

Service Learning and Civic Engagement at Tennessee State University

Our Vision: Knowledge, Engagement, Reflection, Transformation --- Where scholarly service is the bridge uniting learning with civic responsibility.

As a land grant university and an HBCU, Tennessee State University has a rich tradition of service and an opportunity to instill in our students an ethic of caring and a sense of responsibility for making our world better. We want to move beyond service ---we want to transform our university and our communities through sustainable partnerships with the community.

What are the Goals of TSU's Service Learning Programs?

- To provide students with the opportunity to realize academic learning objectives through participation in community service.
- To enhance student learning by connecting theory with experience and thought with action.
- To fill unmet needs in the community and on campus through direct and meaningful service.
- To assist students to see the relevance of the academic subject to the "real" world.
- To empower community members to become co-facilitators of learning
- To develop an environment of collegial participation among students, faculty, and the community.
- To give students the opportunities to engage in mutually beneficial work in the community.
- To increase the civic and citizenship skills of students.
- To expose students to social inequality and injustice, while empowering them to make a difference.
- To better prepare students for their careers and continuing education.
- To give students greater responsibility for their learning.
- To empower students to address local issues and local needs.
- To build capacity in the communities through reciprocal partnerships.

Mission of the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement: The Center exists to facilitate quality educational experiences through community-based service-learning. The Center connects campus and community resources to create diverse learning experiences and to serve community needs. Its programs integrate the academic, service, and reflection components of service-learning by providing resources --- including training and technical assistance, to students, faculty and community. In doing this, the Center advances TSU's goals of quality teaching, research, and service.

The mission and goals of the Center fit perfectly into the TSU Strategic Plan. Civic Responsibility, Leadership (especially related to the P-16 initiative), Research, and Service are all integrated through service learning pedagogy.

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