The goals of Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, supported by the Corporation for National Service and administered by the American Association of Community Colleges, are to build on established foundations to integrate service learning into the institutional climate of community colleges, and to increase the number, quality, and sustainability of service learning programs in colleges nationwide. The Horizons project features model programs, national data collection and dissemination, and an information clearinghouse. In addition, Horizons provides professional development opportunities and technical assistance through regional workshops, chief academic officer summits, mentoring, presentations, publications, a Web site, and a consultant referral service.

Service learning combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their communities. The Horizons project promotes the value of service learning not only to students and faculty, but also to college administrators and community members.

Ten colleges were selected in a national grant competition in 2000 to become Horizons Mentee Colleges. They represent rural, suburban, and urban areas, and have student populations as small as 1,500 and as large as 25,000. Working in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment, the Horizons Mentee Colleges are developing service learning programs that can be replicated at other institutions. Experienced practitioners from four other colleges serve as a mentor team, providing advice and hands-on assistance. The Horizons service learning programs involve 40 different disciplines and reach community members ranging from senior citizens to kindergartners.
Bellevue Community College

Serve, Learn, and Lead

Bellevue Community College, located 15 miles east of Seattle, serves more than 20,000 students and is the largest community college in Washington. Faculty from each of BCC’s academic divisions began offering service learning in fall 2001. Science faculty create gardens for the elderly and teach botany to both students and senior care residents. Educational development faculty and students develop English skills in non-native speakers by serving at a variety of community-based agencies. Media and technology students provide agencies with technical assistance in information technology, while learning valuable IT skills. Business accounting students learn introductory skills while helping nonprofit organizations set up accounting systems. Project team members support faculty as they integrate service in their curricula through a summer institute, quarterly celebrations for program participants, and a community service fair. BCC is also developing a leadership and citizenship course and expanding its community contacts.

Project Highlights
• Multi-disciplinary efforts
• Student leadership
• Faculty development events

Anne Arundel Community College

Service Learning Institute

Located near the Chesapeake Bay, Anne Arundel Community College began its service learning program in 1996 as an AmeriCorps program. For four years, service learning was offered primarily in sociology, psychology, biology, and nursing. In 2000, the college administration provided funding to support two full-time staff to manage the program and oversee student placements and agency partnerships. To strengthen the program and expand into new disciplines, the college developed a three-day faculty service learning institute to increase the number of faculty participants from 11 to 26. The workshops included an introduction to service learning, national trends and outcomes, roles and responsibilities, reflection, curricular integration, and a three-hour service learning assignment with a local agency. Anne Arundel also celebrates National Volunteer Week by inviting its agency partners to participate in the college’s service fairs to educate students on community needs, recruit volunteers, and share resources.

Project Highlights
• Faculty serve at agencies
• Service learning office
• Well-developed partnerships
**Broome Community College**

**Project Hope**

The service learning program at Broome Community College (part of the State University of New York system) encourages students to seek placements at agencies that are related to their career interests, including the Broome County Office for Aging and a local nursing home. Students also serve with the New York Office of the Attorney General to handle consumer fraud and protection issues. A large number of students in a public affairs course participate in the GEAR UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) by serving as English and math tutors in two middle schools in Binghamton. In cooperation with Binghamton University and the Binghamton school district, GEAR UP is intended to improve the quality of public education, raise test scores, and encourage young men and women to consider higher education. The BCC students tutor 36 hours over the course of a semester, maintain reflective journals, and assist middle-school students visiting the college.

**Project Highlights**
- Faculty development workshops
- University and public school partnerships
- New faculty recruitment
- Institutional support

**Contacts**
- **Broome Community College**
  - PO Box 1017
  - Binghamton, NY 13902
  - www.sunybroome.edu
- **Ben Kasper**
  - Professor of Social Science
  - Phone: 607/778-5084
  - E-mail: kasper_b@sunybroome.edu
- **Margherita Rossi**
  - Chair of Psychology, Education, & Human Services
  - Phone: 607/778-5216
  - E-mail: rossi_m@mail.sunybroome.edu

**Doña Ana Branch Community College**

**El Milagro Service Learning Initiative**

Doña Ana Branch Community College’s El Milagro initiative focuses on service learning in colonias of Doña Ana County in southern New Mexico. Colonias are communities within 150 miles of the US–Mexico border that lack roads, water, sewage, and/or adequate housing. The 37 colonias of Doña Ana County comprise 40 percent of the county population. DABCC faculty, staff, students, and administration have teamed up with colonia organizations, local agencies, and community leaders in a service learning advisory council. This group selects certain colonias and determines which needs might be addressed through service learning, such as sanitation, water, and a community library. El Milagro offers faculty workshops that provide information on and support for curriculum connections to service learning in the colonias. All instructional divisions and areas of the college participate. DABCC leaders believe the miracle (el milagro) of college–community partnerships is the change in the everyday lives of all who work together to address local needs.

**Project Highlights**
- Meeting community-identified needs
- Chief academic officer participation
- Curriculum development
- College-wide involvement

**Contacts**
- **Doña Ana Branch Community College**
  - MSC 3DA, PO Box 30001
  - Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/dabcc.asp
- **Kathleen Baca**
  - Associate Professor, English
  - Phone: 505/527-7626
  - E-mail: kbac@nmsu.edu
- **Elizabeth Ann Gutierrez**
  - Associate Professor/Coordinator, Legal Assistant Program
  - Phone: 505/527-7642
  - E-mail: egutierr@nmsu.edu
East Central Community College

Service Learning Program

Located in rural Mississippi, East Central Community College’s service learning program began in the 2000-2001 academic year with two projects in the sciences and nursing. Biology students built a wildlife habitat in front of the science building. Nursing students presented lessons on health-related topics such as hand washing, breast self-exams, adolescent drug abuse, the dangers of unprotected sex, and proper oral care to elementary and high schools, churches, day care centers, and community centers. The program is expanding to include gerontology students serving in area nursing homes, and English and sociology students serving in Mississippi Reads, an AmeriCorps program through which college students tutor children in the second through fourth grades. Faculty development opportunities include in-service sessions led by a Horizons mentor and travel to conferences and other colleges with service learning programs.

Project Highlights
• Presidential support
• Elementary school collaboration
• AmeriCorps collaboration

Contacts
East Central Community College
PO Box 129
Decatur, MS  39327
www.eccc.cc.ms.us

Mary Hanson
Director, Learning Skills Center
Phone: 601/635-2111 ext. 329
E-mail: mhanson@eccc.cc.ms.us

Melanie Gilmore
Dean, Associate Degree Nursing
Phone: 601/635-2111 ext. 294
E-mail: mgilmore@eccc.cc.ms.us

Fergus Falls Community College

Community Connection Center

Fergus Falls Community College’s service learning program includes 10 instructors in five disciplines. In the 2000-2001 academic year, 320 students—nearly one third of the student population—provided 6,500 hours to their rural western Minnesota communities. Serving a historically homogeneous region that has recently seen an influx of immigrants, the Community Connection Center provides service learning opportunities that embrace a wide range of experiences, including diversity awareness. The center has developed more than 50 campus-community partnerships, with a special emphasis on regional K-12 schools. Instructors are vigorous in their academic rigor and innovative in building service learning into their classrooms and community settings.

Project Highlights
• Multiple partners in changing rural area
• Transcript notations
• Online reflection
• Replicable projects featuring diversity

Contacts
Fergus Falls Community College
1414 College Way
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
www.ff.cc.mn.us/campserv/ccc/

Connie Payson
Coordinator, Community Connection Center
Phone: 218/739-1341
E-mail: cpayson@ff.cc.mn.us

Roberta Egersdorf
Instructor, Communications
Phone: 218/739-7512
E-mail: regersdorf@ff.cc.mn.us
Malcolm X College

Developing Student Leadership Skills through Service Learning

“It’s Your Serve!” is the slogan for Malcolm X College’s service learning program, which is expanding by adding six new courses, 10 community partners, and doubling the number of student participants. The pilot freshman learning community will use service learning in a college survival course to enhance group identity through shared experiences. A new service learning student organization brings together students from all disciplines to facilitate reflection, mentoring, and the development of ethical leadership. Essential to the continued growth of the program is the active participation of committed faculty and valued community organizations. Professional development remains a priority, as MXC faculty and staff continue to share their experiences with colleagues locally, regionally, and globally. Student outcome measurements, including the general education portfolio, are being developed to provide meaningful data on attitudinal, behavioral, and cognitive changes experienced by service learners.

Project Highlights
• Freshman learning community
• General education portfolio development
• Faculty development
• Student leadership skills

Orange Coast College

Westside Science Project

Service learning at Orange Coast College has expanded over the last several years to include more than 50 faculty members and projects in over 60 courses. OCC has formed numerous partnerships with agencies and organizations and concentrated on developing long-term relationships that benefit both college and community. The focus of the service learning program has centered on K-12 education in the Orange County area. Faculty members in astronomy, geology, biology, chemistry, marine sciences, computer sciences, mathematics, physical anthropology, art history, dance, education, and Spanish have developed teaching modules that can be delivered to K-12 children by OCC students. These teaching modules were designed by the college faculty, K-12 teachers, and service learning students, and are aligned with state curriculum standards. Service learners in the sciences regularly present “science nights” at local elementary schools and organize annual “science days” at the college campus for local K-6 students.

Project Highlights
• K-12 partnerships
• Strong science components
• Teaching modules
Southern Maine Technical College

Portable Service Learning Modules

Southern Maine Technical College is expanding and enhancing its service learning program by developing a strong campus infrastructure. Community connection in the greater Portland area has been a long tradition for the campus, but a strong formal curricular presence was missing. The Horizons project enables intensive faculty training in service learning. SMTC hosted three national service learning leaders on campus to conduct a training for SMTC faculty as well as faculty members from other area campuses. New stand-alone modules for implementing service learning and problem-based learning will assist faculty who cannot participate in training. Project coordinators will field-test the process, successes, and problems encountered by faculty who implement under both the training and module methods of introduction. Through the modules, SMTC hopes to create a tool that can help campuses enhance their service learning programs even on very limited budgets.

Project Highlights
• Campus infrastructure development
• Faculty training
• Curriculum infusion
• Replicable modules

Virginia Highlands Community College

Expanding Horizons through Service

In rural southwestern Virginia, Virginia Highlands Community College’s community service and service learning program was developed through an initiative that encouraged student participation in the community. With the support and enthusiasm of community agencies, the program has expanded to include the involvement of student clubs and organizations in short-duration service activities. Interested faculty have incorporated service in their courses with students addressing local needs, and a “learning about community through service” program during spring break has developed into a student leadership activity. An outgrowth of this program is the positive relationship of local agencies as community partners in creating opportunities for service and civic engagement for VHCC students.

Project Highlights
• Community partnerships in rural areas
• Curriculum development
• Student leadership
• Alternative spring break
Horizons Mentor Team

Community College of Aurora

The Service Learning Center at the Community College of Aurora provides experiential learning opportunities for students to strengthen their academic preparation as they pursue their educational and career goals. Students work on a variety of projects appropriate to their needs and designed to fit their schedules. Since 1992, the program has developed strong and lasting partnerships with the Aurora public schools and local community and government agencies. An interdisciplinary capstone course focusing on service learning concepts is CCA’s latest initiative.

Gadsden State Community College

Gadsden State Community College’s Service Learning Center, with its full-time coordinator and central location, underscores the college’s commitment to service learning. Faculty in several academic and technical areas offer service learning options in their classes. Students are involved in an oral history project, National Youth Service Day, Web site development for community service agencies, and tutoring students participating in Neighborhood Network and GEAR UP programs. An information/training workshop for community agency partners expanded GSCC’s role as a service learning mentor to local school systems.

Richland College

Richland College’s Service Learning Office provides student orientations and faculty development workshops, and acts as a liaison to community agency partners. Each year approximately 50 instructors offer classes that include service learning for more than 600 students serving in nearly 90 community agencies in the Dallas area. Project sites include elementary school reading programs, immigrant community centers, a hospital for children with orthopedic illnesses, community gardens, and a camp for physically challenged adults and children. In campus-wide reflection sessions, service learners reveal that they are forming lifelong habits of service and community involvement.

University College, University of Cincinnati

Since its inception as a small language arts pilot in 1998, service learning has expanded into all departments of University College, an open-access, two-year college located on the main campus of the University of Cincinnati. An action team—led by a local United Way manager and comprising community partners, administrators, and faculty from across the institution—has facilitated this successful initiative. University College considers service learning an integral part of other campus initiatives, including general education, problem-based learning, learning communities, and university/high school partnerships. Great emphasis is placed upon ongoing training and continued growth into Cincinnati public schools.
Select Electronic Resources

America Counts
www.ed.gov/america counts
America Reads
www.ed.gov/america reads
American Association for Higher Education
www.aabe.org/service/srv-lrn.htm
American Association of Community Colleges
www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning
America’s Promise
www.americaspromise.org
Campus Compact
www.compact.org
Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges
www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/compact
Campus Outreach Opportunity League
www.cool2serve.org
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccpb.html

Corporation for National Service
www.nationalservice.org
Educators for Community Engagement
www.selu.edu/orgs/ic
Effective Practices Information Center
www.cns.gov/resources/epicenter
International Partnership for Service-Learning
www.ipsl.org
National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
www.servicelearning.org
National Service-Learning Exchange
www.nslexchange.org
Points of Light Foundation
www.points oflight.org
Service-Learning on the World Wide Web
csf.colorado.edu/sl
UCLA Service-Learning Clearinghouse Project
www.greis.ucla.edu/sl

Thanks to Lynn Barnett and Horizons participants for contributing to this publication.

This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National Service under Learn and Serve America Grant Number 00LHEDC001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or the Learn and Serve America program.

Horizons Mentor/Consultant

Carol Jeandron
Director of Service Learning
Loyola University, Box 115
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 504/865-2283
E-mail: cjeandr@loyno.edu
(formerly Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Nunez Community College, Chalmette, LA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HORIZONS PROJECT, CONTACT:

GAIL ROBINSON
Coordinator of Service Learning
American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036-1176
Phone: 202/728-0200 ext. 254
Fax: 202/728-2965
E-mail: grobinson@aacc.nche.edu
Web: www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning

TO ORDER MORE COPIES OF THIS HORIZONS PROJECT BRIEF, CONTACT:

Community College Press
PO Box 311
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0311
Phone: 800/250-6557
Fax: 301/604-0158
E-mail: aaccpub@pmds.com
Order #1534
Briefs are sold in packs of 20 for $20

© 2001 American Association of Community Colleges. Photocopying for nonprofit educational purposes is permitted.