Interested in Creating a Service-Learning Course?

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
New or Converted Service-Learning Courses for the 2015-2016 Academic Year

The development of service-learning courses is central to the vision of Transformation through Service outlined in the UM 2020 Plan. The McLean Institute is the University of Mississippi’s coordinating unit for community engagement and service-learning, and seeks to raise the quality of life for all Mississippians with its work to fight poverty through education. To expand access to service-learning, the Institute offers an annual award and accompanying workshops to faculty to support the development of service-learning opportunities at the University of Mississippi.

SERVICE-LEARNING AWARDS FOR FACULTY
Up to five awards will be given for new service-learning courses or the conversion of existing courses to a service-learning format. These courses may be taught during any portion of the 2015-2016 academic year, including intersessions, summer sessions, and full terms. Preference will be given to courses that target impoverished areas in Mississippi and involve cross-school and/or cross-campus collaboration.

Faculty with successful proposals will receive the following:
- Up to $1,000 development stipend;
- Access to service-learning resources and to colleagues with service-learning experience; and
- Workshops and support to facilitate service-learning design.

A brief final project report will be due to the Council on Community Engagement after the course ends. Award recipients will also be expected to work with their students to present a poster at the annual Service-Learning Symposium organized by the McLean Institute.

SELECTION CRITERIA
Proposals to develop new courses or to convert existing courses are eligible. Successful service-learning courses accomplish the following:
- Enhance student learning and maintain academic rigor;
- Promote reciprocity and mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge between students, faculty, and community partners; and
- Encourage students to intentionally reflect upon their service activities.

HOW TO APPLY
Submit a completed course proposal form by 5 pm on March 20, 2015. Faculty may submit their proposals by e-mail to mclean@olemiss.edu or by fax to 915-1178 or delivered to 307 Howry Hall.

Information about service-learning and sample syllabi are available on the McLean website at mclean.olemiss.edu/resources/service-learning/. Faculty are encouraged to contact McLean Institute staff with any questions by e-mail at mclean@olemiss.edu or by phone at 915-2052.
Service-Learning Course Proposal Form

Please return this form electronically or in paper form to Albert Nylander, McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, by e-mail at mclean@olemiss.edu or by fax at 915-1178. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on March 20, 2015.

Name: ____________________________ Department/Position: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Proposed Course: __________________________

First semester course will be taught: ___________ New/converted course: ___________
Instructor’s Signature: __________________________ Date: ___________
Chair’s Signature: __________________________ Date: ___________

Course learning objectives: Describe the core concepts students should learn or take away from the interaction of classroom and experiential learning.

Community partners: What kinds of community agencies might serve as partners? Do you have specific agencies in mind? How will these community partners engage students in the learning process?

Preparation: In the classroom, how will you prepare your students for the service-learning project? Examples include lectures, readings, interviews, case studies, or papers.

Action: What types of service activities might be appropriate for your learning objectives? Approximately how many service hours will you require per semester?

Reflection: What reflection techniques or assignments will students engage in to validate learning? Examples include journals, class discussions, reflective papers, and presentations.

Evaluation: How will you, your students, and the community partner evaluate the success of the service-learning course?