

Seeds of Service

A CSCC SERVICE-LEARNING PUBLICATION ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Spring 2013

A Place to Grow Readers and Writers

Kelly Ormsby's service-learning "ah-ha moment" occurred during a conversation with Jennifer Norton, Director of The Greenway Table, about the connection between nutrition and literacy. It was at that moment the Associate Professor of English and Learning Support began developing an idea for a literacy garden at Taylor Elementary. Kelly explained, "A literacy garden is a setting to encourage

gardening process. Suzanne Wood, Associate Professor, Coordinator Early Childhood Education, offered Kelly much appreciated suggestions and encouragement.

The project team is focused on its mission, "To promote nutrition and literacy as a way to break the cycle of poverty for underprepared students on the elementary and college level and impact the broader community." Kelly said, "As the garden transitions from developmental to sustainable, we look forward to CSCC students volunteering as reading and writing tutors."

The team rallied students, faculty, family, and friends to vote in the Nature Hills Nursery Green America Award competition—where Taylor won \$1250 in plants. They also won a \$250 grant from Volunteer Electric Cooperative, used to enhance the garden area. Beaty Fertilizer, Inc. and Jackie Evans donated and delivered dirt for plant beds, Ace Hardware donated hay bales, and LuAnn Gilliland, Bradley Central Agri-Science, donated flowers. Lowe's of Cleveland donated wheelbarrows, tools, and a unique fountain depicting children at play. Cleveland State provided flowers, tools, and dedicated volunteers to make the garden a reality.

Dr. Carl Hite, CSCC President, and Kelly Ormsby were among the Bradley County guests who joined Taylor Elementary Principal, Dr. Sherry Shroyer, faculty, and students for an October 4th ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the garden and celebrate Read for the Record, a national event promoting early childhood literacy. Dr. Hite acknowledged the garden's importance, "You are doing two things here today... growing food that will nourish your body and reading—which will nourish your minds. Cleveland State is glad to be part of the Taylor family and looks forward to working with you many, many days."

Taylor Elementary is also including parents in the "literacy garden experience". Their November 13th Parent University series included a special Chef's Night healthy cooking demonstration by Chef Shannon Ritzhaupt, owner of Cleveland's Café Roma. Chef Ritzhaupt generously donated and prepared fresh vegetables and herbs like those planted by CSCC and Taylor students. Kelly shared, "The demonstration of healthy cooking was well received and much appreciated. Some parents said they would use the recipes at home."

Additional CSCC areas have supported the garden as it



Kelly Ormsby, Chef Shannon Ritzhaupt, and Dr. Sherry Shroyer at Taylor Elementary's Chef night.

exploration and learning where books and writing are connected to the natural environment—a perfect ongoing service-learning opportunity for CSCC students."

Led by Kelly, the Literacy Garden Project Team (volunteers from Cleveland State, Taylor Elementary, and The Greenway Table) planned and planted the garden. Rob Ormsby, Kelly's husband and a CSCC graduate, was especially busy as he worked tirelessly to build the beautiful raised plant beds and pergola featured in the garden. Suzanne Bennett, CSCC Horticulturist, provided valuable information regarding plant selection and placement and led the team through the

A Place to Grow Readers and Writers Continued

expanded into new phases. Mark McLeod, Assistant Professor of Art, and his students adopted the Literacy Garden as a fall 2012 service-learning project and worked with Taylor students to make stepping stones. Instructor of Developmental Studies/Reading and Learning Strategies, Debbie Felton and her Learning Strategies students also embraced the Literacy Garden as their fall 2012 service-learning project by teaming with Kelly's English Composition I students to plant fall vegetables. Composition I student Amy Frerichs reflected, "This is a wonderful way to teach children about gardening, reading, and writing—skills they will carry with them for years to come. I am very happy that I spent my day with them in their new garden."

Dr. Shroyer expressed her appreciation for Kelly and the team, "The Literacy Garden is an extremely exciting endeavor for our students, staff, and community. Cleveland State initiated, planned, and provided grants for this project. We are thankful for their vision to establish and promote the development of this garden. Through this project, our students and families will learn about growing, tending, and harvesting a variety of plants, herbs and vegetables while promoting other disciplines to include science, math, social studies and literacy."

Kelly acknowledged Taylor Elementary's dedication, "Under Dr. Shroyer's leadership, the Taylor faculty is doing amazing things for their children and community; we are proud to be a part of their great work."

Cleveland State is proud of the visionary and dedicated outreach of Kelly Ormsby and the Literacy Garden Project Team! Grow Team!!



Ryan Thompson, Associate Professor of History, working with Taylor students and faculty.



(Middle Right): Taylor Elementary School held a ribbon cutting for its new Literacy Garden. (Pictured from left to right): Sherry Crye, Shenna Newman, Dr. Carl Hite, Kelly and Ian Ormsby Dr. Johnny McDaniel and Dr. Sherry Shroyer. (Right): Taylor Elementary students fill Literacy Garden plant beds.



Adjunct Corner

Featuring Karen Rutledge

Let Them Eat...

Comedian Fran Lebowitz aptly pointed out, “Food is an important part of a balanced diet.”

An ancient Indian proverb admonishes us to, “Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

From comedy relief to serious warning, people worldwide are reminded of the urgent need to preserve the earth’s soil for ongoing food production. Food Day, celebrated each October 24th, focuses on the need for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. The day has been embraced by many as a call to action.

Karen Rutledge, Registered Dietitian and Adjunct Health & Wellness instructor, recognized Food Day as an ideal service-learning experience for students of her Nutrition class. She reflected, “The Food Day celebration highlighted benefits of eating Real Food, brought awareness to avenues for finding Local Food, and presented a film about the vision of a sustainable relationship between Humans and Dirt.” Karen led her students into action by collaborating with the North Georgia Health District to present “Dirt! The Movie” on October 22nd in the George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center Theater. Movie-goers were asked to donate a non-

perishable food item to the Caring Place as admission to the film.

UT-Bradley County Extension, The Greenway Table, North Georgia WIC Program, The Caring Place, and the Taylor Elementary Literacy Garden supported the event by displaying and distributing materials related to food production and nutrition.

Karen’s students created presentations related to key features of “Dirt! The Movie.” Brenda Maldona Hart, Chelsea Bishop, Jared Gregory, and Andrew Spivey presented Farm to School. Charles Edwards, Stephen Collum, and Summer Crye presented Sustainable Agriculture. Kaitlyn Posey, Meredith Matson, and Ashley Gombash presented Community Gardens. John Swamickannu, Scott King, DeAndre Allen, Tyler Lee, and Chris Sharp presented Local Foods. Lis Derrick, Valerie Sandlan, and Vicki Queen presented Undernutrition and Solutions. Karen said, “Students reflected on how much they learned about local food availability and community resources. They said it felt great to share their research with the community.” She continued, “I was pleased with the event and look forward to a bigger Food Day event in 2013.”

You may read about Food Day at <http://www.foodday.org/about> and view a trailer of Dirt! The Movie at <http://www.youtube.com/watch>.

Brenda Maldona Hart, Chelsea Bishop, Jared Gregory, and Andrew Spivey presented Farm to School.



Charles Edwards, Stephen Collum, and Summer Crye (not pictured) presented Sustainable Agriculture.



Kaitlyn Posey, Meredith Matson, and Ashley Gombash presented Community Calendars.



Community Partner Corner

Rhea County Volunteers in Medicine

A Unique Student Support Role

Rhea County Volunteers in Medicine, Inc. opened its doors in January 2010 to serve the area's uninsured. As the originator and executive director of the clinic Sonya Franklin, Associate Professor of Nursing at CSCC, immediately contacted the Service-Learning Department to become a community partner. Sonya's unique position as associate professor and community partner works...around the clock!

"Service-learning is such a natural fit for nursing," Franklin stated. "I am thrilled for our agency to be a student resource and to show them what a nurse can do for the community." Franklin allows nursing students to volunteer in their sophomore year, after they have completed courses where she provides instruction.

"This past year was the first time nursing students have taken me up on the opportunity," Franklin reported. Two students, Jana Detrie and Angel Purser, were volunteers at the clinic. "They were a tremendous blessing and assisted in transition from the paper charting system to our electronic charting system." The physicians who volunteer at the clinic were quick to accept and teach the student volunteers; sometimes giving them a "pop quiz." Franklin reported that

on several occasions the students would be smiling ear-to-ear, so pleased to be having a professional conversation with a physician and not feel intimidated.

Angela Purser reflected, "There were so many benefits to this experience. One was that I was given the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life, which is something that I am honored to have been a part of. Another, I got a taste of what it is like to work in a community health environment...a non-profit organization, which was a wonderful experience. I also discovered a lot about the community. I don't think I realized just how many people are sick but can't afford to go to the doctor. It was definitely an eye-opening experience. This community is very giving. The nurses, doctors, and other people from the community donate their time and skills so that others can have a better life. I would most definitely recommend this experience to other students."

"As a CSCC Service-Learning Community Partner, it was gratifying to know that I had an opportunity to make a small deposit in the experiential learning of these two (now graduate) nursing students." Looking forward, Franklin intends to continue offering the Rhea County clinic as a Service-Learning placement for CSCC students.



(Left): Recent student volunteers Mindy Smith (left), Caitlyn Rayfield (Right), and Melissa Miller (not pictured).



(Right): Community volunteers Barbara Brady (left), and Gayla Elsea (right).

Sing Out Loud, Sing Out Strong...

Karen Dale, Associate Professor of Music, worked with Tracey Wright, Director of Special Programs and Community Relations, to bring the Young Americans (YA) to CSCC for a three-day event in February 2012. Doing so fulfilled Karen's vision of using music as an outreach to young people across our five-county service area. She was especially focused on attracting students of financial need by using \$2,500 in grants to cover their workshop fees. Karen reflected, "It is really difficult to put into words what the YA workshop does for a community. They support music in the schools, save troubled and hurting children, and offer children with secure homes and school environments a performance venue they will never forget."

The Young Americans are dedicated to promoting understanding and goodwill around the world through music, dance, performance, academic education and cultural interaction among student members and their audiences. They give visibility to the importance of music education by bringing workshops to elementary through college students. The organization's website reports students involved in music programs achieve higher SAT scores, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, and are less likely to be involved with gangs and substance abuse.

Approximately 250 students attended the event, which used music to encourage interaction and build relationships. Karen described the activities, "The workshop is meant to encourage shy students, to boost self-confidence, and to support music in our schools. It is open to all students in our service area, including our non-traditional college students, so all ages and socio-economic levels are involved...I have seen it change lives."

Like the Young Americans, CSCC Vocal Rhapsody students worked side-by-side with workshop participants of all ages. They received first-hand experience in guiding and nurturing younger students. CSCC students and others reflected on their experience:

CSCC, Vocal Rhapsody student, Christopher Allen Land stated, "This week I learned to be more generous with my time, love, life...etc."

CSCC Vocal Rhapsody student, Carolyn Spillman : "Tonight was so much fun; felt so good to be around inspiring people."

Community business leader, Christian Hoeflerle (Parent and YA host) said, "Young Americans—changing the world, one child at a time. Thank you for working with our daughter and all the kids in Cleveland!"

Charleston Elementary music teacher, Amanda Patterson Szidiropulosz added, "So glad that I had 30 of my students participate in the Young Americans workshop. It was an experience they will never forget."

As a result of this unique experience, several CSCC students auditioned for the Young Americans Program. Keenen Lattimore and McKale Hickey plan to move to Corona, California to study at the Young Americans College. Summer Poteet, Emily McGuffey and Carolyn Spillman plan to complete their associate degree before moving west to be "New Kids" in the Young Americans.

Karen expressed her gratitude for CSCC attendees, "Many people think it is just a choral program, but the music is not really the focus of the Young Americans. Reaching those kids who have low self-esteem, encouraging them, and inspiring them is their real focus."

*Karen Dale,
Vocal Rhapsody,
and youth from
CSCC's five-
county service
area rehearse
with the YA's.*



Where There's Smoke...

Under the direction of Nancy Thomas, Associate Professor/ Evening Nursing Coordinator, Maureen Baksh-Griffin, Nursing Instructor, and Vickie Still, Title III Nursing Lab Assistant, the students of CSCC's Nursing Program – Night Sequence took on a major service-learning project during the spring 2012 semester. Student team leader Daniel Lawson, six student sub-team leaders, and 45 team members collectively invested 620 hours into producing "No Butts!," a smoking avoidance and cessation program designed to educate middle school and elementary school students on the hazards of smoking.

Nancy LaBine, Dean of Health, Wellness, and Nursing/ Director of Nursing, acknowledged faculty efforts, "Special thanks to Nancy, Maureen and Vickie for leading the way. The evening class is doing well and we are very proud of them!"

Nancy Thomas said, "I am so proud of the students...all of them passed both courses. I feel that service-learning made a difference in how they related to each other, which helped them be successful in the course. It was the teams that ended up forming study groups. I can't believe how it all came together." In addition to leadership from their Nursing instructors, the team received faculty and staff support from Tony Bartolo, Larry Burns, Matt Tolbert, and Fred Wood.

The team established the following goals for their project: (1) Increase awareness between parents and students about smoking; (2) Create a seven minute, age appropriate video; (3) Maintain team cohesion and build better working relationships; and (4) Reach out to the community to build future projects.

The "No Butts!" program package contains a DVD and a tri-fold color brochure with a link to the team's unique YouTube video. The package also contains two "business card-like" quick reference lists. One card provides ten points for students to consider when being pressured to smoke. The second provides parents or guardians with seven tips for discouraging their children and teens from smoking. Team leader Daniel Lawson stated, "Our goal was simply to try and do something new, with regards to youth smoking. We wanted to make a jumping-off point for parents to feel comfortable talking to their kids about smoking. Without parental-style role models, it is very hard for young people to know how to stand up against peers. If we can get one person to think twice about smoking,

or to put the habit down, then we have achieved our goal."

Mekaylla Jones led the Research/Data Collection Team, Connie Fetter led the Information/Project Collation Team, and Marita Hensel led the Design & Technology Team. Marita shared, "I found this volunteer project very rewarding. It allowed us to bond through giving of ourselves. It was amazing to see how everyone worked together and used their skills to make this project possible. A project of this size required all of us to be involved and wouldn't have been possible otherwise. I am honored to have been a part of this and hope we do something like it in the future!"

Hope Foster led the Community Outreach Research Team, Paula Davis led the Presentation Team, and Joshua Pratt led the Financial/Budget Team. Joshua shared, "I have been part of many different volunteer opportunities but never one that involved an entire class working on one project. It was interesting to see the amount of time required for this. I think schools and teachers can utilize the video and find good response to it since there are actual students involved. Even if makes a difference in only one child's choice it will be worth it all."

One student shared personal insight, "I think the video is fantastic! Children will benefit from it. Something that I do not like to talk about is that I smoke. It is something I am not proud of and find offensive. For me—as a parent of three children—I was thinking of them and was very willing to put forth the hours to keep them from making the same choice I did. As a parent who knows the struggles, cost, and all the things demonstrated in the presentation, I pray this project does deter children from smoking. However, the project is also very personal to me as an adult. I guess what I am trying to say is...I realize it is targeted for the said ages, but we are most likely reaching out to adults who smoke as well."

The Nursing Program – Night Sequence team presented "No Butts!" to Cleveland Middle School, Lake Forest Middle School, Ocoee Middle School, E.L. Ross Elementary School, and CSCC's BEST Partner, Taylor Elementary School, during the fall 2012 semester. Materials were left with each school for future presentation. Excellent work team! Congratulations on a successful project and campaign!



Students of CSCC's Nursing Program–Night sequence.



Cameron Szpur, Hope Foster, and Ryan Day presenting "No Butts!" at Ocoee Middle School.



Paula Davis, Peggy Curtis, and Lisa Davis-Jones presenting "No Butts!" at Cleveland Middle School.

Busy About the Business of Service-Learning!

Cynthia Brooks, Instructor of Business and Management, believes that hands-on learning is important for student success and that civic engagement is key to community success. Those beliefs led her to incorporate service-learning into her fall 2012 Workplace Communications class. She and her students worked with Beirne Beaty, volunteer advocate with Cleveland For A No Kill City, to support the organization's fundraising efforts.

Cleveland For A No Kill City is an activist group made up of Bradley County residents united in their goal to see Cleveland Animal Control become a no-kill facility by 2017. Through help of volunteers, the organization provides rescue groups, foster care, adoption programs, pet retention, spay/neutering, and medical and behavior programs for cats and dogs that would otherwise lose their lives.

Students of the Workplace Communications class developed a tri-fold brochure that shares important details about the mission of Cleveland For A No Kill City and describes how interested parties can contact the organization to volunteer. They also created a unique dog-bone shaped, laminated handout (with a ribbon attached, bone-shaped dog biscuit) for the group to distribute from their booth at the Cleveland Apple Festival. Dog owners and dog lovers lined up to take one home!

Cynthia has plans for other important service-learning projects for her Workplace Communications, Introduction to Business, and Customer Service classes, including writing job descriptions for volunteer positions at Family Promise of Bradley County. Along with writing the descriptions, she has begun taking steps to help fill open positions with student volunteers.

Cynthia is researching the possibility for her students to develop a campus composting business. She envisions the service-learning project as inter-disciplinary with profits reinvested into project sustainability. She has also contacted

Signature Healthcare about students volunteering to serve patients who need assistance writing letters to family and friends.

The service-learning team appreciates Cynthia's enthusiastic support and looks forward to working with her and her busy students!



Cynthia Brook's and Workplace Communications students busy at work on handouts for Cleveland For A No Kill City.

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. The student reflects on their experiences in reflection seminars, online discussions, and a reflection journal/portfolio. The student completes 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 and 2430 Service-Learning Experience I, II, and III (1 credit each)

Similar to Service-Learning Project I & II, these courses are designed for the student who is 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 journal.



Seedlings

Brief Bits of News About Service-Learning



What a Great Volunteer Expo!

The Service-Learning team thanks everyone who supported and attended the September 12, 2012 Volunteer Expo! Sixty community agencies displayed and distributed materials for use by student volunteers. Over 300 students, faculty, staff, and community guests visited the expo. The day was a big success, and we are already looking forward to the 2013 event!

Community College Mini Summit for Service-Learning

Cleveland State hosted the first Tennessee Campus Compact sponsored Mini Summit for TBR Community Colleges. The November 9, 2012 summit promoted continued growth of service-learning across all programs. Participants discussed a number of important topics; including student retention and graduation, risk management, course designation, and degree and transcript designation. The day was extraordinary!

Service-Learning Growth

As of December 2012, over 50% of fulltime CSCC faculty had incorporated service-learning into their courses in some way. The Service-Learning team expresses their thanks for your dedication!

What is Service-Learning?

The Tennessee Campus Compact has adopted the following definition: Service-Learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflects on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.” --Bringle and Hatcher, 1996

Good Reception!

The Service-Learning team has begun planning details for the next Community Partners and Faculty Appreciation Reception. Watch for your invitation!

Service-Learning Faculty Consultants

For help incorporating service-learning, contact:
Sherry Holloway, (423) 473-2385 • Susan Webb-Curtis, (423) 614-8718
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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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