Service-Learning and Social Justice

Karl-Dieter Crisman

Gordon College

Incorporating social justice projects into the college mathematics curriculum

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What is Service-Learning?

A service-learning component is an educational activity which (cf. Charles Hadlock):

- Renders some kind of useful service to society (typically a non-profit)
- Provides a useful learning opportunity for the students
- Occurs in close conjunction with the curriculum

This can happen in many contexts, such as:

- Optional individual regular service
- Required group consulting project
- Additional course credit
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Resources

There are relatively few places where multiple service-learning ideas for collegiate mathematics are put together in one place (though there are scattered references elsewhere: see handout).

- My website of curated links and many talks from 2011 Joint Meetings http://math.gordon.edu/~kcrisman/ServiceLearning/
- PRIMUS special issue
Examples

Snapshots

- Tutoring math
- Analyzing fundraising for local nonprofits
- Redesigning food pantry (several places!)
- Deepwater Horizon spill area and effects on fauna, tourism, seafood ...
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You’ll need to think about this, even with tutoring – what is curricular goal?
Service-Learning ≠ Social Justice

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SL and SJ can intersect beautifully, but it takes forethought.
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