

Service-Learning takes a new path for 2009-2010

From Michelle Boyd...

Before ending my year of service here at MCC as an AmeriCorps*VISTA, I want to acknowledge everyone at the college and the community with deep thanks for all the kindnesses granted toward me during my time spent here working as the Service-Learning Coordinator.

I have been lucky enough to work for people who are consistently cooperative, generous, and understanding and I feel that I've been blessed.



Connie Gardalen

It is great to see that the responsibility for service-learning has been combined with a permanent position here at the college.

In late June, the new contact for service-learning will be Connie Gardalen. She is currently a College Transition Advisor and instructor, who will be adding service-learning to her responsibilities. She will also be introducing her vision for service-learning later on this summer.

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Michelle Boyd

CAMPUS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



MCC Service-Learning Stats - Spring 2009

Spring Semester 2009: 267 student volunteered 1,573 hours of service!

Fall Semester 2008: 252 students volunteered 1,774 hours

Spring Semester 2008: 223 students volunteered 1,429 hours

Fall Semester 2007: 161 students volunteered 1,007 hours

MCC students provided both direct and indirect service for our community partners and others in the Marshalltown community. Over the past two years, service-learning has been integrated into many disciplines at MCC, giving students a new form of learning.

Goodwill Fashion Show - March 4, 2009



Students took the runway on Wednesday, March 4, not only to showcase their fashion but to educate college students and the community of the benefits of shopping at their local Goodwill Store. Over 20 students took part in the actual modeling and over a dozen more in mere planning and preparation.



Rodney Tomlinson, the Goodwill Industries Community Development Manager, also presented a PowerPoint about the mission and history of Goodwill to all those who were in attendance of the fashion show. Overall, this was a great event and had a large turnout. Students gained insight about Goodwill and realized that not only can you find great, brand name clothes and accessories at great prices, you help promote clothing recycling, greening the environment, and helping others in need.

MCC Student Reflection:

"Service-learning is a much more productive way to learn about our environment and how we can help it. I think it is a great way to also help the community understand how to better their surroundings."

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Service-Learning Spotlight: Campus Clean-up

This was an ideal way to engage the entire college community to prepare for Graduation and other signature events that occur during the late spring and summer. This was also a way to improve campus sustainability and fit in perfectly with IVCCD's Quality Action Project (QAP) goal of focusing efforts on the Four Green R's: Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, and Repurpose. To develop goals, measurements, and short and long-term initiatives to address sustainability related to:

- Maintenance and grounds
- Transportation
- Business practices
- Education
- Waste reduction/Recycling/Utilities

Students, faculty and staff members worked around campus to help with landscaping projects and litter clean-up. They volunteered to rake, weed planted areas, trim bushes & trees, rake wood chips and clean-up housing area & other parts of campus. Volunteers were welcome to work either a full or half day. Work began at 8 a.m., took a break at noon, and then efforts resumed at 1 p.m. and continued until 4.



Student Reflections:

"Volunteering is something that is needed everywhere and just one person can make a difference."

"Doing service-learning is a privilege to me. I think that it is nice to help others for free, I mean with no intention of getting something back but thanks."

"I got to know different people and loved working with others."

Volunteer Fair

On March 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., MCC Service-Learning in conjunction with the Community Service Network (CSN) hosted a Volunteer Fair in the MCC Student Union. Twenty-seven Marshalltown Community organizations showcased volunteer opportunities for those looking for ways to serve their community. The fair was also for those who already volunteer to see what else is available and for new visitors to the community to see how to get involved. This was a huge success with numerous students stopping by! We hope to make this an annual event for the community!

"In my past I have done very little community service. So being a part of this was very eye opening to see a great need for the developmentally challenged people. Being able to learn of this organization and how they help families and children was the biggest positive. I now realize that I could make more of a difference in people's lives than I thought."

Service-Learning Student Spotlight

Elizabeth Sanchez - *Big Brothers, Big Sisters*

"Before I began my service with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, I wondered what I would be doing. I knew that I would be paired up with a smaller child and we would be similar to an older sibling to them. I expected this to be a great activity. In the past I have done my fair share of community service, so I always try to volunteer in something that I will enjoy. The organization that I did my service for exists for many reasons. It is an organization helping children throughout their school years. Whether the child needs help in school with a class or maybe the child is a bit lonely at school and needs a best friend. It could even be that they have problems at home and were referred by a teacher or counselor. My favorite reason: they don't have any siblings and would like to have someone to share special moments with, and I would love to be that special someone to spend time with them. Everything about my experience was positive. I have always enjoyed kids of all ages, so I think that this is an amazing service for anyone. I see this as a giving and receiving experience. I have to admit by doing this I consider myself a very valuable person who cares about others and their well being. My family and friends encourage me to keep involved in the community, and being in the program. Also, with this service it can also benefit us college students. So, why not take a chance to do something better for someone else? It only takes a few hours a week and there are different types of volunteer programs. I have encouraged my friends to help out, to offer someone who has nothing, everything."

More Student Reflections:

"When people come together to achieve a common goal, not only do we get to know one another, but we unite to get the job done."

"This experience showed me how the world is divided everywhere and that I am very lucky to have what I have. Not everyone in the world has the same opportunities that I do. It changed my way of seeing things and made me appreciate more what I already have."

"I enjoyed spending time with the kids and working with them. I think I might have found what I would like to do for a career."

"I learned a lot about how to help children and how to explain Math in a simple way. I know it was a service to the teacher but I feel like I learned so much!"



"I had a good experience doing service-learning. We let people know things that they need to do in their life to be a better community."

Bound Book Donated to MCC Library and Iowa Veterans Home

The culmination of a service learning project started in October 2008, involving Connie Adair's students from her Composition I class at Marshalltown Community College and residents from the Iowa Veterans Home was a bound collection of interviews. On Nov. 25, the final component of the project brought students and residents together on the Marshalltown Community College campus to present the profiles to the community. The students introduced the persons they interviewed and told a little about them. Each of those interviewed received the completed profile written by the students. The purpose of this project was two-fold: first, to provide the veterans' families a glimpse into the history of their lives and to document them. Second, through the collection and analysis of oral histories, the project allowed the students to engage in real-life writing and research rather than a traditional writing assignment. There is a bound book that has been donated to both the Iowa Veterans Home and at the Marshalltown Community College library that has these profiles, students' reflections, and news releases featuring the project included so that it can be displayed for the public to enjoy.