SPOKANE FALLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTER for SERVICE-LEARNING
Gateway to Experiential Education
Spring 2012 NEWSLETTER

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AWARD
SFCC was the only Community College in Washington State to be named to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education recently honored the nation’s leading colleges and universities, students, and faculty members, and staff for their commitment to bettering their communities through community service and service learning. Spokane Falls Community College was admitted to the Honor Roll for its work in cultivating a college community of service through for-credit academic service-learning courses, providing community engagement opportunities for service clubs, individual initiatives, the Veteran’s Conservation Corps, and finally, creating many not-for-credit academic service-learning courses.

For more information, visit: www.nationalservice.gov/about/initiatives/honorroll.asp.

THE GRADUATION PROJECT
SFCC is one of 5 colleges chosen to participate in The Graduation Project - funded through the College Spark Washington Foundation and managed through Washington Campus Compact (WACC). The Graduation Project is a research-based project to gauge the impact of Service-Learning as a strategy to increase persistence among at-risk students.

For more information, visit: www.wacampuscompact.org/gradproject.

FACULTY COMMUNITY IMMERSION AND TRAINING - Fall 2012
Be ready! Be set!
The Center for Service-Learning is coordinating an Immersion and Training event for faculty this fall along with a Faculty Appreciation day. More to come…
STAFF UPDATES
SFCC Center for Service-Learning is located in the Social Sciences Department and our Dean is Lisa Avery. Darlene Rickett is our Faculty Director.

Eunice Stine is working as part-time Service-Learning Program Coordinator. (Eunice served at SFCC in 2009-2010 as our AmeriCorps VISTA.)

The Faculty Advisor for the Service-Learning Club changed last year from Kim Taylor to Darlene Rickett. We are deeply grateful to Kim for all of her years of service to the college community in this position.

AMERICORPS VISTA
Jessie Riley is our 2011-2012 AmeriCorps VISTA and she has coordinated numerous activities for our students. Jessie is a former SFCC student and she is a recent graduate of Gonzaga University majoring in International Studies. Jessie will be leaving us in August to pursue a master’s program.

Jessie says, “I have been thoroughly impressed by the spirit of our service-learning students and I enjoyed hearing about students’ transformations as they step outside of their comfort zone and critically think about society’s most challenging issues.”

We have applied for and received notification that we are approved for another VISTA beginning in September 2012. The VISTA will have an office in the Center for Service-Learning but will be community-based (primarily within our West Central community). The VISTA focus for 2012-15 is Education and Healthy Futures (food security in the community).

WEBPAGE and NEW FORM CHANGES
We are pleased to announce our webpage updates, designed to simplify the application process and supply more current information about Service-Learning.

Look for a more streamlined Application & Educational Agreement available through our webpage this summer/fall.

PARTICIPATION RATES
2010-2011 – 4 Quarters (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)
2038 SFCC Students participated in 55,742 hours of service in 138 agencies in Spokane, Cheney, Airway Heights, Post Falls, Deer Park and Chewelah.

2011-2012 – 2 Quarters (Fall, Winter)
580 students did 12,770 hours of volunteering and collected cash and non-cash donations for their sites (i.e. cans of food and diapers) worth $7,860.

Students volunteered in the following capacities:
They tutored children, worked for social justice, fed the hungry, kept company with the elderly, assisted the homeless, worked with disabled individuals and improved their environment.
“Service is always going to be a part of my life”, said one student who volunteered many hours tutoring children at Logan Elementary. Other students said that it helped them build experience for their resumes during these tough economic times.

**SFCC STUDENT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

**CLASSROOM - IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Homeless Connect (2012):**
In January 2012, students participated in the first ever Spokane Homeless Connect activities. This one-day event served over 250 homeless individuals and families. Over 50 Social Services and Psychology students served meals, directed clients to one of the 30+ community agencies, and helped clients at the exit table by handing out surveys and bus passes. The Connect also provided health services, warm clothing, access to computers and free haircuts.

**Point-in-Time Homeless Count (2011):**
In January 2011, SFCC students participated in surveys and data collection during the Spokane Point-In-Time Homeless count, in partnership with the Spokane Homeless Coalition. After the training, students were given the opportunity to participate in the actual Point-in-Time count. Data were collected and used to project community needs and services. This was the second year that SFCC students had participated in this event.

**Jacob’s Well Refugee Services**
The entire English/Intercultural Communication Learning Community class spent 4 mornings during Winter quarter at Jacob’s Well interacting and teaching basic skills for survival in the US culture to refugees from the Karen culture from Burma.

**International Peer Mentors**
During Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters, students in intercultural studies courses are treated to a fun Service-Learning assignment: US students are paired-up with international students for out of class time together as well as for on-campus themed group functions. Student participation Fall-Spring 2010-11: 360. Student participation: Fall-Spring 2011-12: 274.

**Volunteering in Primary Education**
SFCC students, especially those in education-related fields of study, tutor in the classroom of many of our Spokane area schools, both public and private.
Social Science Collections 2011-2012

Summer and Fall Quarters: Service-learning students from Psychology 100 were recruited to collect cleaning items for Cancer Patient Care, a nonprofit organization that serves low-income cancer patients. Twelve students volunteered 145.5 hours and collected 992 items valued at $4285.15 and cash donations of $377.00.

Winter Quarter: Twenty-six students served 129 hours while collecting items and cash for three different nonprofits in the greater Spokane area. They collected 65 blankets for Hope House and $700 worth of hygiene items for Our Place. Students also collected 2,621 pounds of food (2,327 items) valued at over $4,000 for Women’s and Children’s Free Restaurant’s annual free Thanksgiving dinner.

Spring Quarter: Fourteen students spent 33 hours collecting items for Our Place, a small nonprofit organization that serves Spokane’s most vulnerable individuals by providing free food, hygiene items, laundry services, and bus passes. The students collected around 700 pounds of food and hygiene items as well as $200.00 cash.

Kim Taylor provided faculty leadership for this effort.

Independent Classroom Activities

Activities related to Service-Learning were done throughout the year also by students in other classes. Oftentimes, students volunteered at non-profit sites of their own choosing which were approved by the instructor to meet the course goals. Instructors who have used a Service-Learning component in one or more of their courses include:

Polly McMahon, Elizabeth Tollefsbol, Dexter Amend, Sandy Ross, Judy Noel, Ping Ping, Kim Taylor, Bernice Tobeck, Lisa Freeman, Darlene Rickett, Allison Blizzard, Sheri Decker, Hadda Estrada, Lynda Johnson, Larry Massey, Eva Miller, Anastasia Poliakova, Kellie Fischer and Cathy Matresse.

TANF Summer Break Classes (not for credit)

For the past 2 years, the Center for Service-Learning has collaborated with the Work Source Office to provide the TANF break activity.

2011 Three week course: Health, Nutrition, Exercise and Budgeting Food Money. Speakers included: WSU Cooperative's Food Sense program, Alliance for the Greater Good, Kool Smiles, Charles Lightwalk and Dr. Andreasson. In addition to classwork, the students volunteered in the community at nonprofits centered on health and wellbeing. These organizations included: P.e.a.c.h. Community Farm, One World Spokane, Women and Children’s Free Restaurant and East Central Community Center. The students that participated in both the Cancer Patient Care collection and the break activities were enthusiastic about the changes they helped facilitate in our community.
and students from both activities asked to be placed on the mailing list for the Service-Learning Club.

2010 Four week course: Aspects of Diversity. In addition to classwork, the students volunteered in the community at nonprofits centered on aspects of diversity. These organizations included: Institute for Extended Learning (IEL)/English as a Second Language classes (refugee population), East Central Community Senior Center (Marshall Island population) and Community Parks and Recreation.

**SERVICE-LEARNING CLUB PROJECTS**
Twelve active members of the Service-Learning Club accomplished many hours of service in a fun and cooperative way in 2011 and 2012. Club officers during this time include: Jeremy Meltingtallow, Troy Edwards, Blythe Morrison, Cynthia Manycolors, TC Peterson, Andrea Seagren and Ariel Goodwin.

**Japanese Club and Service-Learning Club Join Forces**
*Mix educational events with donation opportunities? Absolutely!*  
The Partnership Response for Japan brought together SFCC’s Japanese and Service-Learning Clubs and local community partner, RenegAID™ Innovative Disaster Relief, in a 2011 Spring Quarter-long project focusing on the survivors of the March earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident in northeastern Japan. Survivors were benefited with financial donations (totaling $2,000 from students, staff and community members) given to Tohoku University Hospital in Sendai.

**Blood Drives and Epicurean Delight Fund Drive**
The INBC Blood Drive is a club project that occurs Quarterly throughout the year to benefit recipients of blood through the Inland Northwest Blood Center in Spokane (INBC). The INBC is a non-profit organization and SFCC community partner that focuses on the blood needs of the Inland Northwest. The students also participated in the INBC Epicurean Delight Fund Drive.

**Red Nations PowWow at SFCC (2012)**
The Service-Learning Club helped with meal set-up, serving and meal clean-up for this May gathering.

**Turnbull National Refuge (2011)**
3 SFCC students and 4 staff helped build an educational pavilion where school children will be sheltered while learning biology and eco systems.

**Graffiti Abatement Downtown Spokane (2011)**
6 SFCC students painted over graffiti in downtown Spokane. The Sheriff informed the students graffiti abatement helps reduce poverty and crime while saving small business owners time and money.
Habitat for Humanity (2011)
4 SFCC students, 1 staff and 2 other volunteers helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity’s Blitzbuild. Students learned specialized skills such as cutting and laying tile.

Green Belt Movement (2011)
5 SFCC students planted trees in honor of the Green Belt Movement and its founder Wangari Muta Maathai. The Club raised awareness by playing a documentary about the movement.

The club also recently participated in the Banz for Canz food drive and Books for Nepal book drive.

Alternative Spring Break
Pointe Aux Chenes and Houma, Louisiana (2012)
Tutoring 3rd & 4th Graders at Pointe Aux Chenes Elementary and Hope Extreme
Students traveled to the Mississippi Delta of southern Louisiana to tutor students in 3rd and 4th grades at Pointe Aux Chenes Elementary school getting ready for their iLEAP state exams (similar to the Washington WASL exams). This community was hit by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Andrew as well as being directly hit by the BP Gulf oil spill. After school tutoring was also done at Hope Extreme in Houma, Louisiana. The SFCC students also: visited New Orleans in a one-day whirl-wind tour, swam in the gulf, canoes into the marsh with a marine biologist from LUMCON, visited Native lands in the bayous with a local Native American who is also a fisherman of the Cajun culture, learned firsthand about the issues affecting the Delta, its people and its culture, visited Grand Isle with a descendent of a pirate who settled there, went Cajun dancing and took private Cajun dance lessons. A week-long home-stay helped with cultural immersion.

One World Everyone Eats Restaurant and Community Garden (2011)
Students devoted several Spring Break days to rejuvenating the community garden located at One World Everyone Eats Restaurant on East Sprague.

STUDENTS-IN-SERVICE
Over the last three years, SFCC students have had the opportunity to enroll in the Federally-funded Students In Service program which allowed them to receive scholarships for performing service to their community

Unfortunately the SIS program was terminated nationwide in February 2012.
COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT PARTNERS
Service-Learning could never be accomplished without “community based learning sites” for our students. These sites are actually non-profit organizations/agencies within our community who have partnered with us to meet the goals of our courses and the goals of their missions.

SFCC-Community Partner EXPOS: Students, Faculty and Community Partners come together to talk informally at our Expos held quarterly in the SUB lounge.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Continuums of Service Conference, San Diego 2011
Darlene, Jessie and 4 SFCC Service-Learning Club students attended
Continuums of Service Conference, Seattle 2012
Darlene, Jessie and one SFCC Service-Learning Club student attended

REFLECTIONS
Our ever-present goal is to provide students with opportunities to hone one of the most basic of survival skills: critical thinking. Here are some student reflections that demonstrate how experiential education, focused on real life issues, adds another dimension to traditional classroom/textbook teaching and learning.

- This was my first time volunteering to help the homeless. I didn't realize how many people where really homeless and it completely changed my outlook on a homeless person. They are normal people just going through a hard time. ...I enjoyed it and would definitely do it again. After volunteering there it got me interested in other volunteer opportunities in the community. I am looking into some other volunteer things like mentoring children or walking dogs for the humane society.

- [The Spokane Homeless Connect] was a wonderful experience everyone had a great attitude, it was sad but heartwarming to see how well the children handled being homeless….it opened my eyes on the hardship that they live through and it makes me feel like I should be doing more to help instead of turning a blind eye and thinking they chose this life.

- As I look back, it was something that I dreaded when I thought about it, but now I really am glad I did it. I learned so much and feel like I am better as a person. I plan on continuing to go to West Central, maybe not as often as before, but as often as I can.

- …I learned that [refugees] are beautifully strong and adaptive people that have the ability to keep pressing on when things are tough, which I find very inspiring.
Before beginning this work at the House of Charity, I had my own preconceptions as to what sort of people I might find at the shelter. Being that the shelter welcomes intoxicated patrons, I imagined a sort of madhouse, with dirty homeless men and women running amok, fighting, cussing and generally carrying on. Needless to say, I was not too keen on what I had committed to undertake. Stereotypes thrive in ignorance, however, and my own prejudice was shattered after being confronted with the reality.

After my first day at House of Charity, I was already undergoing a meaningful paradigm shift.

This event has given me a desire to be more open and aware of the world outside the U.S. and has inspired me to want to serve and help others more and has me grateful for the life that I have.

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SFCC was the only Community College in Washington State to be named to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education recently honored the nation’s leading colleges and universities, students, and faculty members, and staff for their commitment to bettering their communities through community service and service learning. Spokane Falls Community College was admitted to the Honor Roll for its work in cultivating a college community of service through for-credit academic service-learning courses, providing community engagement opportunities for service clubs, individual initiatives, the Veteran’s Conservation Corps, and finally, creating many not-for-credit academic service-learning courses.

“Preparing students to participate in our democracy and providing them with opportunities to take on local and global issues in their course work are as central to the mission of education as boosting college completion and closing the achievement gap,” said Eduardo Ochoa, the U.S. Department of Education’s assistant secretary for postsecondary education. “The Honor Roll schools should be proud of their work to elevate the role of service-learning on their campuses. Galvanizing their students to become involved in projects that address pressing concerns and enrich their academic experience has a lasting impact – both in the communities in which they work and on their own sense of purpose as citizens of the world. I hope we’ll see more and more colleges and universities following their lead.”

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, the initiative celebrates the transformative power and volunteer spirit that exists within the higher education community.
Spokane Falls Community College utilizes non-profit community partnerships to provide critical thinking opportunities and experiential education experiences for its students through intentional and directed course work. Students have face-to-face, over-sighted interaction with the homeless population and other at-risk or marginalized populations in their immediate neighborhood. From teaming with a handicapped child during equine therapy to answering phones in the First Call for Help system, students reflect on their own misconceptions, gaining insight into issues we encounter as a community. This sharing of mutual respect and undergirding of our local society is sustaining for both the students and our community.

In addition to academic service-learning, Spokane Falls Community College provides community engagement locations and events for volunteering. Recognizing that the practice of service is the essential ingredient of resilience during hard times, Spokane Falls Community College provides its students, clubs and Veteran’s Conservation Corps with many opportunities for volunteering throughout the year.

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