**Developing Reciprocal Service-Learning Partnerships**

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| **Benefits of Service-Learning Partnerships** |
| * Accomplish work together that would be difficult or impossible to accomplish alone. * Build a shared sense of commitment and responsibility throughout the community. * Ensure that everyone who is touched by the service is represented in the leadership, planning and implementation. * Avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts among agencies. * Offer opportunities for people to learn from each other and share resources. * Contribute to rebuilding healthy, caring communities. |
| **Establishing Effective Relationships** |
| 1. Know your objectives. Before contact, build a solid base. 2. Be able to articulate your goals, your service objectives and your learning expectations. 3. Know your students. What knowledge and skills do they offer, their range of interests, their limitations, their talents. 4. Know your resources. Can you provide supervision, transportation, supplies? Remember, simple details loom large to agencies. 5. Know agencies and their programs. Understand their structure, their mission, and their activities at least well enough to ask informed questions. 6. Make a strong effort to involve others in approaching agencies and to use them in an on-going way for program implementation. |
| **Discussion Starter Questions** |
| The following questions can help you start conversations about partnering with schools, agencies or campus. Remember it will also be important that you provide answers to these questions to potential partners.   * What experiences have you had in community service or volunteering? What impact has that had on you? * What experiences has your agency had working with students? * What experiences have you had working with students? * Why are you interested in this partnership? * What do you think is the most important reason for involving students in service-learning? * What is one thing you hope students would learn about the community or society? * What are the major challenges to providing services to community? |
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| **Steps to Successful Partnerships** |
| *1. Identify Potential Partners* |
| * Schools * Youth Service Organizations * Nonprofit Organizations * Businesses * Recipients of Services * Individuals * Government Agencies |
| *2. Identify Needs Which are of Mutual Concern* |
| * Do a needs assessment of the community with students and agency representatives. |
| *Determine Individuals Who Will Serve as Primary Liaisons in the Planning and Implementation Process* |
| * Assign student coordinators. * Visit agencies ahead of time. |
| *3. Set Up a Local Advisory Board* |
| *Negotiate and Agree Upon Desired Outcomes for:* |
| * Recipient of Volunteer Services * Student/Youth Volunteer * Nonprofit Organizations * Educational Institution * Others |
| *4. Negotiate and Agree Upon Expectations for:* |
| * Recipient of Volunteer Services * Student/Youth Volunteer * Nonprofit Organizations * Educational Institution * Others |
| *5. Determine Best Method for On-Going Community and Evaluation* |
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| *6. Periodically, Redesign Relationships Based on Changing Needs and Circumstances* |
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