Feinstein School of Education, Office of Community Service Learning
Mid Year Brief: Fall 2012

This Brief is a sample of community service learning activities of the OCSL from August 27, 2012 to January 31, 2013. Key focus areas during this time period included:

- Disseminating information and engaging teacher candidates in service
- Re-launching and deepening valued community partnerships
- Supporting faculty engagement
- Developing new systems and approaches to support candidates in service and community partnerships

Students in Service

Pre Teacher Candidates

- FNED 346: Schooling in a Democratic Society. This course introduces pre-teacher candidates to diverse classrooms by requiring a 15 hour service learning experience coordinated by FSEHD community partner, Inspiring Minds. In fall 2012, 119 students performed 1,785 hours of tutoring in Providence elementary school classrooms.

Undergraduate

- 102 FSEHD teacher candidates reported the completion of 25 volunteer service hours. Combined, these teacher candidates performed 2,550 hours of volunteer service in communities across RI. The value of their contribution to the communities is estimated at $50,362.50 (Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time)

- 4 teacher candidates served as AmeriCorps Everyday Explorers in the FSEHD partnership with Providence After School Alliance. They dedicated 416 hours to planning and implementing hands-on, inquiry-based STEM lessons with 125 middle school students in the PASA AfterZones.

- As part of Serve Rhode Island’s effort to impact underserved youth, 70 middle school students at Roger Williams and Slater Middle School received 127 hours of tutoring from 8 teacher candidates. In addition to tutoring, volunteers assisted with administrative duties in the school libraries and offices.

Graduate

- 7 M.ED in Reading candidates provided individualized reading support to Project GOAL elementary and middle school students from Central Falls.

Motivating Students in Service

- RIC Foundation board member Lou Marciano shared his service as a rotarian with two classes in early November. Students learned the impact of volunteering, the ways non-profit/non-governmental organizations work to meet some of the world’s most basic needs, and that “real happiness is helping others.”
Community Partnerships

- The FSEHD continues to expand its partnership with Providence After School Alliance (PASA). For fall 2013, 12 PED 412: Organization and Administration of Physical Education Programs students will run intramurals one out of two days per week at Nathan Bishop. The second day will be covered by the PE Club and their Faculty Advisor. There will also be an internship option at PASA headquarters for students in the Community Health and Wellness program.

- Following a successful summer of the first FSEHD/Breakthrough Providence Fellowship, the team of staff and fellow, co-presented at the Promising Practices conference where they shared the impact of teacher candidate volunteers on middle school youth. The summer fellow continued her tenure by serving as a Saturday mentor throughout the fall semester. Additional teacher candidates served as weekday tutors. The FSEHD worked with Breakthrough Providence to secure another summer fellowship for 2013.

- Rhode Island After School Plus Alliance (RIASPA) has been an integral part of the new, FSEHD BA in Youth Development program planning team. This fall, the FSEHD agreed to be the official host site of RIASPA’s statewide quarterly membership meetings. The meetings bring fifty plus afterschool professionals together to discuss quality improvement and best practices. These afterschool programs serve as volunteer sites for many teacher candidate volunteers.

Supporting Faculty Engagement

- The OCSL offers opportunities such as the RI Campus Compact Engaged Scholars Statewide Presidential Faculty Fellowship Program to faculty across campus. The fellowship assists faculty in integrating engaged scholarship and community-based learning into all aspects of their professional lives and fosters the advancement of community engagement through student learning and community-campus partnerships. Both Robyn Linde (Political Science) and Holly Dygert (Anthropology) were selected for the fellowship. Each developed and taught service learning courses that engaged 30 college students in community based learning.

New Supports and Approaches

- FSEHD Community Engagement Opportunities are now posted and continually updated by the OCYL at http://tinyurl.com/FSEHD-Engagement. Teacher candidates receive a monthly email reminder to check in.

- The Community Engagement Online Survey is issued at the end of each semester to all FSEHD partners and organizations that contacted the OCSL seeking volunteers, interns, etc.

- A formal, online FSEHD Request for Partnership is being developed that will assist the OCSL in vetting opportunities and assisting community organizations in communicating the necessary information.