

## Summary of UCA's Service-Learning Program

In the spring of 2013 the university administration approved a proposal to begin a university-wide service-learning program at UCA. Initiated by the College of Liberal Arts in partnership with the Instructional Development Center and the Division of Outreach and Community Engagement, the proposal envisions 2013-2014 as a pilot year with a full launch of the program in 2014-2015.

**UCA's Definition of Service-Learning: Academic Service-Learning** is a course-based teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Adapted from *National Service-Learning Clearinghouse*, Retrieved, February 24, 2013 <http://www.servicelearning.org/what-service-learning>

A course is a service-learning course (or includes service-learning) if:

- It involves collaboration between a faculty member and a community organization that meets a community need.
- The service-activity serves the course objectives by helping students to grasp the knowledge and skills essential to the course.
- The students participate in structured reflection on the service-activity that strengthens their understanding of course content.

A central component of the program is the **Service-Learning Faculty Fellows program**, which allows a group of faculty to study service-learning pedagogy and develop a service-learning course during a summer seminar. Faculty apply and are chosen by their college. They receive a stipend for participating in the seminar and agreeing to teach a service-learning course in the following year, as well as serving as advisors to other interested faculty. The Instructional Development Center will facilitate on-going workshops and events during the school year. *Faculty interested in participating in the Faculty Fellows program should watch for opportunities to apply in early spring semester for summer 2015.*

Another important side of our service-learning program is the **Community Partnership**. The Division of Outreach and Community Engagement (OCE) will cultivate community partnerships and share community needs with faculty. OCE will serve as the clearing house for all service-learning community partnerships. OCE will administer a website for service-learning partners and provide information necessary to successful management of a service-learning component of a course.

Finally, I serve as the **Service-Learning Faculty Liaison**. My role is to coordinate the academic side (faculty and students) with the community partnerships cultivated by OCE. I welcome any and all questions about service-learning at UCA.

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