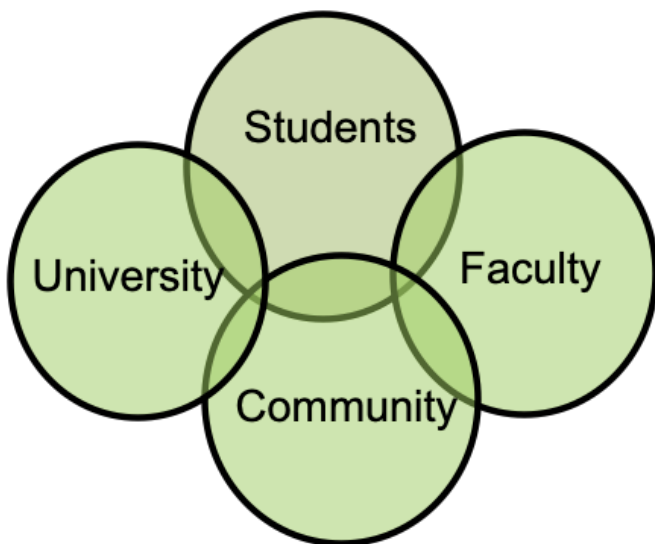

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Click [HERE](#) to see our re-designed CEC website!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SERVICE-LEARNING

An inside look at service-learning at BSU and beyond!



Service-learning is a pedagogical strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and intentional reflection to:

- Enhance** the academic learning experience
- Teach** civic responsibility and the importance of community engagement
- Strengthen** communities

Ways that service-learning is unique:

- Credit-bearing and integrated as part of course; not an additional extra add-on credit
- Connected to learning outcomes
- Contributes to both the educational objectives of the course and the goals or values of community partners
- Makes meaningful connections between studies and applications in the community through guided purposeful reflective writing and classroom discussion
- Bridges community service activities and course content

**“SERVICE-LEARNING HELPS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE WHAT THEY ARE READING THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS – I INVITE STUDENTS TO THINK OF THE COMMUNITY AS A LIVING TEXTBOOK FOR THE COURSE”
-DONNA PAWLOWSKI**

SERVICE-LEARNING COMMUNITY PARTNERS



"I AM GRATEFUL BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY OFFERS A CLASS THAT PUSHES ME OUTSIDE OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND ENABLES ME TO LOOK OUTSIDE MY BOX OF SECURITY."
-BSU STUDENT

Community partners are typically **nonprofit** (or underserved) and the application, in part, is done through service that fills a public good in the community. This **collaborative venture** between faculty, students, institution, and community partners empowers the community. The parties create a **reciprocal relationship** and are considered the recipient and the provider of the service; both are changed by the experience.



United Way
of Bemidji Area

Volunteers are the backbone of the United Way organization. You are encouraged to visit VolunteerBemidji.org to see what opportunities exist within the Bemidji area, or visit the United Way website!

Our Mission: To transform lives in our community by uniting people and organizations to maximize donor impact.

Our Vision: The United Way of Bemidji Area will be a recognized leader connecting people, resources and ideas to create a thriving community characterized by measurable and long-lasting improvements in education, income, and health.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

United Way Programs

- Backpack Buddies
- Coats for the Community
- Holiday Gifts for Kids
- Imagination Library
- Women United
- Thanksgiving Meals
- Child Abuse Prevention



BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Students:

- Connects theory and practice
- Increases engagement in the learning process
- Enhances analytical, leadership, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills
- Promotes the value of diversity, reduces stereotyping, and facilitates cultural understanding
- Strengthens interpersonal communication skills
- Creates a sense of community and social responsibility for others

Community Partners:

- Builds collaborative partnerships between the university and the greater community
- Provides invaluable resources for community
- Fosters stronger relationships with students, faculty, and university
- Makes community members feel more welcome to attend university events

Faculty Workshops for Development in Teaching Service-Learning

- Introduction to Service-Learning (S-L)
 - Identifying Goals and Objectives in S-L Courses
 - Finding Community Partners
 - Creating Reflection Assignments
- Managing Justice and Diversity Issues in S-L
 - Service-Learning Assessment
 - Creating the S-L Syllabus
- Scholarship and Research Opportunities in S-L

"IT [SERVICE-LEARNING] HELPED ME CONNECT THE MATERIAL WITH THE ACTUAL WORLD. INSTEAD OF JUST LEARNING ABOUT IT THROUGH A BOOK AND DISCUSSING IT BETWEEN CLASSMATES, I ACTUALLY GOT TO GO OUT AND APPLY WHAT I LEARNED WITH WHAT I AM SEEING AND EXPERIENCING IN THE COMMUNITY."

-BSU STUDENT

University:

- Reinforces BSU's mission and values
- Enriches the education of students
- Increases student retention
- Enhances community relationships
- Demonstrates a genuine interest in the well-being of community/community partners
- Creates opportunities for genuine dialogue with community members

Faculty:

- Enables teaching to become more process-oriented
- Increases the variety of unique pedagogical practices
- Improves student satisfaction
- Provides authentic assessment opportunities
- Builds stronger relationships with students
- Creates opportunities for collaborative teaching with other faculty
- Increases personal involvement with the community
- Provides avenues for scholarship and interdisciplinary projects