WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

Service Learning (SL) is a specially designed learning experience in which students combine reflection with structured participation in community-based projects to achieve specified learning outcomes as part of an academic course and/or program requirement. By participating in academic community partnerships at the local, national or international level, students gain a richer mastery of course content, enhance their sense of civic responsibility, and ultimately develop a more integrated approach to understanding the relationship between theory, practice, ideas, values, and community.

Service learning:

- Focuses equally on education and service
- Meets identified community needs
- Is reciprocal because it benefits both the student and the service recipient
- Helps build partnerships between colleges and community-based organizations and schools
- Enhances the academic curriculum
- Promotes learning through active participation
- Provides structured time for reflection
- Enables students to use skills and knowledge in real-life situation
- Involves the community as teachers
- Fosters understanding of diversity and caring for others
- Builds leadership and cooperation skills
- Addresses complex problems in complex settings
- Promotes critical thinking and problem-solving in specific contexts
- Promotes deeper learning
- Provides opportunities for students to learn about challenges in their own communities