

School-based interventions: Can University Service Learning Provide a Key to Sustainability?




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Barriers to Programming Sustainability



- For schools or communities
 - Competing priorities
 - Lack of resources – including personnel
 - “In and out” programming
 - Geographical distance limiting access to service providers
- For colleges and universities
 - Competing priorities
 - Developing relationships and/or quality programming
 - Sporadic funding
 - Student engagement
 - Transportation
 - Supervision


Why School-Based Interventions Can Be Effective



Eating Good...
and Moving
Like We should

- For the colleges/universities:
 - Professional experience for students
 - Research opportunities
 - Access to children and parents
 - Relatively low cost
 - Publicity
- For the schools:
 - Access to creativity and expertise
 - Possible financial rewards
 - Publicity
 - Bodies to help with the work


What is service learning?



- It is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.
- Service-learning is a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection.

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

Four traits that characterize service-learning:



- Commitment to community
- Learning and academic rigor
- Intentional reflective thinking
- Practice of civic responsibility

Sounds good – now what?



- What kind of programming?
- Who would benefit?
- What resources do you have?
 - Program or research grants
 - Service learning grants
 - Community development funds
- Which students?




Tips for recruiting schools



1. Point out that addressing health is a vital to addressing other youth risk issues.
2. Find a champion for the program.
3. Be flexible about scheduling.
4. Offering a complete program is more attractive to schools. Ask as little of school personnel as possible.



(Eisenberg, 2009)

Components vital to successful school-based interventions



- Services must be integrated within the school environment as an integral part of the educational system.
- The support of the school administration and staff is vital for obtaining space, working with school schedules, and avoiding turf issues.
- Parental involvement, not merely parental consent, must be solicited and obtained.
- Services must be coordinated with health care.
- A well-defined system to ensure confidentiality must be developed.

(Satcher, 2004)

Integrating service learning into the school environment



- Work closely with a designated contact person placed within the school, and be available to provide assistance and support to them.
- Respond quickly and appropriately to requests for materials and information.
- Accommodate the schools' scheduling constraints.
- Be self-sufficient and minimize disruption.



(Eisenberg, 2009)

Enhancing the School's Image



- Be positive.
- Showcase them as models.
- Facilitate networking opportunities.
- Help them receive financial rewards and other resources.



Working in the Community



- Go to meetings.
- Participate in community events
- Get to know people
- REMEMBER THEIR NAMES
- Become known in the community
- Earn a good reputation

Tips for Success



- Develop and sign a memorandum of understanding.
- Assess your resources and use what you have.
- Start small and deliver more than you promise.
- Find a balance between flexibility and structure.
- Keep your promises.
- Stay focused.



QUESTIONS



- What service opportunities are available at your schools?
- Any service-learning?
- How do you engage your students?
- How much responsibility?
- How well do you work with other universities?

References



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QUESTIONS FOR ME?

