Seattle University’s mission and values speak to its commitment “to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.” In order to pursue this mission the University places a major emphasis on linking classroom and co-curricular learning with service and justice opportunities in the wider community. In 2004, Seattle University President Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., founded the Center for Service and Community Engagement (CSCE) to lead this effort. Since its inception, CSCE has pursued several key strategies to connect the classroom, campus, and community.

- CSCE’s support and advocacy for academic service-learning has led to a 111% growth in the number of service-learning courses offered at the University since 2004. In 2008-2009, 102 faculty members engaged 3,915 students through 224 courses with a service-learning component.
- CSCE’s co-curricular programs for students have mobilized hundreds of students to serve, learn and lead in the community outside of their formal coursework. In 2008-2009, CSCE continued its successful service and leadership programs while launching Jumpstart, a year-long program engaging SU students as reading tutors for pre-school children from low-income families.
- CSCE’s focus on making a positive community impact has also made a difference in the lives of many of Seattle’s most vulnerable citizens. CSCE estimates that just through the 2008-2009 service-learning courses, students contributed 60,000 hours of service to the community.

All of this work has contributed to several noteworthy distinctions for Seattle University including recognition on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. As CSCE completes its fifth year in operation, there is much to reflect on, learn from, and celebrate. The following report provides an overview of our present activities, our results, and our plans for the future. We are thankful for the hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and community partners who have contributed to our collective success. Together we continue to do great work.

Yet, there is still much more to be done. Just as Seattle University has its sights set on competing at the premier intercollegiate level in Division-1 Athletics, so too should we pursue the premier level for community engagement. Indeed, President Sundborg recently stated, “Seattle University has the potential of being a national model for community engagement.” To attain this level will not be easy. It will call for creatively thinking out of the box of traditional campus and community relationships. It will stretch the traditional academic enterprise to encompass new approaches to teaching, research and service. It will require a commitment of additional resources from the University and other sources. Finally, it will call upon hundreds of faculty, staff, students and community partners to pursue a shared vision of a just and humane world. If successful, Seattle University will truly become Seattle’s University.

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 tradition. 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 form and empower leaders for a just and humane world, 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 2008-2009 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. 2008-2009 activities:

- Provided community organizations with nearly 60,000 hours of student support through placement and project-based service-learning courses.
- Engaged 59 faculty members, community partners, and service-learning colleagues in a one-day symposium titled, “Exploring Our Partnerships.”
- Received AmeriCorps position from Washington Campus Compact and a $32,723 grant from College Spark to support the First Generation Project. Partnered with four local organizations to mobilize 19 students to provide over 2,500 hours of tutoring and mentoring to local high school students.
- Received a $57,140 renewable grant from Jumpstart to offer new program to train college students as reading tutors for pre-school children from low-income families. Recruited, trained, and supported 26 students, who served over 7,800 hours in five pre-school classrooms.
- Hosted a fall quarter luncheon where over 40 community partners from 30 organizations networked with each other and explored further connections to the University.
- Organized 5th Annual Spirit of Community Celebration bringing together 250 students, faculty, staff, and community partners to celebrate campus and community partnerships.
- Partnered with Student Financial Services to increase the percentage of students participating in the Federal community service work-study program from 4.5% to 13.9%.
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. 2008-2009 activities:

- Coordinated community partnerships and support for 40 placement-based and 18 project-based service-learning courses.
- Sponsored eight service-learning workshops and lunch discussions for 69 faculty members.
- Offered three multi-day immersions engaging 30 faculty and staff in exploring issues of poverty, youth justice, and faith-based humanitarianism in the local community.
- Sponsored 16 faculty and staff members to attend the Campus Compact Continuums of Service Conference hosted in Seattle.
- Received a $15,000 Learn and Serve America sub-grant from Washington Campus Compact to support faculty development of high quality service-learning experiences.
- Maintained service-learning course designation process in partnership with Office of Registrar.

**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. 2008-2009 activities:

- Engaged 18 students in intensive year-long Student Leaders for the Common Good Program, supported by a generous grant from the Shinnyo-en Foundation.
- Mentored three students, who each served 240 hours at a local organization, in the Shinnyo-en Summer Fellowship for Vocational Exploration.
- Sponsored student-led Serve Seattle Project for 350 first-year students, contributing approximately 1,600 hours of habitat restoration work at eleven city parks and green spaces.
- Coordinated six student-led immersion trips for 54 participants.
- Sponsored a student-led “Labor of Love” group service day once per quarter engaging 225 students in 900 hours of service to 15 organizations.
- Enrolled 8 students in *Students in Service*, a Washington Campus Compact program that awarded them over $8,000 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.
- Supported two student leaders’ efforts to recruit 25 student volunteers to teach third, fourth, and fifth graders science concepts through hands-on labs at T.T. Minor Elementary School and Bailey-Gatzert Elementary School.

**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. 2008-2009 activities:

- Provided key leadership in the planning effort to develop a University-wide Community Engagement Initiative. As part of this effort, the Center hosted a faculty/staff forum for approximately 65 participants to discuss community engagement and campus-wide collaboration.
- Updated and expanded our website to offer links to campus and community resources for community, faculty, staff, and students.
- Sponsored two Advocacy Skills Training weekend workshops in partnership with the Office of the Provost and Magis: Alumni Committed for Mission. The workshops mobilized 45 students, faculty, staff and alumni participants to develop a shared understanding of social justice advocacy.
- Collaborated with Career Services and Campus Ministry to offer and promote post-graduate service information to students.
- Emailed a weekly “Justice and Service” list of volunteer opportunities to over 1,000 students.
Highlights

Jumpstart Launched in Fall 2008

In fall 2008, CSCE launched the Seattle University Jumpstart program with a $57,140 renewable grant from Jumpstart, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in America enters school prepared to succeed. Through the Jumpstart model, motivated undergraduate students, called Corps Members, are paired with preschool children in caring and supportive one-to-one relationships for an entire school year.

In July 2008, CSCE hired Aileah Slepski, to lead SU’s Jumpstart Program as a full-time site manager. As a former staff person at the YWCA East Fir Shelter, Slepski brought a lot of strength and experience in working with underserved populations. She also has prior work experience with college students as the shelter has hosted SU service-learning students for many years. “I was nervous, while at the same time very excited and I had a lot of goals for the program,” Slepski recalled. Throughout the summer and early fall, she worked to build partnerships and recruit students. By October, five Team Leaders and 21 Corps Members were serving as tutors with preschool children from low-income families in five classrooms in three Seattle public schools: Dunlap Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Elementary, and Brighton Elementary.

As a team, the students interact with the same preschool classroom year-round working to build language, literacy, social and initiative skills. “The children love the students to be around,” commented Ms. Saudas Sop, Pre-school teacher, YMCA at Thurgood Marshall Elementary. “They are always asking, ‘Is it a Jumpstart day?’”

In addition to 300 hours of required time in the classroom, Corps Members and Team Leaders participated in approximately 25 trainings—ranging from team-building to literacy fundamentals. Combined, the 26 students contributed over 7,800 hours of service.

“The year, overall, was a great success,” said Slepski. “By the end, I was sad to see the students go but so proud of them for all they had accomplished. It was amazing to watch college students grow and affect the lives of future generations.”

In light of this success, Seattle University’s Jumpstart program will expand from five classrooms to eight, engaging 40 Corps Members in 2009-2010. In addition, the program will also add a volunteer coordinator position to plan and organize service projects in the community. SU will be working more closely with the University of Washington Jumpstart program to collaborate on initiatives and trainings.

Looking into the future, Slepski’s hope is that “we have another productive year with full recruitment of passionate students, and I look forward to increasing the number of children impacted.”
Academic year 2008-2009 marked the Center for Service and Community Engagement’s fifth anniversary, culminating in a commemorative 5th Annual Spirit of Community Celebration on May 28, 2009. Nearly 250 students, community partners, faculty, staff, and alumni joined CSCE to celebrate and recognize the many successes of the Center, and the many people who have made those successes possible.

In particular, CSCE offered special recognition to one faculty member and two students who have played significant roles in the Center’s growth during these formative years. Presented with Founders Awards were faculty member, Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, and graduating students, Danica Blanca Iglopas and Geralyn Mangahas.

Through their inspiration, commitment, persistence, humility and enduring leadership, these three individuals have contributed greatly to the success of the Center and to Seattle University’s effort to connect with the community.

Student Founders: Danica Blanca Iglopas & Geralyn Mangahas

Danica Blanca Iglopas and Geralyn (Gerri) Mangahas, best friends and schoolmates, left their families and homes in Guam to attend Seattle University in the fall of 2005. They were unable to return home during their first winter break. Mangahas saw a table tent in the dining hall advertising a winter break service immersion in Seattle and was drawn to the theme Home for the Holidays. When Mangahas decided to participate in the immersion, Iglopas signed up also. This immersion became one of the defining moments of their college careers and set the course for their future work in leadership and service.

Iglopas and Mangahas have been trailblazers of the Center’s co-curricular service and leadership programs. In addition to participating in the first Home for the Holidays immersion and the second year of the Student Leaders for the Common Good program, they helped to launch the First Generation Project (2006) and Jumpstart Program (2008), which provides academic support to low-income students in the local community.

Through their participation in the Center’s programs, Gerri and Danica have come to understand service as a mutually beneficial relationship, which Gerri describes through the African concept of community-based identity called ubuntu: ‘We are, therefore I am.’ For the past four years, they have gifted the Center with their wisdom, laughter, and love. They will be deeply missed next year.

Facultv Founder: Dr. Jeffrey Anderson

For almost two decades Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, Professor of Education, has led an effort to expand the use of academic service-learning at Seattle University. By creating and directing the Academic Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, Dr. Anderson has worked with 51 faculty members from 24 disciplines to develop courses with a service-learning component. He also served on the planning committee to create the Center for Service and Community Engagement and was the first chair of the Center’s Advisory Board. For many years, Dr. Anderson has waged a quiet, persistent, and at times solitary campaign to expand the use of academic service-learning among SU faculty, in order to further connect teaching at SU to the Jesuit Catholic ideal of justice.
Facts and Figures

The Center for Service and Community Engagement draws upon University surveys and a number of internal evaluations to measure progress from year to year. These data points also enable CSCE to tell the story of how community engagement at Seattle University compares to other institutions. This process is crucial in understanding the “big picture” of CSCE’s work and Seattle University’s progress in making community engagement an important feature of the campus experience. Key findings include:

**STUDENTS**
- **76%** of all undergraduates report taking a course with a service-learning component and **70%** report performing volunteer work in the past year. Compared to Seattle University’s peer institutions, a significantly higher percentage of Seattle University students report taking a course with a service-learning component. (CSS 2006)
- **33%** of the undergraduates who reported that they had taken a service-learning course continued to serve at the same organization after their course ended (State of Student Survey 2008).
- Seattle University students report much higher levels than their peers at similar institutions in their perception that Seattle University “contributes to the welfare of your community.” (NSSE 2008)
- Compared to students attending other Jesuit Institutions, Seattle University students report higher levels in several key community engagement indicators including Seattle University’s role in (1) “increasing your awareness of the relationship between global and local concerns,” (2) “actively working to further social justice,” and (3) “ability to look critically at society and its institutions.” (NSSE Consortium 2008)
- In the 2008 Eduventures study of undergraduates at 25 colleges and universities, Seattle University ranked first in students’ belief “in a process whereby an individual and/or group become responsibly connected to the community and to society through some activity.”

**FACULTY**
- **86%** of Seattle University faculty and staff think that this institution actively contributes to the community.
- **71%** of Seattle University faculty and staff feel encouraged to participate in community service activities.
(CSU Human Resources Faculty Staff Satisfaction Survey 2009)

**ALUMNI**
- **57%** reported making a significant time commitment to service after graduation. This is particularly noteworthy since a recent national survey noted that only **26%** of adults volunteered during the past year. (SU Alumni Survey 2009)

For the second consecutive year Seattle University appears on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. [http://www.learnandserve.gov](http://www.learnandserve.gov)
Looking to the Future

CSCE has high hopes for significantly expanding its initiatives as a way to advance the University's mission of "empowering leaders for a just and humane world" and enhancing the quantity and quality of service the University provides to the wider community. Several key goals for 2009-2010 include:

1. **Support the development of a University-wide Community Engagement Initiative.**
   In January 2009, President Sundborg charged a committee representing all schools, colleges, and divisions of Seattle University with developing a plan for a long-term university-wide community engagement initiative focusing on youth living in Central and Southeast Seattle. CSCE staff played a key role in facilitating this planning process. In June 2009, a plan was presented to the Provost, Senior Vice President and President for review. CSCE looks forward to supporting the implementation of the Initiative which is anticipated to begin in fall 2009.

2. **Continue to expand use of academic service-learning.**
   Currently 76% of all undergraduate students and 39% of all graduate students report taking a course with a service-learning component. In addition, 39% of undergraduate programs and 29% of graduate programs currently offer a course with a service-learning component. With a goal of continuing to expand the use of academic service-learning, in 2009-2010, CSCE will conduct outreach to ten faculty from ten departments not currently offering a service-learning course.

3. **Support community-based research projects.**
   Faculty interest in community-based research continues to grow. For example in March 2009, 40 faculty attended a lunch-time workshop on community-based research. In addition, 65% of faculty responding to an April 2009 Campus Compact survey expressed interest in incorporating community-based research into their course's and/or their scholarship. In 2009-2010, CSCE plans to offer several additional faculty development programs focusing on the process and practice of community-based research. In addition, the Center will continue to identify potential community partners interested in working with faculty on community-based research projects.

4. **Expand opportunities for students to serve outside of academic coursework.**
   To fully "empower leaders for a just and humane world" requires students to take ownership of their experiences and serve in the community outside of their academic coursework. The University is making some progress in this area. For example, the average response rate to the question, "Have you done or do you plan to do community service work or volunteer work before graduating?" increased from 61% to 76% among seniors during the past four years (NSSE 2004 and NSSE 2008). In order to increase these numbers further in 2009-2010, CSCE will develop additional strategies and activities to engage more students in student-led projects outside of the academic curriculum.
Center Staff

Kelly Benkert, Program Coordinator and Graduate Assistant • Carly Cannell, Assistant to the Director • David Henry, S.J., Assistant Program Coordinator • Hannah Hostetter, Student Assistant • Kent Koth, Director • Elizabeth O’Brien, Service-Learning Coordinator • Kathleen Pinard, Program Coordinator for Student Leadership through Service • Victoria Rucker, Associate Director • Aileah Slepski, Jumpstart Program Coordinator • Carlito Umali, Program Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member

Advisory Board

Philip Barclift, College of Arts and Sciences • Barbara Dolby, University Advancement • 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 • 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 • Seattle University Mission Fund • Shinnyo-en Foundation • Washington Campus Compact

Community Partners

Alder Academy • Asian Counseling and Referral Service • Atlantic Street Center • BABES Network—YWCA • Cascade People’s Center • Central Area Motivation Program • Childhaven • Children’s Literacy Project • Church of Mary Magdalene • College Access Now • Community Lunch on Capitol Hill • Compass Center • Discovery Park • Earth Corps • Earth Ministry • El Centro de la Raza • ElderHealth NW • First Place • The Food Bank @ St. Mary’s • Gethsemane Lutheran Church • Gilda’s Club • Girl Scouts of Western Washington • Heart of America Northwest • 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 • Passages Northwest • 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 • St. Francis House • St. James Cathedral Kitchen • St. Mary’s Food Bank • SCIDPDA Nutrition Services • Seattle Tilth • Seattle Youth Garden Works • Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission • Spruce Street SCRC • The Summit at First Hill • Treehouse • Upward Bound • Urban League Scholars Program • Volunteer Chore Services (CCS) • Washington Environmental Council • Washington Trails Association • Wintonia • Yesler Terrace Computer Lab • Youth Tutoring Program (Catholic Community Services) • YMCA Black Achievers Program • YouthCare’s Orion Center • YWCA Seattle Emergency Housing

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