Service-Learning at Parkland College

Reinvigorating the Mission of the Community College
“The Mission of Parkland College is to Engage the Community in Learning”

• “A climate throughout the college that values and promotes integrity, inquiry, diversity, inclusion, active citizenship, global awareness and academic freedom”

• “Serve the larger community by providing services and resources that promote the intellectual, cultural and economic development of Illinois Community College District 505”
Presentation Goals

• Defining Service-Learning
• Service-Learning at Parkland
• Benefits to Students, Faculty, Community, and the College
• Service-Learning and Volunteerism Resources at Parkland
• Your Questions
Service-Learning is...

“The process of integrating thoughtfully organized service experiences with guided reflection to enhance student learning of course materials.”
Key Characteristics of Service-Learning

• Students are involved in course-relevant service which benefits the community.

• Offers a continuum of possibilities -- from single day service events to several hours a week for an entire semester.

• Structured opportunities are provided for students to reflect critically on their experiences through a mix of writing, reading, speaking, listening, and group discussions.
Service-Learning at Parkland

- Intro to Child and Social Psychology
- English 102 and Professional Writing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
- Education 101
- Applied Media Promotions (AMP)
- Homework Club
- Dental Hygiene Program
- Graphic Design Program
- And many others!
Benefits to our Students

- Enhances and increases engagement and learning
- Promotes critical thinking
- Provides experiences
- Explore majors and careers
- Fosters a sense of civic responsibility
Benefits to Faculty & Staff

• Enhanced student learning  = more engaged students
• Reinvigorated teaching
• Strengthened relationships with students
• Opportunities for professional development
• Research / publishing opportunities
• A sense of making a difference
Benefits to Parkland College

• Fulfillment of mission
• Strong community partnerships
• Increased retention/completion
• Benefit all stakeholders
Benefits to the Community

• Infusion of people power to help
• Client/agency needs met
• More informed / involved citizenry
• New ideas and energy
Service-Learning & Volunteerism at Parkland

• Volunteer and Service-Learning Coordinators (Gabi Fisher and myself) – we’re here to help make this all happen!
• New Center for Community Engagement – C-134!
• Homework Club
• Service-Learning Advisory Council (SLAC)
• Service-Learning Websites
• Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Service
• Service-Learning E-Newsletters
• Volunteer Fairs
• Our Goal: To increase the level of volunteerism across the campus, along with the number of courses incorporating service-learning
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