Service-Learning Fellows Program

The Office of Engagement is inviting applications for the Service-Learning Fellows Program designed to expand and institutionalize service-learning into the academic fabric of Purdue University by fostering the development of service-learning academic courses and curricula, projects, and scholarly pursuits in engagement by Purdue faculty and upper-level graduate students. Faculty and graduate students who aspire to and have an interest in this pedagogy, and who demonstrate potential for creating innovative, high-impact transformational learning experiences are encouraged to apply. It is expected that individuals receiving grants will incorporate service-learning into their courses and departmental curricula, as well as become campus-wide service-learning resources and advocates.

This year, in partnership with the United Way, six community partners have been invited to submit project proposals seeking support from a variety of different disciplines. Community partner proposals include: project goals, key staff that will support the project, benefits to the partner, learning opportunities for Purdue University students, and a timeline. Faculty and graduate students are invited to submit applications for service-learning courses relevant to these projects. Up to $4,000 is available per project. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate long-term, sustainable collaboration with the community partner organization and Purdue University. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as interdisciplinary teams.

Interested applicants must submit a completed application on or before Friday, April 20, 2018 (Apply Now). Announcements of award recipients and connections with community partners will be made on or before Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The program will officially begin in May of the selection year and end in April of the following year. Grant terms of service and community partner projects below.

Completed proposals must be submitted on or before Friday, April 20, 2018.

Terms of Service May – April

- Collaboratively develop a plan for course and project implementation with community partner (Summer/Fall)
- Attend one professional development event (August/September/October)
- Participate in cohort meetings twice a semester (Fall/Spring)
- Complete two reports: mid-term and final reports
- Present at the annual Purdue Engagement & Service-Learning Summit
- Apply for the Purdue University Scholarship of Engagement Fellows Program, Indiana Campus Compact grant or other equivalent engagement and service-learning grants, and/or produce a scholarly contribution (on-going)
- Contribute to the assessment of service-learning

Expected Uses of Funds

- No funds may be used for salaries or honoraria.
- Funds may be used for travel needed to support the course/project.
- Funds may be used for materials, supplies, publicity, printing, postage, etc. needed to support the course/project.
- Funds may be used for professional development related to the project (per approval by community partner)
- Funds may be used to support undergraduate or graduate research directly related to the project.
**Application**
To apply, click [HERE](#). In addition to basic demographic information, the application itself requires the following narrative listed below.

In no more than two single-spaced pages, 12-font, describe your proposed course including the following:

- Organized service-learning activity and course that meets identified community need(s)
- Linkage of course content and/or discipline to service-learning activity
- Reflection activities that will support: a further understanding of course content, broader appreciation of the discipline, and/or enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibilities.
- Statement describing rationale for qualifying for grant

**Selection Process**
A selection committee consisting of Office of Engagement representatives, United Way representatives, and former service-learning faculty grantees will select the final award recipients. Announcement of award recipients will be made on or before April 25, 2018, and the program will officially begin in May of the selection year and end in April of the following year. The Office of Engagement will manage and coordinate all functions and activities thereafter.

**Questions**
Lindsey Payne, PhD, [paynel@purdue.edu](mailto:paynel@purdue.edu)
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Assistant Professor, Environmental & Ecological Engineering
Purdue University
Project Title: Good Decisions, Good Data

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:

- City of Lafayette
- Project Coordinator available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

Project Goals & Objectives:

The City of Lafayette collaborates with numerous non-profits, businesses, institutions and individuals to address a number of social issues in our community. Good decisions are based upon good data, and in some respects, better data could not only help us know more about the assets and challenges in our community, but also whether our efforts are working or not. A partnership with Purdue could, not only help provide baseline and evaluative data, but could also create a system where that data could be collected and analyzed.

Objectives

- Collect neighborhood, housing and homelessness data from known information sources (such as Census, Polk Directory, HMDA, HMIS, etc.)
- Explore the acquisition of new data sources, including first-hand data gathering
- Analyze collected data to inform revitalization, housing, and homelessness intervention efforts
- Create a legacy system that will facilitate future data gathering and analysis
- Both quantitative and qualitative data are sought. Local history, resident / program participant stories, and creative storytelling and/or displays are all valued.

The outcomes of this project will help guide neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, and homelessness intervention efforts in Lafayette. By establishing a process for ongoing data gathering and evaluation of efforts, this will allow future data to continue to inform our efforts, as well as to help with evaluating our activities for effectiveness. Further, neighborhood data gathering and analysis has the potential to invigorate efforts to cultivate neighborhood pride and resident leadership. Students will engage in real-world experience in data gathering and analysis with local impact. They will be able to examine social problems up close, and they will play a role in applying data to urban solutions. The project could begin immediately. Initial efforts would include acquiring and analyzing data (semester one). An additional semester would be valuable in setting up systems for consistent data gathering moving forward. Concurrent activities could include the presentation / accessibility of data to a broader audience.
Project Title:
Education, Marketing, & Outreach Materials and Event Planning

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:
- GrowLocal Lafayette Urban Gardens Network (GrL)
- Project coordinator availability to be schedule with faculty/student as needed

Project Goals & Objectives:
GrowLocal Urban Gardens Network is a collaboration of 11 organizations, 6 churches, 7 neighborhood associations, Lafayette Parks Board, and Purdue faculty and staff. Within GrL’s network, the membership supports 22 gardens used to educate youth and feed members of our community who face food insecurity.

The project scope includes:
- Develop and produce educational materials about gardening and healthy foods (printed, digital, and video) appropriate for each target audience:
  - youth in community center/school programs,
  - adults and families while picking in GrL sharing gardens, and
  - community members and partner members.
- Develop and produce marketing materials about the GrL organization (printed, digital, and video) to enhance outreach efforts to increase volunteer base and reach those with food insecurity who are not aware of GrL’s 11 open sharing gardens.
  - Develop social outreach activities and events to promote the GrL network and gardens, i.e., vendor booth display, garden tours, community pot luck, garden workdays, planting parties, “how to” and best harvesting practices, etc.

Project funding and student work would benefit GrL which is an all-volunteer network. Some GrL members belong to the organization through their jobs, others are volunteers with neighborhood groups or agencies. Among our membership no one has enough time or all the skills and knowledge necessary to develop and produce the variety of materials described in the scope. The variety and amount of materials GrowLocal needs will make the project open to many students and disciplines. Our project has the potential of involving multiple departments and network partners increasing collaboration opportunities, and enhancing the experience for everyone. Our needs are immediate, but because we are a growing network, the project has the potential of remaining active for years.
Project Title:
Development of online and digital outreach to increase donor and client engagement

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:
- Hanna Community Center
- Project Coordinator available as needed

Project Goals and Objectives:
Hanna Center is interested in developing a way to solidify and enhance our relationship with donors, supporters, and clients through an online and digital presence. We would like to do this by revamping our website, creating a digital newsletter that can be sent to our supporters that could also be used as a fundraising tool, and to create a digital calendar/bulletin board at the center to display our events. We would look at this from a marketing standpoint in that all of these tools would have the same look and “brand”.

The benefit to Hanna Center would be an increase in awareness in what we do here. We do a lot of great things-but we constantly hear, “I never knew what this place was”-so being able to communicate would not only increase in people who attend our programs, but could also result in additional donors who see what we do, like it, and want to support it. Both awareness and funding increases are vital to small not for profits like us. The digital bulletin board would be appealing to our current clients and potential future clients who come in the center and want to see what we offer. It would be something we could update easily and it would be a good tool to use in conjunction with the paper events calendar we currently use.

Students would be able to use their skills and creativity to basically create an outreach tool and program that Hanna will use for years to come. To be able to create something basically from scratch would make for an excellent addition to a portfolio. The students would also be able to experience the triumphs and challenges that go on in the day to day operations of a small neighborhood community center, as well as interact with our clients. The timeline we visualize would be something that would begin in the fall semester and be ongoing as the students both develop the project and train our staff how to utilize and update on their own.
Project Title:  
Financial Coaching

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:  
- HomesteadCS  
- Project coordinators are available during regular work schedule Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Other hours as needed.

Project Goals and Objective:  
Our organizational goal is to keep families in their homes. We have recently decided that we needed to increase our financial education classes in order to achieve this. As we began to take our education “on the road” we increased our class attendance from 40 in 2016 to over 300 in 2017. While we are making progress in attendance we need help in determining if we are making long-term progress in knowledge acquisition. We have a pre- and post-test for most of our classes, but it is, perhaps too simplistic. In order to continue to get grants to fund these programs we need to be able to track outcomes. We also need to ensure that our education is meeting the needs of our clients. Additionally, we would like to increase the ability of these programs to be accessed online, and as our classes grow, we will need assistance in teaching the actual classes and in following up with our clients. Our goal is to have well organized education classes that help the families we are serving, have enough instructors to teach the classes, and have measureable outcomes. We can accomplish this by having help with the testing, the curriculum, the teaching, the marketing of the program, and obtaining photographic and video testimonies.

This project will give us a fresh look at our programs, and provide evaluation support. Through this work, we hope to better understand how the young adult generation learns. Students that participate would gain workplace experience, be able to use their expertise to make a community difference, learn to communicate to a public audience, gain an understanding of adult education, and apply financial planning in a real-world context. This as an ongoing need that can start in the fall or spring.
Project Title: Marketing/Public Relations Materials

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:
- Special Olympics Indiana Tippecanoe County (SOIN Tippe)
- Project Coordinator availability to be scheduled with faculty/students as needed

Project Goals & Objectives:

Special Olympics Oath: Let me win, if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide a year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, offering them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and participation in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

SOIN Tippe is available free to those with intellectual disabilities from ages 8 to 80+. We would like to partner with Purdue students to develop a public relations / program management campaign to attract those eligible for Special Olympics participation, but who are not currently involved (focusing on elementary and middle school students at this time). We want parents, teachers, and administrators to see the benefits of Special Olympics. We are also would like to create an electronic tracking system (database) to help us track athlete participation across a variety of sports.

The scope of the project would be to assist the SOIN Tippe management team in creating a marketing/public relations process focusing on access to Tippecanoe County elementary and middle schools to show what is available within the county for their students with intellectual disabilities through participation in SOIN Tippe.

There are many benefits of a partnership with SOIN Tippe and Purdue University. For SOIN Tippe, we would benefit from the Purdue students who use their creativity and technical skills to showcase our organization to the schools in Tippecanoe County. The Purdue students involved in supporting SOIN Tippe in this proposal would benefit greatly from the exposure to our organization and working with the local school systems each semester. The students would also gain a better understanding for the needs of those with intellectual disabilities. The goal for this program would be implemented each school semester to make our local Special Olympics organization known to the schools in the county.
Project Title: Urban Management Planning

Community Partner & Project Coordinator:
- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- Project Coordinator available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, evenings/weekends as needed

Project Goals & Objectives:
The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Wabash River corridor by providing sustainable opportunities to improve health, recreation, education, economic development and environmental management. Within Greater Lafayette, industrial and municipal wastewater inputs, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, development pressures, combined sewer overflows, and stormwater directly impact the Wabash River. As a result, this reach of the Wabash River is impaired for nutrients, pH, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, and biotic communities. Since the fall of 2011, WREC and our partners have implemented more than 300 urban best management practices (BMPs) focused on improving water quality in our watershed. Many of our partner organizations require additional support to maintain these practices and keep them functioning at their best. Additionally, WREC has acquired numerous properties along the Wabash River for long-range planning of sustainable development. Many of these properties have ecosystem health issues, including invasive species and soil erosion. There are also areas owned by WREC project partners that have similar issues.

Program Goal:
- Develop and implement management plans for urban BMPs and natural WREC-owned properties in order to improve water quality. Below are three different projects that need to be completed to achieve this goal. A course could participate in one or more of the projects for this grant.

Potential Projects:
- #1: Seed and Plug Production Program
  Establish a seed and plug production program for native grasses for erosion control, including: creating and establishing seed beds; harvesting seeds; creating plugs; and planting and dispersing plugs and seeds as needed within management plan for natural areas or urban BMP
- #2: Urban BMP Management
  Work with community members with urban BMPs to create and implement a plan for BMP management including partner capacity-building; volunteer recruitment; invasive species removal; and maintenance (weeding, mulching, mowing, prescribed burning, etc.).
- #3. Natural Areas Management
  Develop and implement management plans for woodlands, wetlands, and bottomland hardwoods ecosystems, including invasive species removal and erosion control practices

These projects would greatly improve water quality in the Wabash River, improve the aesthetics and perception of urban BMPs, increase the acceptance and use of urban BMPs, and reduce invasive species. Students will: gain experience working with multiple stakeholders; solve issues relating to water and environmental quality; learn about the multi-faceted reality of environmental degradation in urban environments; and gain meaningful hands-on experience related to habitat and/or urban BMP management. The goal for this program would be to begin in the fall of 2018 and repeat each semester. Students would work on program goals as they are seasonally appropriate.