In recent years Seattle University has expanded its commitment “to empower leaders for a more just and humane world.” One of the University’s main strategies to pursue this vision has become the Seattle University Youth Initiative. This Initiative will unite the University with the wider community to support local youth and families while strengthening the University’s educational programs.

Over the past year, Center for Service and Community Engagement (CSCE) staff took on more of a formal role in guiding the Youth Initiative planning and implementation process. Coupling this effort with the Center’s existing portfolio of academic service-learning and co-curricular service programs made for a busy and invigorating year. Significant highlights from the 2009-2010 academic year include:

- CSCE led the planning effort for the Seattle University Youth Initiative by engaging over 1,200 campus and community members in dozens of forums and other events, including a day-long conference that brought together over 300 people to offer specific ideas for the Initiative.

- CSCE continued to partner with faculty and community partners to expand the use of service-learning as a pedagogical strategy. In 2009-2010, 101 faculty engaged 3,928 students in 244 courses with a service-learning component. This represents a 112% growth in service-learning courses since 2004.

- CSCE continued to expand and deepen its programs for students to learn, lead and serve in the community. CSCE trained and mobilized 30 student leaders to engage over 700 students in one-day and year-long service activities that provided 20,000 hours of service to the community.

CSCE is at a point of significant transition and growth. In June 2010, we bid farewell to our friend and long-time CSCE Associate Director, Victoria Rucker. In October 2010, we welcome Rachael Steward into the Associate Director role. In addition, in order to strengthen the University’s ability to facilitate and implement an effective Youth Initiative, the Children’s Literacy Project (CLP), which has been housed in the College of Education, is merging with CSCE.

In closing, I would like to offer a special thank you to all of the individuals and groups who participated in the Youth Initiative planning process as well as other recent CSCE community engagement activities. This report represents the collective work of hundreds of individuals. We look forward to continuing to partner with all of you in order to further transform the University and the community. We are much stronger working together than we are alone.

With warm regards,

Kent Koth
Director, Center for Service and Community Engagement &
Special Assistant to the Provost
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 2010-2011 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. 2009-2010 activities:

- Provided community organizations with nearly 60,000 hours of student support through placement and project-based service-learning courses.
- Engaged approximately 60 community partners in a one-day, interactive workshop for community partners and agencies to learn more about community-based research and models for working with universities on community-driven research projects.
- Received a $33,432 grant from College Spark to support the First Generation Project. Partnered with three local organizations at four sites to mobilize 17 students who provided over 2,500 hours of tutoring and mentoring to local high school students.
- Received a $52,740 renewable grant from Jumpstart to mobilize college students as reading tutors for pre-school children from low-income families. Recruited, trained, and supported 37 students, who served over 11,100 hours in nine classrooms, partnering with five pre-school programs.
- Hosted a fall quarter luncheon where over 35 community partners from 20 organizations networked with each other and explored further connections to the University.
- Partnered with Student Financial Services to increase the percentage of students participating in the Federal Community Service Work-Study Program from 13.9% to 14.5%.
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. 2010-2011 activities:

- Coordinated community partnerships and support for 51 placement-based and six project-based service-learning courses.
- Maintained service-learning course designation process in partnership with Office of Registrar.
- Supported an interdisciplinary team of faculty who developed the “Strong Start Project” to respond to research questions of early childhood education generated by Neighborhood House.

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. 2010-2011 activities:

- Engaged 16 students, who provided approximately 1,200 hours of direct service to various community organizations, in intensive year-long Student Leaders for the Common Good Program, supported by a $32,275 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 500 first-year students, contributing approximately 2,250 hours of habitat restoration work at Cheasty Greenspace on Beacon Hill.
- Coordinated six student-led immersion trips for 75 participants.
- Sponsored a student-led “Labor of Love” group service day once per quarter engaging 150 students in 600 hours of service to 12 organizations.
- Enrolled 27 students in Students in Service, a Washington Campus Compact program that awarded them over $20,000 in AmeriCorps Education Awards.
- Supported two student leaders’ efforts to recruit 20 student volunteers to teach third, fourth, and fifth graders science concepts at Bailey-Gatzert Elementary School.
- Engaged two students in the Shinnyo Fellowship for Community Leadership and supported them as they developed projects to link the campus to the community.

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. 2009-2010 activities:

- Provided key leadership in the Seattle University Youth Initiative planning effort. Connected with over 1,500 individuals through forums, meetings, a listserv, Mission Day, and a day-long Campus and Community Conference.
- Sponsored two Advocacy Skills Training workshops in partnership with the Office of the Provost and Magis: Alumni Committed for Mission. The workshops mobilized 50 students, faculty, staff and alumni participants to develop a shared understanding of social justice advocacy.
- Partnered with Athletic Department to improve the service-learning experiences of student athletes.
- Distributed a weekly “Justice and Service” update of volunteer opportunities to over 1,000 students.
Highlights

Seattle University Youth Initiative

In his opening remarks at the Seattle University Youth Initiative’s Campus and Community Conference held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, Seattle University President, Stephen Sundborg S.J. said, “I have come to believe that the greatest opportunity is that this is a giant challenge of learning to listen...Can we learn to listen? What will happen to all of us if we do? Where will listening lead us? That's what today is all about.” In fact, that’s what the whole year was about: listening. And in the process of all the listening and learning, CSCE connected with over 1,500 individuals who, over the course of the year, helped to shape the plan for the Seattle University Youth Initiative.

Last fall Seattle University made a commitment to engage comprehensively in a network of support for low-income youth and families living in the Bailey Gatzert Elementary School attendance area. Inspired in large part by Geoffrey Canada’s work with the Harlem Children’s Zone, this initiative is intended to utilize Seattle University’s resources to support organizations which provide wrap-around services for children from birth to college. The effort will not only expand on and unite the programming already taking place across campus, but will also give the campus an opportunity to work together toward a shared vision with stakeholders to learn about and participate in the many phases of the Youth Initiative’s development in order to promote a shared ownership in the Initiative’s success.

The initial efforts focused on informing both campus and community about the initiative, as well as seeking feedback from the various constituents through a series of campus and community meetings and the University’s annual Mission Day. The planning process culminated in the Campus and Community Conference. At this day-long event, nearly 300 faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members, and youth gathered to share knowledge, explore partnerships, and identify key priorities for the initiative. The youth who attended also produced art and written work presenting their perspective on the community.

Drawing upon the data gathered from the events and activities described above, during summer 2010 the Center for Service and Community Engagement staff drafted a Youth Initiative Action Plan that names specific indicators of success, key partnerships, and proposed activities. The plan is still being finalized but the Initiative is now moving into the implementation...
Fall 2009, Seattle University received a $68,000 grant from the Better Way Foundation to launch a community-based research project with Neighborhood House Head Start. A team of six SU faculty (pictured left) are working with Neighborhood House staff to identify research questions that address both the assets and needs of early childhood development programs at the Head Start childhood center located at Yesler Terrace. Research for a Strong Start, as the project is officially named, opens a new chapter in SU’s longstanding relationship with Neighborhood House. The research itself is still coming into focus—and that’s very much by design. The team is being very deliberate about taking their cue from Neighborhood House. “They’re educating us about the families that use their services,” says nursing faculty, Bonnie Bowie. “We’re asking them, how we can use our assets to assist you to achieve your goals.” Though still in its early stages, the project will provide a powerful model of an interdisciplinary team of faculty working on research that has direct relevance to our community and to early learning education.

Seattle U and Neighborhood House: Research for a Strong Start

A multidisciplinary team of SU scholars is partnering with Neighborhood House on a community research project. Counterclockwise from front right, Bonnie Bowie (Nursing), Karol Swenson, Danuta Wojnar (Nursing), Saheed Adejumobi (Global African Studies), Million Shiferaw, Sam Song (Education), Atalelegn Molaign, Claire Garoutte (Fine Arts), Cecilia Manyari and Mary Kay Brennan (Social Work).

Labor of Love: Tying Together a Community

On April 24, 2010, Seattle University students, along with Rotary Boys and Girls Club youth, donated and delivered 200 blankets to the Seattle Children’s Hospital as part of the quarterly day of service event called Labor of Love (LOL). Every Friday in April, members of the Rotary Boys and Girls Club and students of Seattle University worked together to create the blankets for delivery. Recent graduate, Samantha Sevilla, coordinated this quarterly effort to connect campus and community as a Student Leader for the Common Good. Having volunteered and worked there throughout the year, Samantha’s connection to Rotary was a natural fit for LOL. “My work at the Club has inspired me in ways that a classroom could not. It has provided an outlet for me to give my talents to the local community, to live my vocation to serve the youth and to give those who are often forgotten a chance to embark on any opportunity they set their minds to,” says Samantha. This fall, Samantha will be attending George Washington University, in order to obtain a Master of Forensic Science in Forensic Molecular Biology.

As a 2nd-year Student Leader for the Common Good, Samantha Sevilla led the quarterly Labor of Love days of service. In Spring Quarter, the theme was “Tying Together a Community”, uniting Rotary and SU volunteers to make 200 blankets for Seattle Children’s Hospital.

Community-Based and Action Research Seminars

This Spring, CSCE hosted two community-based research (CBR) seminars for faculty and community partners to learn more about the methodology and practices of engaging in community-driven research projects. These models of research allow universities and community agencies to work in partnership to meet needs identified by agencies. The first one, attended by more than sixty representatives from the community, was led by Drs. Mako Fitts (Sociology) and Robert Hughes (Education). The second one, sponsored in partnership with the Center for the Study Justice in Society, and the Academic Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, featured guest expert, Dr. Mary Beckman from the University of Notre Dame. More than 85 faculty and students participated in the seminar to better understand how to connect their research to community issues, with a particular focus on the Seattle University Youth Initiative.

CSCE hosted two seminars to engage faculty, community, and students in Community-Based Research, which offers a model where universities and community agencies to work in partnership to meet needs identified by agencies.
Facts & Figures

The Center for Service and Community Engagement makes every attempt to count all service-learning courses in every college, school, and department on campus. Currently, an annual “course count” is conducted during spring quarter. Through this process we correspond with individual faculty and the University Registrar to determine which courses have a service-learning component. We ask faculty to draw upon Seattle University’s definition of academic service-learning to determine whether their course should be considered in the count.

In 2010-2011, 122 faculty members engaged over 3,000 students in 255 service-learning course sections spreading across all of the schools and colleges on campus.

**Top 5**
In number of course sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate departments:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Nursing (32)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Psychology (23)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  English (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  Management (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Society, Justice &amp; Culture (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate departments:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Institute for Catholic Theological Studies (21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Legal Writing (18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Law Clinic (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Nursing (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Education Leadership (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS:**
146 Undergraduate course sections
109 Graduate course sections

What is academic service-learning?

“A credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized activity that meets community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of the course content and a broader appreciation of the discipline.”
- adapted from Bringle and Hatcher, 1996
Facts and Figures, cont’d

The Center for Service and Community Engagement draws upon University surveys and a number of internal evaluations to measure progress from year to year. 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. These data points, pulled from the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement, illustrate how community engagement at Seattle University compares to institutions in the same Carnegie Class*:

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following activities? (1= very little, 4= very much)

- Voting in local, state, or national elections?
- Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?
- Solving complex real-world problems?
- Developing a personal code of values and ethics?
- Contributing to the welfare of your community?

* Carnegie Classifications were developed to support program research and policy analysis, and the classes are organized around three fundamental questions: what is taught (Undergraduate and Graduate Instructional Program classifications), who are the students (Enrollment Profile and Undergraduate Profile), and what is the setting (Size & Setting). For more information, please visit: http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/

By the time they are seniors, **73%** of students have participated in community service or volunteer work at Seattle University, compared to **55%** at other peer institutions in the same Carnegie Class.

Looking to the Future

In looking to further pursue the University’s mission of “empowering leaders for a just and humane world” and respond to critical community issues CSCE will pursue the following ambitious goals for 2010-2011.

1. **Finalize the Seattle University Youth Initiative (SUYI) Action Plan.** CSCE staff recently completed a draft of an action plan for the Youth Initiative that includes a mission, vision, goals, strategies, specific outcomes and proposed activities. During fall 2010, CSCE will work with the University administration as well as other campus and community stakeholders to seek feedback on the plan, make adjustments, and pursue formal approval.

2. **Facilitate the implementation of the Youth Initiative.** SUYI will require new approaches to engaging the campus and community as well as additional structures and systems to increase the potential of success. This includes the expansion of existing and creation of new campus-community partnerships as well as the creation of a SUYI Steering Committee, a carefully designed assessment plan, and a comprehensive fund development strategy.

3. **Promote community engaged scholarship and teaching.** As evidenced earlier in this report, faculty interest in service-learning and community-based research continues to grow. In response to this interest, in 2010-2011, CSCE will offer professional development opportunities and programmatic support in order for faculty to integrate their teaching and research in ways that lead to their long-term success as community engaged scholars while also making an impact in the wider community.

4. **Expand and deepen student leadership opportunities in community engagement.** Students continue to show an interest in community service and other forms of engagement outside of their formal academic coursework. With this in mind, in 2010-2011, CSCE will develop additional opportunities for students to serve and lead in the community, with a particular focus on the SUYI. In addition, CSCE will streamline its processes of student leader recruitment, training, and reflection in order to engage more students in high quality programs and activities.
Center Staff

Kelly Benkert, Program Coordinator for Student Leadership Through Service • Carly Cannell, Assistant to the Director • Mako Fitts, Interim Program Director for Faculty Engagement • Britini Collins and Lauren Gomez, Student Assistants • Kent Koth, Director • Jessica McPherson, Program Coordinator and Graduate Assistant • Elizabeth O’Brien, Service-Learning Coordinator • Rachael Steward, Associate Director • Aileah Slepski, Jumpstart Site Manager • Sally Haber, Director of Children’s Literacy Project • Merica Whitehall, Assistant Director of Children’s Literacy Project

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

Asian Counseling and Referral Services • Associated Recreation Council (Rec Tech) • Atlantic Street Center • Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) • Childhaven • Community Coalition for Environmental Justice • Community Lunch on Capitol Hill • Compass Housing Alliance • Discovery Park • Earth Corps • El Centro de la Raza • First Place • Full Life Care • Hilltop House • Jewish Family Services • L’Arche Noah Sealth • Lifelong AIDS Alliance • Mary’s Place • Noel House • Northwest Harvest • Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS) • People for Puget Sound • Pratt Fine Arts Center • Providence Hospitality House • Providence Vincent House • Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club • Real Change • Refugee Women’s Alliance • Rotary Boys and Girls Club • Saint Francis House • Saint Mary’s Food Bank • SCCC Basic Studies Tutoring Program • Seattle Tilth • Seattle Youth Garden Works • Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission, Senior Ministries • Spruce Street SCRC • Summit at First Hill • Treehouse • Upward Bound-NSCC • Volunteer Chore Services (Catholic Community Services) • Washington Environmental Council • Yesler Terrace Computer Lab (Rec Tech) • Youth Tutoring Program (Catholic Community Services) • YouthCare’s Orion Center • YWCA Seattle Emergency Housing