

Seeds of Service

A CSCC
SERVICE-LEARNING
PUBLICATION ABOUT MAKING
A DIFFERENCE.

Fall 2015

“An Amazing Opportunity”



(Left to Right) Samantha Mascary, Southern Adventist Student Intern, Tanya Southerland, G.R.A.A.B. Executive Director, (back row) Jaron Hobby, Southern Adventist Student Intern, Cassie Vandarriger, and Jennifer Webb, CSCC Student

Jennifer Webb is a talented, dedicated student of Cleveland State's Night Nursing Sequence. Instructors Nancy Thomas, Associate Professor, Nursing/Evening Coordinator, and Maureen Baksh-Griffin, Assistant Professor of Nursing, are strong proponents of service-learning and have made it a curriculum requirement. Like other nursing students, Webb had an intense class schedule (in addition to a busy family schedule). The realization that service-learning would be added was somewhat intimidating. Webb reflected on her experience, "I have to admit, when I first heard that we had to do service-learning I was a little discouraged and wondered how I would find time to do all that was required. But after having amazing experiences at each of the organizations, I am so thankful that we had what I now consider an amazing opportunity (not an obligation) to be of service to our community and to contribute to my life-long learning process as a nursing student and a career nurse."

In April 2015, Thomas and Baksh-Griffin offered Medical Surgical students an opportunity to earn extra credit by serving with the G.R.A.A.B. Coalition (Going Respectfully Against Addictive Behaviors) at the Cleveland Family YMCA's *Healthy Kids Day/Community Resource Fair*. The event took

place at an incredibly busy time for nursing students and it was unlikely that any would be available to attend. Jennifer Webb was there! As you can tell from the photo she brought her usual great attitude and winning smile to represent Cleveland State Community College, G.R.A.A.B. Coalition, Cleveland Family YMCA, and herself with professionalism and style! Nice job, Jennifer!

Faculty and students of the Night Nursing Sequence are committed supporters of the G.R.A.A.B. Coalition and Executive Director, Tanya Southerland. They have volunteered numerous hours in support of the agency's participation in the YMCA's *Healthy Kids Day/Community Resource Fair* and *Fall Festival*. Additionally, students have conducted many hours of research in support of G.R.A.A.B. community health campaigns (tobacco prevention, underage drinking, and general program development). Students also assisted Southerland and G.R.A.A.B. Coalition to receive Tennessee state certification as the Cleveland-Bradley County DUI School, by serving as her first group of "offenders" and providing candid input to the materials and her teaching technique. Kudos to the instructors and students of Night Nursing Sequence!

Make a Difference
Volunteer Expo
NOW!
Cleveland State Community College

The sixth annual Volunteer Expo is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium. Community agencies and organizations will staff display booths to share information about their needs for volunteers. Faculty, students, and community members are encouraged to "shop" the Expo for potential service-learning partners and community service opportunities.

Everyone is encouraged to join the excitement and find out how you can volunteer.



A Homerun for Experiential Learning

In the words of long-time Chicago Cubs announcer Jack Brickhouse, “Hey-hey!” look who’s rounding third for a homer. . . . it’s Aaron Bryant, CSCC’s Assistant Professor of Health and Wellness and Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator for the Cougars’ baseball program.

Bryant has been the Assistant Professor of Health and Wellness since 2007 and began incorporating service-learning into his Introduction to Exercise Science classes in Fall 2014. Students are required to complete 12 related volunteer hours throughout the semester and are given freedom to choose where they serve. Choices have included middle school and high school athletic programs, CSCC athletic programs, physical therapy facilities, and EMT programs. Bryant said, “Feedback to this point has been outstanding. Students feel the training they received really added to the course and made the overall learning experience much more than it would have been with classroom instruction alone.”

Bryant also incorporated experiential learning into his Spring 2015 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries course where students are required to complete 15 volunteer hours with the CSCC athletic trainer. Students are assigned to take hourly photos of their activities and include them in a semester-end reflection report. Bryant said, “The hands-on learning opportunity created a more academic environment in our training room and helped students evaluate the profession to see if it was something they wanted to pursue.”

Bryant will be working with the Service-Learning team to review the potential to include future service-learning assignments with area nonprofit events such as Special Olympics, Senior Olympics, and Running/Walking events. Keep an eye on the scoreboard for Bryant’s next “at bat!”



Aaron Bryant
Assistant Professor of Health and Wellness and
Assistant Coach/ Recruiting Coordinator for the Cougars



Elective Courses in Service-Learning

SLE 2400 and 2500
Service-Learning Project I and II
(3 credits each)

Students become involved in a semester-long service-learning project with a community service agency. Students select an existing service project or plan and implement a service project designed to meet a community need. Students reflect on their experiences in reflection seminars, online discussions, and a reflection journal/portfolio. Students complete 50 hours of service during the semester. Interested students may continue their service into a second semester taking SLE 2500 and completing an additional 50 hours of service.

SLE 2410, 2420 2430, and 2440
Service-Learning Experience I, II, III, and IV
(1 credit each)

These courses are designed for students interested in a shorter-term service project. Students in these courses complete 20 hours of volunteer service during each semester of enrollment and reflect in monthly class seminars, online discussions, and a reflection assignment.



2015 Service-Learning Champion— History is His Story



Bryan Reed
Associate Professor
of History

The Cleveland State Community College (CSCC) Service-Learning Team proudly announces Bryan Reed, Associate Professor of History, as the 2015 Service-Learning Champion! The Service-Learning Champion Award is a faculty/staff nominated award honoring a colleague who has demonstrated commitment to the promotion of service-learning. In addition to his duties as Associate Professor, Reed serves as the Department of Humanities Chair and as RODP Campus Mentor. Reed is also the President of Bradley County’s Historical and Genealogical Society and has served in the position since 2007.

Dr. Robert Brandon, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, recognized Reed, “Professor Reed has been a long-time supporter of service-learning at Cleveland State. He has worked hard to provide an environment that supports learning and allows students to become more invested in their community’s past, present, and future. In doing so, his projects embody the highest of ideals of higher education and our college’s community first mission.”

Dr. William Seymour, Cleveland State Community College President, acknowledged Reed’s accomplishments, “Cleveland State’s Service-Learning program is one of the best in the country. So, to be identified as our 2015 Service-Learning Champion is a significant honor - one that is well deserved by Professor Reed.”

Reed joined CSCC in 2004 and has incorporated service-learning into history classes since 2007 when he began partnering with Dr. Randy Wood, Lee University Assistant Professor of Humanities, to plan and conduct the annual *Fort Hill Cemetery Walking Tour*, a unique service opportunity offered to Cleveland State and Lee history students. Reed uses the event as a history lesson for his students who participate by walking the cemetery as guides.

In 2005, an advanced American History assignment sparked a collaborative project between Reed and Sarah Copeland, CSCC Library Director (then Records Catalog Coordinator). Reed asked students to interview a family member and to collect photographs that illustrated

the described events. Reed was struck by how interesting, educational, fragile, and (most of all) “invisible” the photos were. Recognizing the need to preserve them, he engaged the Library to purchase CONTENTdm, a system that provides access to digitized images via the web. As a result, Reed developed the Southeast Tennessee Digital Library (SETDA). The web-based library, managed by Reed, is made up of images representing people or places in southeast Tennessee, or images owned by cultural heritage institutions within the SE Tennessee region. Reed recruited the Cleveland Bradley Public Library History Branch, the Museum Center at Five Points, and The Polk County Historical and Genealogical Society Library to participate in the SETDA initiative. He worked with *Volunteer Voices*, Tennessee’s statewide digitization program, to provide training for the sites. In turn, the partners mentored CSCC students and contributed ideas and collections for digitization.

To further develop the Southeast TN Digital Archive, Reed and Copeland developed and co-taught a Service-Learning History Laboratory in Fall 2010. The course was piloted for two semesters and offered for one additional semester. As an expert on local history, Reed was responsible for guiding students’ historical research. Reed won a monetary award from CSCC for SETDA accomplishments and invested it into a document scanner for use by students in the History Lab. Copeland applied her knowledge of library science to oversee course content and introduce students to area museums, archives, historical societies, and other historical collection sites. She instructed students on how to handle old documents and structure their research for web publication. Each student attended four classes and completed 20 service-learning hours at a historical collection site where they researched facts about photos, wrote about their findings, and published photos and data to SETDA. Students kept a log of service-learning sessions and reflected about their experiences in a weekly journal. The History Lab also offered community partners access to CONTENTdm, training, technical support, leadership, and student assistance. It supported SETDA by increasing the number of digital objects available on the site. Reed and Brianne Yancy, CSCC Records Catalog Coordinator, sponsored an area SETDA meeting in January 2015 to promote growth and outreach. The meeting was attended by the Ducktown Basin Museum, McMinn County Historical Society, Lee University Dixon Research Center, Tennessee Campus Compact, E.G. Fisher Library (Athens), and Museum Center at Five Points. As a result of the meeting, the Museum Center @ Five Points contacted Reed about the potential for involving students in a new service-learning project to digitize and archive museum documents.

Reed’s next service-learning project was born out of his involvement with the Charleston-Calhoun Hiwassee Historical Society to establish the *Hiwassee River Heritage Center*. The center opened in May 2013 with a mission to provide an educational tool for residents



and visitors of the Hiwassee River region and to function as a welcome center and gateway to other regional historic sites. In Fall 2013, Reed offered the first service-learning course at the Center. Students work with society officers to provide a wide range of support from greeting and informing visitors to assisting in the preservation of historic and genealogical artifacts. Students majoring with a History emphasis also have the opportunity to participate in an internship program at the center.

Dr. Denise King, Vice President Academic Affairs said, "The engagement students experience through the service-learning projects Bryan has created reveals to them that history is a living practice, that it is part of today and tomorrow not just the past. Awareness of that seamless connection and direct participation in preservation of artifacts and the stories they tell, makes a powerful impact on our students as learners and citizens of the rich cultural environment in which we live. Bryan's leadership as a scholar and teacher active in his local community provides a model of the civic engagement we hope to inspire in all our students."

Reed serves as one of Bradley County's most trusted historians and is widely known across campus and throughout CSCC's service area as an authority of American and East Tennessee History. As the President of Bradley County's Historical and Genealogical Society, Reed is often called upon to provide historical insights. For example, in 2008 he served area high schools by presenting details of the *Holocaust* on their campus. In 2010 he was a presenter for the "Journey Stories" Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit hosted by the Cleveland Bradley Public Library. A 2012 Cleveland Daily Banner (Banner) headline proclaimed, "Bryan Reed uncovers local historical figure: Local history professor presents life of Clinton Calloway at landmark conference." In 2014 he was

included in acknowledgements of Roger D. Hunt's *A Civil War Biographical Dictionary: Colonels in Blue: Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee*. In 2015 the Banner reported that Playwright Dan Buck, (Lee University) had been commissioned by the Museum Center @ Five Points to create a 35-minute play for area schools from the late Dr. William Snell's book, *Myra Inman, A Diary of the Civil War in East Tennessee*. According to the report, "Buck sought inspiration from local historians, including Bryan Reed, assistant history professor at Cleveland State Community College and a former student of Snell's who helped edit the diaries for the book." Reed made the Banner again in June 2015 for his involvement in the Civil War Historical Marker Ceremony in Cleveland as one of only five regional professional historians invited to attend the ceremony.

Fred Wood, Associate Professor Emeritus of English and former CSCC Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, sent accolades for Reed's performance during his tenure, "It has been a privilege to work with Bryan Reed. As his former dean, I admired Bryan's commitment to his profession, his discipline, his students, and his faculty. From early on, Bryan showed a genuine enthusiasm for sharing his love of history with the community. His commitment to involving his students in service-learning projects over the years has been exemplary. I appreciate all that he did to support me as dean, and am proud to have known him both as a genuine friend and respected colleague."

Colleague, Jana Pankey said, "Bryan has always worked tirelessly in the History Department, going above and beyond what is and has been required. He has a great desire to make history exciting for students, using creative ways to make it come alive. Bryan is truly deserving of the Service-Learning Champion Award." Congratulations Professor Reed!

Neither Rain, nor Mud, nor...

...anything else! NOTHING was going to keep this determined group of Cleveland State employees from their appointed Habitat for Humanity Women Build date! On Friday, April 17th these ladies put Community First by hanging house wrap and building a deck on the home at 2823 South Lee Highway in the Southgate Hills subdivision. The event was four hours of camaraderie and heads-down precision building! Would they do it again? Yep, they sure would!

(L to R) Tracey Wright, Sherry Holloway, Amber McKinney, Kortney Saunders, Michele Darnell, Joan Bates, Sinthea Reynolds



A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words

Donna Brogdon, Assistant Professor, Business Department and Co-Director Advance Business Program, joined Cleveland State Community College (CSCC) in 2012 and soon thereafter began seeking a service-learning project for her Introduction to Business class.

In the summer of 2014 Brogdon joined six colleagues at the Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education where she was introduced to the concept of "PhotoVoice" during a conference session. As the session progressed, Brogdon turned to Ann Cunningham, Associate Professor Computer Information Systems, and Susan Webb-Curtis, Dean of Business and Technology, to exclaim, "I FOUND IT!"

PhotoVoice was created by Caroline Wang and Mary Burris in 1992 as a way to enable rural women of Yunnan Province, China to influence policies and programs that affected them.

The procedure requires participants to learn about PhotoVoice, take photographs, discuss the photos, write narratives, choose photos for sharing, invite people for discussion, present results, reflect and move forward.

Soon after returning to campus, Brogdon met with Webb-Curtis and Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Director, to start the planning process. The first thing she did was name the service-learning assignment "PhotoVoice as a Service-Learning Reflection Tool" and align it with two specific course learning objectives: (1) Understand the various functional areas of business operations and the interrelationship of these functional areas within the organization. (2) Demonstrate student preparedness for further study in a variety of available fields of study within the business environment, as well as provide additional information to assist students in determining a specific field of interest.

She then identified the project as a course requirement, assigned point value (30% of overall grade), built the project into her syllabus, and established project goals: (1) To enable students to document and reflect on the positive and negative aspects of their individual experiences and their communities' conditions. (2) To inspire critical consciousness, through selecting, discussing, and reflecting on the subjects of their photographs. The second goal enabled the student-photographers to demonstrate personal growth, academic enhancement,



Donna Brogdon, Assistant Professor, Business Department and Co-Director Advance Business Program and Joel Rogers, The Salvation Army

and civic responsibility. Once the course plan was in place she selected *The Salvation Army* as her community partner.

Brogdon worked with Joel Rogers, The Salvation Army, to identify and detail three group assignments; Marketing, Volunteer Recruitment/Retention, and Meaningful Service. Each student was placed in one of the groups and had ten weeks to complete twelve service-learning hours. The groups met with Rogers at The Salvation Army facility for orientation and to define and discuss project assignments. They also met with members of The Salvation Army leadership team to brainstorm and ensure clear understanding of expectations.

During the ten-week period, each student was asked to take seven abstract photographs that applied to course related business concepts and would answer the question, "What did I learn?" Once the photos were completed, students discussed and coded them for common themes. Each group was required to select seven collective photos and present them plus their project reflection at semester end. Each student was also required to submit a one-page reflection summary to demonstrate individual learning.

The Marketing Group helped with marketing, promotion, and corporate sponsorship of The Salvation Army's 5th Annual "Jingle Bell Jog." Rogers said, "The students' brainstorming was wonderful! They came up with ideas to help us increase participants, thought of new advertising methods, and



identified new items we can market to increase community sponsorships.” The group collected over \$3000 for the Salvation Army youth programs through sponsorships, door prizes, and registration fees.

The Volunteer Recruitment/Retention Group organized a “Fall Service Festival” to recruit twelve groups of Bell Ringers for the Christmas season and students also staffed a kettle location to understand the experience. The group helped plan and execute a volunteer appreciation program, and prepared “Essential Packs” for distribution to those in need during the campaign.

The Meaningful Service Group helped facilitate the intake of clients for the *Angel Tree Christmas Assistance Program* and worked with The Salvation Army staff to prepare warehouse space for the massive undertaking of sorting, storing, and distributing gifts for hundreds of children and seniors. One student in this group recounted how they had received gifts from the Angel Tree Program as a child and was glad to be giving back. The group was instrumental in arranging adoption of over 600 Angels for the program... in record time.

Students reflected on their appreciation for this “lens-opening” learning experience and recommended it for future classes. Brogdon said, “Students embraced this project in such a positive way and our partnership with The Salvation Army was so impactful that I am expanding PhotoVoice across two Introduction to Business classes this Fall to promote ongoing academic and social student dialogue.”

Brogdon was one of seven faculty who shared their service-learning projects through Poster Presentations for the Service-Learning Workshop during Spring 2015 In-Service. She was also invited to present her innovative PhotoVoice project at the May 2015 Cleveland Civitan Club, where she and the project were fantastic representation for CSCC!

A quote from French photographer, Henri Carties-Bresson captures the spirit of PhotoVoice as an instrument of Service-Learning when he said, “To photograph: it is to put on the same line of sight the head, the eye, and the heart.”



The Volunteer Recruitment/Retention Group



The Marketing Group



The Meaningful Service Group



Members of the Marketing Group Serving as Bell Ringers



Civic Engagement at Cleveland State

Here is a glimpse at some of the service-learning and community service activities that are occurring across our campus. If you are incorporating service-learning or community service and your project has never been in *Seeds of Service* please give Sherry Holloway a “shout-out!” If you’ve been thinking about incorporating service-learning or community service and aren’t sure where to start (you guessed it) give Sherry a “shout out!”

Jaime Barks, Service-Learning Program Assistant, and three First Year Seminar students volunteered 53 hours during 2015 Spring Break to pack 250 Easter Bags for distribution to children served by *The Caring Place*. The brightly colored bags, candy, coloring books, crayons, and toys are provided annually by an anonymous donor to brighten the days for area children.

Ann Cunningham, Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems, and Customer Service Fundamentals students invested 176 hours into developing Customer Service Guides for the *Bradley County Senior Activity Center*, *Bradley-Cleveland Community Services Agency*, *G.R.A.A.B. Coalition*, and the *Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland*. The finished product included paper and electronic guides which provided the agencies an opportunity for on-going revision as their nonprofit businesses grow and change.

May Daniel, Assistant Professor Office Administration and her Office Procedures and Administration students invested 120 service-learning hours volunteering with the *Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland*, *Bradley County Senior Activity Center*, *Cleveland Family YMCA*, and *The Salvation Army* where they served in the agencies’ reception areas to gain hands-on experience that aligned with course materials.

Debbie Felton, Lead Faculty for Learning Support Reading, and students of Intro to College Reading and Intermediate Reading classes invested 288 service-learning hours in support of *Family Promise of Bradley County* during the Fall 2014 semester by creating and donating “Book Bags” for the children of client families. The agency’s facility serves as a Day Center for families transitioning from homelessness and the Book Bags are enjoyed by children who stay there.

The Nursing team of Victoria Hight, Associate Professor Nursing, Dottie Monroe, Nursing Instructor, Jennifer Shearer, Assistant Professor Nursing, and Priscilla Simms, Assistant Professor Nursing, and students of their Nursing 2020 class invested 1008 service-learning hours during the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters by volunteering with area medical facilities and nonprofit agencies specializing in patient care. As a result of the experience, students gained a greater understanding of patient care, the function of healthcare organizations, and created valuable career networking contacts.

Accounting Simulations class was not available during the Spring 2015 semester, which put graduation at risk for five accounting majors. Kara Headrick, Assistant Accounting Professor, came up with a creative solution and worked with Susan Webb-Curtis, Associate Professor/Director of Cooperative Education & Service-Learning, and Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator, to develop a specifically tailored Service-Learning Experience class that provided accounting related opportunities with nonprofit organizations and allowed the students to stay on track for graduation.

Susan Webb-Curtis, Associate Professor/Director of Cooperative Education & Service-Learning (now Dean of Business and Technology) and Service-Learning Experience students invested 1500 hours during Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 across CSCC’s service area. Each student was required to serve 20 or 50 hours each semester with a nonprofit agency of their choice. Examples of service sites are libraries, physical and mental health facilities, K-12, Junior Achievement, museums, child advocacy, family advocacy, senior citizens facilities, churches, animal rescue, and law enforcement.

Katie Willingham, CSCC Softball Coach, and the women’s softball team participated in the 2014 Christmas Memories event at K-Mart, Bradley Square Mall where they invested 32 hours to shop with fourteen underserved children in our communities. Each child was given \$100 by Brenda Lawson & Associates, LLC to spend as they wished. The student athletes gladly donated their time and hearts to the children of this important event.



Turn the Page

Being “booked” at the Bradley County Jail has taken on a positive new meaning for some inmates due to the efforts of Cleveland State’s English Instructor, Victoria Bryan and her students. Bryan joined CSCC in Fall 2014 and by Spring 2015 incorporated service-learning into her English 1010 Composition I class by offering themed readings on incarceration and piloting a book club at the Bradley County Jail. The high-profile project was not a new venture for Bryan. She had gained extensive experience working with prison literacy programs at the Charles Bass Correctional Complex in Nashville, where she learned that U.S. incarceration rates are the highest in the world. There was clearly a need for rehabilitative programming and increased public understanding of the criminal justice system and a service-learning class seemed like a fantastic opportunity to serve in that capacity.

When asked about the focus of her project Bryan said, “I feel a responsibility to lead students in unbiased discussions regarding difficult topics. I am particularly interested in educating and preparing the incarcerated for reintroduction into society. Inmates often feel as if they are fading away decaying. I believe providing them the ability to read, reflect, and expand their thoughts beyond the prison walls positions them for success on the outside.”

In preparation for her class project, Bryan met with Marcus Easley, CSCC Criminal Justice adjunct instructor, to brainstorm the potential for her book club idea. During their meeting, Easley referred her to Chip Bryant, Director of Inmate Programs at the Bradley County Jail, and introduced her to Gretrell Watkins, Prevention Manager, Prison Prevention Ministries Program of Chattanooga. Bryan attended CSCC’s October Prison Prevention Ministries program where presenters were ex-offenders who talked about negative choices, prison, and how they found a way out. After the program, Bryan met with Glyn Turner, Prison Prevention Ministries’ Ministry Coordinator to share her plan and to hear his ideas. She also participated in an initial walkthrough of the Bradley County Jail and a second walkthrough with student volunteer, Brittany Raines and Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator. Bryan, Raines, and Holloway also attended an orientation and walk-through for community volunteers.

Once Bryan completed her due diligence, she deemed the pilot project an extra credit assignment and created a project guide explaining that students were eligible to have five percentage points added to their final average by completing 10 service hours, writing an essay, and participating in semester-end conference-style panel presentations to reflect on their experiences. Each student participated in one or

more of the following projects:

Book Club Discussions at the Bradley County Jail: This assignment was available to female students (only) because the Director of Inmate Programs determined the activity would be provided to female inmates (only). Students were required to attend a one-hour training session prior to participating. Bryan led each meeting and two students were allowed to accompany her. One student signed-up for this opportunity, but could not participate beyond orientation due to illness.

Bryan led 10 book club sessions during the semester which were conducted in a secure cell within the Female Pod with a Corrections Officer on duty. Up to 10 inmates were allowed to participate and were chosen based on proven good conduct and a sincere interest in reading. Pod acoustics created an echo making discussions difficult, but the women were grateful for the opportunity to participate and looked forward to each meeting. Since the majority of inmates are male and most extracurricular activities are planned for them, Bryan has chosen to continue serving the female population in coming semesters. Bryan used personal funds to purchase multiple copies of *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, *The Green Mile*, and *Bossypants* for the book club. She applied for and received reimbursement

from Title III project funds. The Southern Literacy Alliance applied for a \$3,000 grant on behalf of her project to fund future book purchases for sessions that will focus on Southern literature.

Other Outreach:

Students who chose this assignment wrote letters to female inmates or provided an outreach service of their selection. One student chose letter writing. Neither he nor the inmates were allowed to include their names, names of others, or any personal information in letters. All correspondence was “G” rated and most focused on things the women missed about the free world, like music and movies. One student chose to participate by volunteering with Family Cornerstones (Service-Learning Community Partner) to mentor a child of incarcerated parents. They met once per week for fun activities that provided safe opportunities for the child to talk about her life situation. The student was struck by the deeply painful and lasting impact parental loss through incarceration can have on children.

Group Book Drive:

Students collected books, sorted them based on jail requirements, and delivered them to the jail. They sold the unapproved books to McKay’s Book Store and Lee’s Used Books and purchased approved paperbacks to

donate. Three students participated in this opportunity. The following volunteer opportunities were also offered but were cancelled due to inclement weather or not being selected by students:

- Prison Revival @ Silverdale Correctional Facility, Chattanooga
- The Open Door (Transitional services for women coming out of jail or prison.)
- Break Away Outreach (Summer camp for children of incarcerated parents.)
- Prison Prevention Ministries

At semester end, Bryan created a Service-Learning Research Word Cloud as an interesting way to wrap up the research unit and conducted a poll to collect essay topics. She also required the project teams to participate in a conference-style panel presentation where students spoke with conviction as they shared details of their experiences. The panel presentation included a Skype session with two lawyers from the Equal Justice Initiative, a pro-bono law firm in Alabama, who work to outlaw life-without-parole and death sentences for juveniles, improve prison conditions, and provide opportunities for rehabilitation. Also present were two Juvenile Probation Officers from the Polk County Detention Center who described their roles and the general activities within a jail system and shared information related to Juvenile Probation Officer as a career choice.

Students were offered an opportunity to earn extra credit by participating in a post-project survey about the themed reading, writing, discussion, and service-learning assignments. Bryan will use the results to assess her Spring project and plan improvements for the Fall. Bryan said, “My goal for designating themed activities was to encourage students to reach into an unfamiliar, unexplored area to practice reasoning and writing with passion and compassion—to teach them to write as a result of learning and understanding.” She went on to say, “Students’ ability to venture outside of their comfort zone instills courage to explore other difficult topics. The ability to read and write deeply about a subject helps them realize that they have the power to initiate and impact change.”

Bryan was pleased to find that students demonstrated careful and complex reasoning skills during the assignment. Through conversations, she found that their skills had come from an inability to rest comfortably within the process. She explained, “Talking about prison is hard and we tend to want to find the ‘bad guy’ in the incarcerated individual or in the prison workers, but that neat distinction just doesn’t exist. Students found that laws get broken every day, and despite the best efforts of our criminal justice system, punishments aren’t always doled out equally. When we can’t clearly place blame, we have to work a little harder to understand the ‘whys’. My students found that most police officers, corrections officers, and those faced with prison time are trying their best with what they have. If we must have a ‘bad guy’ it just may be the system itself. My students worked exceptionally hard on this assignment and their compassion and energy absolutely amazed me.”

Bryan and students capped off their highly productive spring semester by delivering boxes of books filled with pages of dreams, adventures, and life experiences to the waiting inmates of the Bradley County Jail. Perfect!



Victoria M. Bryan, PhD, English Faculty, Cleveland State Community College



The Group Book Drive Team (from left) Caitlyn Rymer, Tiara Johnson, and Tasha Cannon deliver books to the Bradley County Jail.



The Group Book Drive Team (from left) Tasha Cannon, Caitlyn Rymer, and Tiara Johnson leads a panel presentation.



The Other Outreach Team of Walker McGowan (left) and Tori Lee (right) leads a panel presentation.



CSCC Named to Presidents Higher Education Community Service Honor roll

No “oops” about it, Cleveland State Community College did it again! The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored the college as a leader among institutions of higher education for support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement by admitting it to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. CSCC was also named to the Honor Roll in 2010 and 2013. A total of 766 higher education institutions were named to this year’s Honor Roll, but only 33 community colleges made the list.

Dr. Bill Seymour, CSCC President, stated, “Cleveland State takes great pride that we are the college that always puts community first. This recognition further signifies that the service-learning program at Cleveland State is among the best in the country. Very few community colleges are so successful at weaving this ethic into their curriculum and sense of community.”

Dr. Denise King, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, “Service-learning has become an integral part of the Cleveland State experience. Susan Webb-Curtis and Sherry Holloway along with a cadre of committed faculty have led the campus in a continual process of growth and development in learning through service. It is this commitment to excellence that has propelled CSCC to the President’s Honor Roll year after year as an exceptional community college.”

Mani Hull, Executive Director for the Tennessee Campus Compact, stated, “Congratulations to Cleveland State Community College for this highest federal recognition and to be a national model for campus-community engagement.”

“We were pleased to learn that Cleveland State was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll,” stated Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Director. “We appreciate recognition of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and community partners.” Holloway shared the following story highlights:

Jana Pankey, Associate Professor, Human Services/Social Work Program led students of the Family and Children’s Services class to conduct a Free Store in an underserved area of the community, serving over 50 deserving families.

Nancy Thomas, Associate Professor, Nursing Evening Coordinator, and Maureen Baksh-Griffin, Assistant Professor of Nursing, led students to provide care for over 1,200 people at free clinics, nonprofits, health fairs, K-12, medical facilities, hospice, senior homes, and home-health.

Bob Uhl, Associate Professor of Computer Information Technology and Kara Headrick, Assistant Professor of

Accounting sponsored a campus Computer Repair Shop to provide free services for CSCC’s five-county service area, repairing 338 computers. Accounting students managed the shop’s financials.

Suzanne Wood, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, led students to plan and conduct the 10th annual Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss literacy event, serving over 1,000 children. The Kiwanis Club donated 850 Dr. Seuss books for the event.

Margaret Horten, Instructor, Early Childhood Education led students in the Math and Science in Early Childhood Development classes to create “Folder Games” for K-3 teachers at Taylor Elementary School. The games met TN Common Core standards and provided interactive learning opportunities.

Cleveland State faculty, students, and community partners continue to engage in exemplary service-learning activities and look forward to hearing the results of their application for the 2015 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.



CSCC was recently named to President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third time. Pictured from left to right: Dr. Bill Seymour, CSCC President; Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator; Susan Webb-Curtis, Dean of Business and Technology, and Dr. Denise King, Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Seedlings

Brief Bits of News About Service-Learning



Marci Reiter, Cooperative Education Instructor, will be teaching Service-Learning Experience Classes during the Fall 2015 semester. Congratulations Marci!



Friendly Reminder... If you are incorporating service-learning be sure to include a “Service-Learning Designation Code” on your Schedule Section Sheet/Course Worksheet. (The codes can be found on the back of the form). Code SLCU means service-learning is a course requirement. Code SLEC means service-learning is an optional or extra credit assignment. Please contact your division secretary for an example of the form. Assigned Service-Learning Designation Codes will be added to course information in Banner. Students should see designations in the course schedule. For an extra credit or optional assignment they will see, “This course offers participation in service-learning as extra credit.” For a required assignment they will see, “This course requires service-learning participation.”



Friendly Reminder... If you code courses as SLCU or SLEC the Service-Learning team would like to receive corresponding Service-Learning Data Collection forms that provide project success stories which are used for things like applying for the annual President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, Tennessee Campus Compact reporting, departmental assessments, creating and reporting on Service-Learning team goals, and other reporting and “bragging” opportunities. S-L Data Collection forms are distributed each semester-end.



If you incorporated Service-Learning during the Spring or Summer 2015 semester and have not had a chance to submit your Service-Learning Data Collection Form, please contact Sherry Holloway.



Faculty and Community Partner Service-Learning Kits will be introduced soon. The kits include service-learning handbooks, forms, and brochures.



Dr. Robert Brandon, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sherry Holloway, Service-Learning Coordinator attended the 2015 ADP/TDC/NASPA Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Meeting in preparation for democracy related service-learning opportunities.



The Tennessee Board of Regents High Impact Practices team for Service-Learning established a definition of Service-Learning for use by all TBR institutions: “Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Curriculum includes structured field-based ‘experiential learning’ alongside community partners, which reinforces course learning outcomes. Within the TBR System credit-bearing service-learning designated courses are incorporated into general education or college core requirements for a degree program.” - May 2015



Looking for a Service-Learning Community Partner? Visit CSCC’s Service-Learning Web Page <http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu/academics/service-learning-community-partners> and The United Way of Bradley County’s Volunteer Center www.volunteerocoe.org (takes you to <http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu/academics/service-learning-community-partners>).



Service-Learning Faculty Consultants

For help incorporating service-learning, contact:
Sherry Holloway, (423) 473-2385 • Jaime Barks, (423) 614-8794
service_learning@clevelandstatecc.edu

Visit our webpage for more information:
http://www.clevelandstatecc.edu/service_learning

At our Service-Learning website, you will find community agencies looking for student volunteers and faculty partners, as well as forms, sample syllabi, and other resources to help you with your service-learning activity.



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