

Invitation and Call for Papers for *The 1st Urban Service-Learning Symposium: Practices and Research on Service-Learning in the Urban Context*

A national symposium organized by The National Youth Leadership Council
June 26, 2008 - Saint Paul, Minnesota

The 1st Urban Service-Learning Symposium's objective is to establish mechanisms for building institutional capacity in service-learning and civic engagement activities in urban communities. The symposium will include plenary sessions and a paper and poster session.

Plenary Sessions: Lead by experts in the field of urban education and service-learning in urban communities, these sessions will give participants an opportunity to hear current trends, and learn about research and best practices underway in the field of urban service-learning.

Breakout Paper and Poster Session: An opportunity for practitioners and researchers to share work from the field.

Invitation to Participate

We invite the following individuals to consider submitting proposals.

- Practitioners currently involved in the development and implementation of service-learning programs in urban communities.
- Individuals interested in designing future programs.
- Participants from community-based organizations, K-12 and higher education institutions, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

All submissions must be received by March 31, 2008, and requirements are defined below. (*Note: You do not have to submit a proposal to attend.*)

Paper and Presentation Requirements

Papers and presentations must be one of the following formats:

1. Individual or group presentations (these sessions can include two to four persons on a panel) lasting no longer than 20 minutes; these sessions will be grouped by topical areas into panel presentations.
2. Poster presentations highlighting a service-learning class or program (can be an in-school or afterschool program).

Papers and presentations should focus on one of four sub-themes:

1. Contextualizing Service-Learning in Urban Communities

This sub-theme focuses on how service-learning is carried out in urban communities. How are activities and programs contextualized to meet the current needs of the citizens? How are participants integrated into the program, from K-12 or in higher education? How can we improve relevance and effectiveness of urban service-learning programs?

2. Building the Capacity

Recognizing the main advantages and challenges of service-learning, this sub-theme asks does service-learning need to be tailored for urban communities? If so, how should it be tailored? Share innovative approaches that can empower urban communities through service-learning programs.

3. Effective Urban Service-Learning Programs

This sub-theme seeks to define indicators of high-quality quality service-learning programs implemented in urban communities. What models have proven successful and what are the indicators of success? How can the outcomes of these programs be woven into the greater fabric of service-learning?

4. Impact of Urban Service-Learning on Communities/Education/Youth Development

In many urban/inner city communities, service-learning programs have been created to address devastating current needs. This sub-theme asks: What have been success stories and what has been the impact on youth development, educational outcomes, and community results?

Paper and poster submissions should meet the following length and style requirements:

- Poster abstracts should not exceed more than 1,000 words.
- Paper abstracts should not exceed more than 5 pages including pictures, figures, tables, and references.
- All submissions should include a cover page with the following information:
 - Title; Name of author(s); institutional affiliation; email address (es); abstract; key subject words (2-5).
- All abstracts should be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12, and should be saved in Microsoft Word format.
- Accepted poster abstracts and papers will be published in the symposium proceedings.
- Articles may be peer-reviewed for possible publication in a journal or edited book.

Submission and Review Process

Submit paper and poster abstracts via email to Nicole Webster at nsw10@psu.edu no later than March 31, 2008.

Selected authors will be notified by April 31, 2008. If you have any questions regarding the symposium or the submission of abstracts, please contact Nicole Webster at nsw10@psu.edu