



Northeastern University
Center of Community Service
Service-Learning Program

BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Understanding the principles and assessing the benefits of service-learning are of utmost importance when addressing the question, “Why service-learning?” As a pedagogy and partnership building too, S-L, if effectively implemented, offers many benefits to the students, community members, faculty and the university alike. Listed below are a few of the possible benefits.

Student Benefits

- Increased reported learning and motivation to learn
- Deeper understanding of subject matter and complex social issues
- Ability to apply material learned in class to “real world” issues
- Opportunity to learn from classmates experiences and builds community within the classroom
- Gain hands on skills related to academic area of interest
- Makes curriculum relevant to students' lives and clarifies values
- Promotes community and civic responsibility
- Encourages multicultural awareness
- Develops critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Fosters social and personal development

Faculty Benefits

- New areas for research and publication, and increased opportunities for professional recognition and reward
- Improved student discussion, participation, and engagement of students of all learning styles
- Enriched approach for delivering subject matter
- New relationship with community members
- Improved understanding of how learning occurs
- Greater awareness of how academic areas of interest relate to social issues

Community Benefits

- Additional energy, enthusiasm, and resources for addressing issues
- Improved relationship with university and access to university resources
- Increased awareness of and support for community organizations and issues
- Assistance with addressing unmet community needs
- Provides access to scholars with expertise in area(s) of interest
- Helps breakdown and dispel myths and stereotypes about students and community
- Provides an opportunity for a community to shape students' values and to prepare students for remaining engaged with ones organization or the social issue throughout life college

University Benefits

- Increased opportunity to engage students of all learning styles
- Opportunity to be model Service-Learning program for other universities
- Improved student retention and school to work transition
- Access to community partners as potential co-teachers
- Improve awareness of and university engagement in realizing commitment to the community