We all have a hunger to connect with others in order to work for a more just and humane society. Yet, all too often our daily patterns of busyness and fear of the unknown lead to isolation and a hesitation to engage in community. This is particularly true in the increasingly fast-paced environment of a college campus. In response to these trends, the Center for Service and Community Engagement (CSCE) provides carefully structured opportunities to connect for the classroom, campus, and community. Through this connection we have a chance to slow down, listen, learn and serve.

This report provides an overview of the many ways that CSCE promotes connection. As we complete our fourth year in operation, we have many successes to report. Highlights include:

- A 92% increase in service-learning courses since the Center's inception in 2004. Last year, 96 faculty engaged 2,962 students in 196 service-learning courses providing over 45,000 hours of service to more than 60 community organizations.
- Over $125,000 in grants and gifts attained by the Center in order to expand SU's community engagement efforts in the areas of student leadership and service-learning.
- Participation of over 90 faculty, staff, and community partners in eight lunch-time discussions, a service-learning symposium, a regional conference, and two multi-day local immersions.

While there is much to celebrate, we have ambitious goals for the coming year which we hope will address several key challenges. These challenges and goals include:

- Expanding efforts to engage students in year-long activities such as the First Generation Project and the new Jumpstart Program. The Center will look to leverage more consistent University support to help our community partners address critical issues such as educational equity, environmental justice, and the crisis of hunger and homelessness.
- Helping faculty and staff improve the quality of service-learning pedagogy and practice. This process requires cultural competency, awareness of the ethical issues arising from community engagement, and a thoughtful approach to connecting learning goals to service opportunities. With this in mind, the Center will continue to expand the number of workshops, conferences, and immersion opportunities for faculty and staff in 2008-2009.

Our effort to connect the campus, community, and classroom depends on dozens of partnerships. None of the results and stories presented in this report would be possible without the involvement of hundreds of students, staff, faculty, and community partners. Thank you for your commitment to engage. May we all continue to look for new ways to connect with each other in order to pursue a more just and humane world.

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 2007-2008 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. 2007-2008 activities:

- Provided 60 community organizations with over 45,000 hours of student support through placement and project-based service-learning courses.
- Engaged 20 faculty with 30 community partners in a one-day symposium focused on best practices in service-learning partnerships.
- Partnered with three local organizations to offer First Generation Project that mobilized 20 SU students to provide over 2,000 hours of tutoring and mentoring to local high school students.
- Received AmeriCorps position from Washington Campus Compact and a $32,000 grant from College Spark to support the First Generation Project.
- Received $60,000 renewable grant from Jumpstart to offer new program to train college students as reading tutors for pre-school children from low-income families.
- Hosted a fall quarter luncheon for 35 community partners to network with each other and explore further connections to the University.
- Organized 4th Annual Spirit of Community Celebration bringing together 220 students, faculty, staff, and community partners to celebrate campus and community partnerships.
Year in Review (continued)

**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. 2007-2008 activities:

- Coordinated community partnerships and eServe online tracking system for 50 placement-based and 24 project-based service-learning courses.
- Sponsored seven service-learning workshops and lunch discussions for 37 faculty.
- Offered two multi-day immersions engaging 23 faculty and staff in an exploration of the Little Saigon neighborhood of Seattle.
- Sent a team of 19 faculty and staff to the Campus Compact Continuums of Service Conference in Portland, Oregon.
- Received $15,000 Learn and Serve America sub-grant from Washington Campus Compact to support faculty workshops, faculty/staff immersions, and Continuums Conference attendees.
- Maintained service-learning course designation process in partnership with Office of Registrar.
- Taught one section of LBST 300: Leadership for Community Engagement, a five-credit course exploring 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. 2007-2008 activities:

- Engaged 16 students in intensive year-long Student Leaders for the Common Good Program supported by a $15,000 grant from the Shinnyo-en Foundation.
- Mentored two students in Shinnyo-en Summer Fellowship for Vocational Exploration.
- Sponsored student-led Serve Seattle Project for 325 first-year students.
- Added two additional service immersion trips to bring current total to six. Number of participants increased from 36 in 2006-2007 to 65 in 2007-2008.
- Sponsored a student-led “Labor of Love” group service day once per quarter. The total number of participants increased from 148 in 2006-2007 to 176 in 2007-2008.
- Supported Department of Athletics effort to form partnership with Rotary Boys and Girls Club.
- Enrolled 15 SU students in Washington Campus Compact’s Students in Service Program which awarded them a total of $15,000 in AmeriCorps Education Awards.
- Served as Advisor/s to student organizations Alpha Phi Omega, Calcutta Club, Circle K, Teams for Humanitarian Relief and Up ‘Till Dawn.
- Offered five events for 50 students interested in pursuing post-graduate service opportunities such as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps.

**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. 2007-2008 activities:

- Updated and expanded website to offer links to campus and community resources for community, faculty, staff, and students.
- Hosted a Volunteer Fair for 10 agencies as a part of the University’s Street Fair.
- Co-Sponsored Idealist Volunteer and Service Fair with Career Development Center.
- Created new student postcard for marketing Center programs.
- Emailed weekly “justice and service” opportunities to over 1,000 students.
- Refined risk release and liability procedures in order to appropriately respond to new and evolving service and service-learning activities.
Professor Claire Garoutte’s Documentary Photography for Social Change class provides a strong example of the Center’s collaborative efforts to link campus, classroom, and community. The course is an examination of the impact of photography as a vehicle for social, economic, and/or political change. During winter quarter, the Center worked with Professor Garoutte to engage her 18 student photographers with local service agencies. The students documented the agencies’ daily challenges and successes, while learning to bridge the gap between social issues and photographic possibilities. Mary’s Place, a local agency serving the needs of women who are homeless, was one of these organizations. Student photographers helped to document the agency’s move to a new location and spent time listening to women’s stories and building trusting relationships before taking photos. Presented below are several of the students’ photos as well as reflections from the overall experience.

“What touched us the most was the fact the students didn’t come in armed with cameras to complete an assignment. They came in with their hearts and their desire to be in relationship with the women and children of Mary's Place. The result was they gave each of us the gifts we all long for... love and acceptance. They made us feel like queens when we were photographed. They loved us for who we were and as a result beautiful relationships grew out of fabulous photographs.”
- Marty Hartman, Mary’s Place Program Director

“The students, working within non-profits, learn many things: Professional Photographic Practices (very challenging for them under often difficult shooting situations), they also learn about the challenges faced by the non-profits and their clients - and most importantly - they see how these photographs can be used by the non-profits to make a real difference, to instigate change and to increase public awareness.”
- Claire Garoutte, Assistant Professor of Arts

“At first, I was intimidated by simply volunteering at the center let alone taking photographs. I wondered who was I... to be creating a document of these women’s lives? Would the women feel that I was taking advantage of them with my photography? Would I be able to learn enough about the clientele of Mary’s place to create an honest and meaningful statement? As the weeks passed my fear of having little to relate to the women slowly subsided and I realized that as women we had a wealth of commonalities.”
- Theresa Thelen-Clemmons, student photographer
Responding to requests for greater interaction between community partners and faculty who offer service-learning courses, the Center hosted a spring **Service-Learning Symposium**. Over 50 faculty members and community partners participated in discussions, workshops, and forums. For faculty members, this was an opportunity to meet volunteer coordinators from a variety of agencies, make new connections for future courses, and hear about service-learning from the perspective of our community partners. Community partners gained further training as co-educators of service-learning students and learned about helping students meet the academic goals of their course through service. The event provided both an introduction to service-learning pedagogy as well as an exploration of best practices in working with students. Both faculty and community partners expressed appreciation for the opportunity to dialogue with each other.

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**Center Highlights: Developing Partnerships**

Our first two **Faculty/Staff local immersions**, modeled on the highly successful Nicaragua Immersion Experience, engaged 23 faculty and staff in an exploration of current issues facing Seattle’s Little Saigon district. Over the course of three days, participants visited temples, churches, non-profit agencies, and local businesses. Activities and discussions were designed to help faculty and staff learn about the needs and assets of this community. Dialogue with community organizers, business owners, and religious leaders helped participants learn more about the issues they hope to address through service-learning courses and community-based research. The group was hosted for meals by several Buddhist temples, a Vietnamese senior lunch program, and an immigrant farming family, creating opportunities for in-depth conversation and cultural immersion. Through interaction with non-profit agencies, faculty members gained insight into the experiences of their service-learning students. Summing up her experience of the immersion, professor Catherine Punsalan observed, “The immersion program was a wonderful experience. The opportunity for reflections with colleagues who share a passion for social justice was truly life giving and inspiring for me. I got more out of the experience than I could have anticipated.”
Center Staff

Kent Koth, Director • Victoria Rucker, Community Partnership Program Director • Kathleen Pinard, Program Coordinator for Student Leadership through Service • David Henry, S.J., Assistant Program Coordinator • Elizabeth O’Brien, Administrative Assistant • Alexandra Davis, Program Coordinator and Graduate Assistant • Alicia Claiborne, Program Coordinator and AmeriCorps • Hannah Hostetter and Allison Kunichika, Student Assistants

Advisory Board

Philip Barclift, College of Arts and Sciences • Robin Chiles, Passages Northwest • Richard Cunningham, School of Theology and Ministry • Jeffrey Gilles, College of Science and Engineering • Michele Murray, Student Development • Fiona Robertson, Albers School of Business and Economics • Diana Singleton, Access to Justice Institute • 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 Washington • Corporation for National and Community Service Learn and Serve America • Jumpstart • Shinnyo-en Foundation • Washington Campus Compact

Community Partners

Asian Counseling and Referral Service • Atlantic Street Center • Cascade People’s Center • Central Area Motivation Program • Childhaven • Children’s Literacy Project • Church of Mary Magdalene • College Access Now • Community Lunch on Capital Hill • Discovery Park • Earth Corps • El Centro de la Raza • ElderHealth NW • First Place • Gethsemane Lutheran Church • Girl Scouts of Western Washington • Helping Link • Hilltop House • Interaction Transition • Jewish Family Service • King County Juvenile Detention Services • L’Arche Noah Sealth • Legacy House, Senior Companion Program • Lifelong AIDS Alliance • Literacy Source • Nature Consortium • Neighborhood House • 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 Mary’s Food Bank • SCIDPDA Nutrition Services • Seattle Tilth • Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission • Seattle Youth Garden Works • Summit at First Hill • Spruce Street SCRC • Treehouse • Upward Bound • Volunteer Chore Services (Catholic Community Services) • Washington Environmental Council • Wintonia • Yesler Terrace Computer Lab • Youth Tutoring Program (Catholic Community Services) • YMCA Black Achievers Program • YWCA Seattle Emergency Housing