In the spirit of Father Kolvenbach, the Center for Service and Community Engagement strives to link the classroom, campus and community to provide students with hands-on learning experiences while addressing unmet community needs. The 2006-2007 year brought significant growth in our work. Several highlights include:

- Supporting 84 faculty who engaged 2,766 students in 161 service-learning courses.
- Empowering students to direct many key projects including all service immersion trips, several one-day service projects, and the annual Serve Seattle Project.
- Creating a First Generation Project that mobilized Seattle University students to serve as tutors and mentors to local high school students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

Our activities over the past three years have begun to show results. The number of service-learning courses has increased by 52% since the Center's inception in 2004. The 2006 College Student Survey (CSS) reports that 76% of all Seattle University undergraduates have taken a course with a service-learning component and 70% have performed volunteer work in the past year. According to the 2006 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), Seattle University students report much higher levels than their peers at similar institutions in the development of the skills and knowledge to contribute to the welfare of their communities and solve complex real-world problems.

We have made great strides to mobilize students to address critical issues such as global warming, poverty, educational inequity, and lack of quality health care. Students are making connections between their academic coursework and their ability to make an impact in the community while gaining critical leadership skills. There are, however, many ways in which we could further expand and improve community engagement activities at Seattle University. Our major goals for 2007-2008 include expanding the number of student-led service immersions trips, deepening the quality of reflection in academic service-learning experiences, and assisting with the implementation of the University’s goal to further connect our campus community to the wider community.

Our current and future work depends on a shared vision of compassion and justice. None of what is presented in this report would be possible without our collaborative partnerships with students, faculty, staff, donors, and dozens of community agencies. Thank you to all who contributed to a very successful year.

With warm regards,

Kent Koth
Director, Center for Service and Community Engagement
About the Center

Founded in 2004, the Center for Service and Community Engagement is a dynamic outgrowth of Seattle University’s Jesuit Catholic dedication “to educating the whole person, to professional formation, and to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.” The Center serves as the main entry point for students, faculty, and staff who want to serve and learn in the community. The Center also acts as the focal point for community-based organizations and government institutions seeking University support to address unmet community needs. The Center encourages all forms of community engagement including direct service, philanthropy, activism, political participation, social entrepreneurship, community-based research, and advocacy.

Vision Statement: Drawing upon the words of Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach S.J., the Center for Service and Community Engagement recognizes that “when the heart is touched by direct experience, the mind may be challenged to change.” With this in mind, the Center’s vision is to build a seamless web of interconnection between the educational programs of Seattle University and the needs and assets of the wider community. In doing so, the Center will inspire the next generation of reflective, creative, compassionate, and just leaders.

Mission: The Center for Service and Community Engagement connects the campus and the wider community through sustained partnerships in order to deepen student learning, create a culture of service, and promote a more just and humane world.

Year in Review

Two main goals emerge from the Center’s mission and vision: (1) To develop reflective, creative, compassionate, and just Seattle University students and (2) To foster positive action and improvement within the campus and the wider community. To pursue these goals, the Center works collaboratively with campus and community partners to implement programs in four areas. Below is a brief overview of each programmatic area and 2006-2007 activities.

Community Partnerships · With the needs of the community as its priority, the Center develops significant and sustainable community partnerships with a particular focus on neighborhoods adjacent to the University. 2006-2007 activities:

- Mobilized students in service-learning courses to provide over 40,000 hours of service to 94 community agencies.
- Expanded the use of eServe, a comprehensive web application that facilitates coordination and tracking of service-learning opportunities for students, community agencies, and faculty.
- Hosted representatives from 20 community agencies for a lunch and discussion on how to strengthen community partnerships.
- Created the “First Generation Project” that mobilized 19 Seattle University students to tutor and mentor local high school students who will be first generation college students.
- Received AmeriCorps position from Washington Campus Compact and a three year $98,000 grant from College Spark to support the First Generation Project.
- Organized the Third Annual Spirit of Community Celebration that brought together 200 students, staff, faculty, and community members to celebrate efforts and accomplishments in community engagement.
**Academic Service-Learning** · The Center promotes the connection between academic learning and community engagement by supporting faculty, students, and community partners involved in service-learning courses. 2006-2007 activities:

- Coordinated placements, community meetings, and classroom presentations for 37 faculty who engaged 1,238 students in 59 service-learning courses.
- Collaborated with the Pigott-McConne Chair, Le Xuan Hy, to attain a $10,000 grant from Washington Campus Compact to support faculty development of reflection components in service-learning courses.
- Partnered with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to co-sponsor three lunches that engaged 40 faculty in the exploration of difficult issues that can arise from service-learning experiences.
- Supported six faculty participants in the Academic Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program.
- Partnered with the Office of the Registrar to coordinate a service-learning course designation process.
- Taught LBST 300: Leadership for Community Engagement, a five credit course exploring the ethical and practical implications of leading in the community.

**Student Leadership through Service** · Recognizing the developmental process of leadership formation, the Center involves students in a variety of intentionally designed co-curricular projects to help them become more effective at leading in the community. 2006-2007 activities:

- Engaged 14 students in the intensive year-long Student Leaders for the Common Good Program supported by a $15,000 grant from Shinnyo-en Foundation.
- Engaged 36 students in four student-led service immersion trips focusing on issues such as immigration, homelessness, and Native American culture.
- Partnered with the Office of Student Activities to expand the number of participants in the quarterly Labor of Love service projects from 85 in 2005-2006 to 148 in 2006-2007.
- Coordinated the Serve Seattle project engaging 350 students, faculty, and staff in a day of service during Welcome Week.
- Offered support and advice to student-led service organizations such as Alpha Phi Omega, Beta Alpha Psi, Black Student Union, Calcutta Club, Circle K, Teams for Humanitarian Relief, T.T. Minor Science and Math Afterschool Program, and the Student Bar Association.
- Received generous gift from Carol Ann and Karl Barnickol to expand Center staffing for student leadership activities.

**Campus Collaboration** · The Center promotes communication and collaboration between campus offices and departments in order to strengthen the University’s ability to positively impact the wider community. 2006-2007 activities:

- Partnered with the Career Development Center to sponsor the Idealist Non-Profit and Volunteer Fair that offered 600 students and community members a chance to meet with representatives from the Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps, and other organizations.
- Generated a listserv to communicate service and justice opportunities to over 1,000 students.
- Partnered with the Associated Students of Seattle University to host a volunteer fair for 16 agencies to share volunteer opportunities with students during the annual Street Fair.
- Expanded the Center’s website to offer links to campus and community resources.
- Coordinated monthly meetings between campus offices that are involved in service and justice work in the local community.
**Center Highlights**

**In September,** 350 students, faculty, and staff removed non-native plants, built trails, and restored native habitats as a part of the annual Serve Seattle project during Welcome Week. In addition, 148 students participated in one-day Labor of Love projects throughout the year. The Center sponsors these events to foster relationships on campus and in the community and to encourage students to make consistent and deeper commitments to service and justice work. Co-sponsors of these events include Housing and Residence Life, New Student and Family Programs, Student Activities, Campus Ministry, and Magis.

**In October,** 14 students participated in a weekend retreat and leadership training for the Student Leaders for the Common Good Program, supported by a gift from Carol Ann and Karl Barnickol as well as grants from the Shinnyo-en Foundation and Washington Campus Compact’s Students in Service. The students provided 3,000 hours of community service, attended bi-weekly workshops, and took primary leadership responsibility for several Center programs that mobilized hundreds of students to serve and learn in the community. SLCG 06-07 members: Emily Besancon, Jean-Marie Callan, Alicia Claiborne, Laura Foster, Nina Holtsberry, Danica Blanca Iglopas, Jennifer Innes, Hillary Kinzel-Grubbs, Michael Leigh, Caroline Leithner, Geralyn Mangahas, Jonathan Meade, Matt Salazar, and Shannon Tho.

**In January,** the First Generation Project became the Center’s newest initiative. This project mobilized 19 Seattle University students to tutor and mentor local high school students who will be the first in their families to attend college. Each week teams of students served at four locations including College Access Now at Garfield High School, Upward Bound at Franklin High School, Treehouse, and YMCA Black Achievers. Washington Campus Compact provided the Center with an AmeriCorps position to staff the project. The First Generation Project represents one of several strategic initiatives the Center is pursuing to deepen the positive impact that Seattle University has in the community.
In February, Dr. Mako Fitts and Dr. Gary Perry facilitated a service-learning project exploring issues of gentrification in Seattle’s Central District. During winter quarter, students examined census data and conducted dozens of interviews with community leaders as a means of exploring issues of housing, culture, public health, employment, and social services. The students subsequently created a State of the Central District report which will be shared with community leaders. These project-based service-learning courses are models of an effective approach to linking the classroom to the community. The number of project-based service-learning courses supported by the Center increased from 8 in 2005-2006 to 19 in 2006-2007.

In March, 12 students and one staff member participated in a six-day service immersion trip to Eastern Washington. The theme “Dignity, Justice and Work: Understanding the Immigrant Experience” allowed students to explore immigration issues and the rights of migrant farm workers. Hosted by the Holy Names Sisters in Wapato, students met with several community leaders and worked alongside laborers at family-owned Breetje Apple Orchards in Prescott. Additional service immersions in 2006-2007 included “Home for the Holidays” and “Northwest Indian Life.” In all, the Center engaged 36 students in three week-long regional service immersions and one overnight New Student Service Excursion.

In May, Kyle Sims of Asian Counseling and Referral Service received a Community Partner Award at the third annual Spirit of Community Celebration. For several years Kyle has skillfully connected students from placement-based service-learning courses with ACRS, has been a guest speaker in several courses, and served on the Center’s Advisory Board. Kyle is an example of the strong leadership provided by staff from over 60 community agencies that partnered with the Center this year. Other recipients of Spirit of Community Awards include: Bessie Burton Sullivan Skilled Nursing Facility (community partner); Mako Fitts and Gary Perry (faculty); Joanne Hinton (staff); and Grant Douglas, Yuzu Ichihara, Joseph Seia, and Jackie Thomas (students).
Center Staff

Kent Koth, Director • Victoria Rucker, Community Partnership Program Director • Sarya Sok, Administrative Assistant • Alexandra Davis, Program Coordinator and Graduate Assistant • Kathleen Pinard, Program Coordinator and Graduate Assistant • Chris Mulvey, Program Coordinator and AmeriCorps • Allison Kunichika, Student Assistant

Advisory Board

Evelyn Allen, Catholic Community Services • Jeffrey Anderson, College of Education • Philip Barclift, College of Arts and Sciences • Emily Besancon, Undergraduate Student • Richard Cunningham, School of Theology and Ministry • Jeffrey Gilles, College of Science and Engineering • Therese Huston, Center for the Excellence in Teaching and Learning • Rob Kelly, Student Development, ex-officio • Aimee Khuu, Undergraduate Student • Barbara Parker, Albers School of Business and Economics • Ryan Schmid, Graduate Student • Kyle Sims, Asian Counseling and Referral Service • Aileah Slepski, YWCA Seattle Emergency Housing • Jane Spalding, University Advancement • Erin Swezey, Magis: Alumni Committed for Mission

Supporters

Carol Ann and Karl Barnickol • College Spark • Corporation for National and Community Service • Shinnyo-en Foundation • Washington Campus Compact

Community Partners

Asian Counseling and Referral Service • Atlantic Street Center • Bessie Burton Sullivan, Activities Department • Cascade People’s Center • Central Area Motivation Program • Childhaven • Children’s Literacy Project • Church of Mary Magdalene • College Access Now! at Garfield High School • Community Coalition for Environmental Justice • Discovery Park • Earth Corps • El Centro de la Raza • ElderHealth NW • First Place • Gethsemane Lutheran Church • Gilda’s Club • Girl Scouts-Totem Council • Interaction Transition • Jewish Family Service • King County Juvenile Detention Services • L’Arche Noah Sealth • Legacy House, Senior Companion Program • Lifelong AIDS Alliance • Literacy Source • Noel House • Northwest Harvest • Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets • People for Puget Sound • Providence Hospitality House • Providence Vincent House • Real Change • Refugee Women’s Alliance • Rotary Boys and Girls Club • Saint Francis House • Saint James Family Kitchen • Saint Martin’s on Westlake • Saint Mary’s Food Bank • SCIDPDA Nutrition Services • Seattle Tilth • Seattle Young People’s Project • Seattle Youth Garden Works • Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission • Treehouse • Upward Bound at Franklin High School • Volunteer Chore Services (Catholic Community Services) • Washington Environmental Council • Washington Toxics Coalition • Wintonia • Yesler Terrace Computer Lab • Youth Tutoring Program (Catholic Community Services) • YMCA Black Achievers Program • YWCA Seattle Emergency Housing

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