

Serving Hope -

*How to build service-learning into
your non-major mathematics
courses to benefit the local
community*

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Joint Meetings – January 2011
MAA Session on Innovations in Service-Learning at All
Levels

Concordia University, Irvine

- Mission Statement: Concordia University, guided by the Great Commission of Christ Jesus and the Lutheran Confessions, empowers students through the liberal arts and professional studies for **lives of learning, service and leadership.**

- Seven Institutional Targets:

- Systematic Inquiry
- Clear Communication
- Health and Well-Being
- Socio-cultural Responsiveness
- Aesthetic Responsiveness
- Christian Literacy and Life
- **Servant Leadership**



Office of Servant Leadership and Civic Involvement



- Originated in Fall 2006
- **Our Mission:** We are dedicated to providing high quality servant leadership opportunities. Working collaboratively... the Servant Leadership Program will:
 - Prepare students by developing new skills and competencies
 - Provide opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of the relationship between faith & service
 - Identify and promote new and challenging opportunities to service with, and within, other cultures and socioeconomic groups
 - Provide opportunities for students to gain confidence and become a positive influence among others
 - Allow students to experience the rewards of "doing good"

Activities

- Habitat for Humanity
- Mississippi Hurricane Relief Mission Trip
- Corazon de Vida Mexico Orphanage Trip
- Guatemala and Haiti Mission Trips
- Hoops for Hope
- Operation Christmas Child
- Classroom Opportunities...



Joint Meetings 2007

- Attended MAA Panel: *Engaging Students in Research, Clubs, Student Chapters, and Internships*
- Richard Zang from the University of New Hampshire, Manchester
 - Community Tutoring
 - 4 exams plus one social responsibility grade



Infusing Service Learning into our Non-major mathematics course

- Worked with Gilbert Fugitt, the coordinator for the Office of Servant Leadership and Civic Involvement
- Initial contact – the Boys and Girls Club
 - Five minutes from campus
- Optional activity
 - About 20% of the students chose to do it



Outline of Service Learning

- Replaces 20% of their grade
- Complete 18 Hours of Tutoring (50pts)
- Reflective journal (100pts)
- Final Presentation on the Experience (25pts)
- Servant Leadership Assessment Form (10 pts)
- Supervisor Assessment form (15pts)

How it factors into the grade

- 20% of overall grade

- With Service Learning

- Exam 1 15%
 - Exam 2 15%
 - Final 15%
 - Research Project 20%
 - Homework 5%
 - Quizzes/Written 10%
 - Service Learning 20%
 - *Total* 100%

- Without Service Learning

- Exam 1 20%
 - Exam 2 20%
 - Final 15%
 - Research Proj. 20%
 - Homework 10%
 - Quizzes/Written 15%
 - *Total* 100%

- Most score an A or B on the tutoring

- Essentially helps half letter grade (or more)

- B to a B+
 - D+ to a C- (or C)

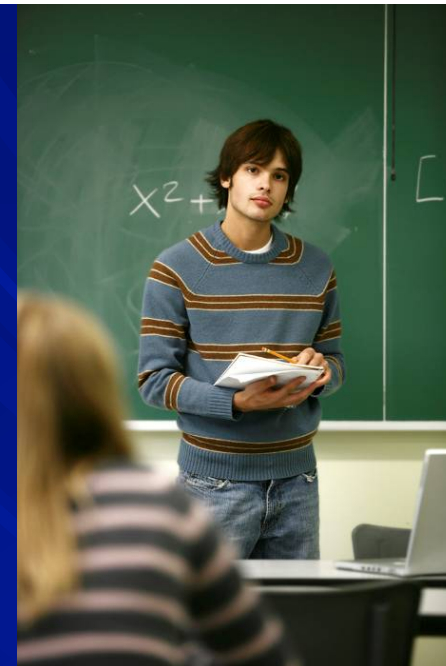
Journal specifics



- ½ to 1 page entry for each session
- What math was covered, including example problems
- Detail the student difficulties in understanding the material, and what was done to help clarify
 - what did and didn't work
- Include personal comments
 - satisfaction, frustration, interaction with students, interesting stories
- Include comments from students being tutored
- Mathematical Life Lessons Used
- Students given rubric for how it will be graded
- Mid-term check encouraged

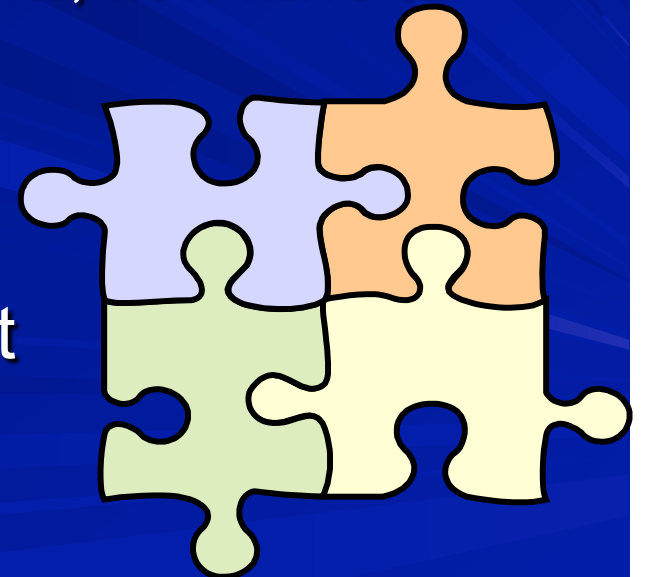
Final Presentation

- 5-7 minute presentation
- Specific examples of math problems covered with details on tutoring
 - what techniques were used
 - what did/didn't work
- A specific story of a student you interacted with – some personal reflection of your time with this student and the impact (hopefully positive) that you had on them.
- Your reflections on this as a service learning opportunity.
 - Did this/ how did this change your views about other people?
 - How did you grow as a person through this experience?
 - Do you feel your leadership skills increased?



Changing Partners

- Boys and Girls Club: Spring 2007
- KidWorks: Fall 2007-Fall 2008
 - Downtown Santa Ana
 - “restoring at-risk neighborhoods, one life at a time”
 - Originally in neighborhood apartments, now have a dedicated tutoring/learning center
 - Live Scan, application process
 - Switching to full time tutor system
- Village of Hope: Fall 2008-current



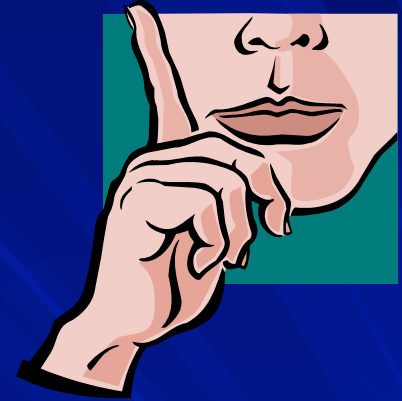
Village of Hope

- Orange County Rescue Mission
- 192-bed transitional housing center for homeless men, women and children
 - Medical care, counseling, job training, etc. provided
- Opened in March 2008
- Privately funded



- Prof. Patty O'Connor from Concordia University
 - Organized tutoring center for the children
 - Elementary school aged with gaps in academic background
 - All tutoring provided by Concordia students and volunteers

Outside Considerations



- Organization of offsite location
 - Dedicated tutoring program in place?
 - Introductory session (tour, information, interview, etc)
- Student transportation to offsite location
- Waiver Form
 - “Release and Hold Harmless Agreement/Waiver of Liability Form”
- Fingerprinting/Live Scan
 - Not required for Boys and Girls Club
 - KidWorks required one, we reimbursed
 - Village of Hope does onsite, free of charge for volunteers
- Service Learning Contract

Student Reactions

- Overall, extremely positive
- Many continue tutoring after the semester is over
- Comments:
 - Learned about myself
 - Surprised
 - Feel good



Beyond the classroom

- My Reactions
- Used as example for faculty
- Assessment Asset
 - videotaping final presentations
- Featured in Concordia Today
- Presidential Higher Education Award for Community Service
 - awarded to Concordia University the past three years
 - Math tutoring highlighted



My Hope

- Plant the seed that Richard Zang did for me
- It's not that hard to incorporate...
- Rewarding for you and your students



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