to Ralston Street. For more information, please contact Detective Lopez at lopezf@reno.gov.

**School Supply Drive**
From August 24th – September 4th, Teach for America will sponsor a School Supply Drive to benefit GearUp’s community partner schools, Traner and Vaughn Middle Schools, and Wooster and Hug High Schools. We are looking for any and all school supply donations from students, faculty, and staff, ranging from pens and pencils, folders and binders, to rulers and glue. All donations are welcome! Donation drop-off is TBD. For information, please contact Cassandra Stockall, Recruitment Manager – Teach for America at (646) 477-1529.

**Becoming a UNR Community Partner**
With the start of the academic term, service-learning and civic engagement partnerships between the University and community organizations are being established. If you are a current partner, or interested in becoming a partner, please be sure to renew your Community Partner Agreement (goo.gl/hEg5RP) by returned a signed copy to the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (oslce@unr.edu). Agreements must be signed prior to any students being placed with the organization. If you have any questions about the Agreement or how to become a community partner, please contact Stacey Muse at smuse@unr.edu or 775.784.4846.

Hey, community partners! Do you have an upcoming event you would like others to know about? Send us an e-mail atoslce@unr.edu and we will add the opportunity to our bimonthly newsletter.

In Partnership,
The Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement
The International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership and Social Change

The Fall 2015 Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership and Social Change is now available. To access the journal, please visit goo.gl/hppifG.

The Journal only accepts articles from undergraduate students. The Journal considers three types of articles:

1. Articles that discuss the development of a service-learning project and the impact of the project on the community served
2. A case study of a service-learning project
3. A reflection on service-learning and the development of personal leadership

Each article will be reviewed by selected readers and the member of the editorial board. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced, excluding block quotations which should be typed single-spaced, and references. To ensure anonymity, author’s names and affiliation should appear on a separate cover page. Articles should not exceed 15 pages. Authors should follow APA format.

For more information on submissions, please visit http://goo.gl/UBkCnx.

Community Research and Action in the West (CRA-W) Regional Conference - Call for Proposals (Final deadline for consideration is September 1, 2015)

Students, faculty, staff, community members and organizations, and other Community Research and Action enthusiasts from the West are invited participate in a day of invigorating conversation and networking in an informal and welcoming environment. CRA-W (previously the Northwest ECO Conference) is an annual event that provides an opportunity to share ideas, practices, and learning from recent completed or ongoing community-based work. All are welcome to join the conversation as presenters and/or participants!

Submit your proposal here goo.gl/tyBw0g.

$100,000 Hearst Health Prize for Excellence in Population Health

The Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH), in partnership with Hearst Health, invites you to apply for the Hearst Health Prize. The prize was created to help promote promising new ideas in the field that will help to improve health outcomes, and thus proliferate best practices more rapidly. The goal is to discover, support and showcase the work of an individual, group, organization or institution that has successfully implemented a population health program or intervention that has made a measurable difference.

The winner will receive a $100,000 cash prize in recognition of outstanding achievement in managing or improving population health.

For more information, please visit http://goo.gl/08QVXy.
Get Resources

International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) 2015 Conference

Registration is underway for the 2015 Conference! This year’s annual research conference will be held November 16-18, 2015 in Boston and will visit the theme Revolutionary Scholarship: Innovation of Community Engagement Models.

We are excited to bring researchers, teachers, students, and community members to Boston to reflect on the history of the field of service-learning and community engagement, while expanding the depth and breadth of the field to highlight cutting edge methods and practices.

The conference will highlight the historical foundations of modern innovation to reveal how past research inspires original research questions and innovative methods to advance the field into the 21st Century.

For all things conference - including the link to register, hotel information and more - please visit our conference website at goo.gl/QdfzcN.

Promote your organization at Service-Palooza

The Associated Students of the University of Nevada and the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement are hosting “Service Palooza”, an event that will showcase various nonprofits and service organizations in our community. The event aims to

- increase student involvement within the community
- build and maintain partnerships within the community
- increase awareness in careers and opportunities with nonprofits and service organizations
- help nonprofit efforts through volunteerism, internships or what the nonprofit is offering
- promotion and advertising of your nonprofit or organization within the university campus

Various nonprofit organizations are invited to table on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno on August 24, 2015 between 11am and 2pm. It is our hope that the event will expose as many students as possible to the mission of these organizations and make students aware of all the resources that the great city of Reno has to offer. If your nonprofit organization is interested in participating, please contact Brandon Boone at senatorboone@asun.unr.edu.

2015 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference

There’s still time to register for the 2015 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference at Penn State, to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29 and 30.

We’re filling the schedule with interactive workshops and presentations featuring passionate leaders from the exciting world of engagement scholarship. Also, be sure to look into the preconference workshops, networking opportunities, and guided tours that will give you the chance to see engaged scholarship in action on the Penn State campus.

For more information on registration, please visit goo.gl/KqhzYp.
Get Resources cont’d

Graduate Certificate in Social Justice School of Social Research and Justice Studies College of Liberal Arts

The Graduate Certificate in Social Justice is now being offered at the post-baccalaureate level for academic graduate credit through the School of Social Research and Justice Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Students currently enrolled in a graduate level program at the University of Nevada Reno or students who have already received a baccalaureate degree are eligible for admission to the certificate program. For more information, please visit http://goo.gl/5lozJ4.

For information about the Certificate in Social Justice please contact:
Mary White Stewart, Ph.D., Director
School of Social Research and Justice Studies
University of Nevada, Reno/0300
Reno, Nevada 89557-0300

Office Updates

The partnerships our office has created with both the university and the community are very important to us and we would like to designate a special section within this newsletter to show our appreciation. Once a month, our office would like to showcase the community-engaged work of a faculty member, community partner or student. This month, our office would like to honor Dr. Jamie Benedict from the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition and Veterinary Sciences. We applaud Dr. Benedict’s commitment to service-learning!

Faculty Spotlight

Jamie Benedict, Ph.D., R.D.
Associate Professor
Dept. of Agriculture, Nutrition and Veterinary Sciences
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I began my career at UNR as the State Nutrition Specialist with Cooperative Extension. While in this position, I learned first-hand about the challenges that many households face meeting their nutritional needs. In addition, I also got to know and collaborate with professionals around the state who are dedicated to serving these families. I will always be thankful for those opportunities.
In my current role, I teach three undergraduate nutrition classes, including the service learning class, and direct and teach in the Nutrition Graduate Program. The focus of my research relates to my interest in community health. In an effort to reduce children’s intake of sugary drinks, I am directing the “Rethink Your Drink” campaign in Northern Nevada. Our goal is to identify strategies that effectively help parents and guardians of young, school-age children replace sugary drinks with more healthful choices. It has involved collaborations with many local health professionals including primary care providers, dentists, and dietitians. The experience has been rewarding as we are starting to see some positive changes.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and my twin daughters who just started their junior year in high school. We have the most fun when we are enjoying music or being outdoors.

2. **Tell us about your service-learning course(s).**

The service learning course I teach is Applied Community Nutrition (NUTR 471/671). Most students who enroll are senior nutrition students – some of whom are considering careers in dietetics or public health. For the class, students invest 25 hours in a community agency/program that promotes the nutritional health of those at risk for poor nutrition. Oftentimes, it’s poverty or food insecurity that puts them at risk.

To enroll in this service learning course, students must also enroll in Community Nutrition (NUTR 470/670). Having them in both classes simultaneously is great since it provides opportunities for the students to observe the implementation or impact of the nutrition policies and programs that are discussed during the didactic class. The students also learn the value of getting involved locally and interact with many of the inspiring leaders in our community.

3. **How did you get involved with service-learning?**

When I was first asked to teach Community Nutrition (NUTR 470/670), it included a required community service component. As the class grew in size, it became more challenging to effectively place the students. In addition, not all students were necessarily interested in community service. In conjunction with my colleagues, we decided it was best to create a separate elective experiential class and in doing so, to make the transition from community service to service learning. From my perspective, the change has improved the outcomes for both the community partners and the students.

4. **What are some of the highlights and challenges of teaching a service-learning course?**

One highlight is witnessing the students’ development. The experiences often expand their perspective of what it means to be part of a community, and increases their awareness of the disparities that persist among households. Some are also faced with situations that demand strong problem-solving skills. Most leave the class with greater enthusiasm for their academic and professional goals.

Another highlight is definitely getting positive feed-back about our students and their contributions from community partners. We couldn’t do this without their support and involvement.

As far as challenges, keeping up with the students and their activities throughout the semester keeps me on my toes. The use of instructional technology has definitely made teaching this class more manageable.

5. **What advice would you give to Faculty who are interested in teaching a service-learning course?**

I can think of three ways to make teaching a class like this more manageable:

- Start planning early since academic calendars often don’t correspond to community schedules and plans. Be cognizant that community partners often have policies and procedures in place for having volunteers on the premises. Your partners will appreciate consideration of their scheduling demands.
- Invest plenty of time in the beginning of the class to help students understand what service learning is all about. I have found that some students join the class with unrealistic expectations. It they get off to a poor start, it can be hard to recover.
- Contact the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement. They have resources and expertise to help you plan and organize your course that will save time and maximize the impact.