



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS™

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning Annual Report

2018-2019

Letter from the Director

This year, UCA's Service-Learning Program had the opportunity to expand and enhance the support provided to all of our campus and community stakeholders with the addition of a Volunteer Coordinator to our office. With the additional staff support, we expanded the signature volunteer opportunities that our office manages, involving UCA students in weekly tutoring and mentoring opportunities with the Faulkner County Juvenile Court and Boys and Girls Club. We were able to leverage this growth to successfully apply for an AmeriCorps grant, which will provide an unprecedented opportunity to grow community services in partnership with local nonprofits while also giving our students access to a nationally recognized service program.

Our membership in Campus Compact has once again offered UCA the opportunity to nominate the only Newman Civic Fellow in the state of Arkansas. In 2018-2019, Jayda Williams held this prestigious position, and in 2019-2020, the honor will go to Itzel Velazquez as she begins her graduate studies.

This year also saw new opportunities in nonprofit support and collaboration. While we shared our nonprofit community partners' disappointment to see the Arkansas Nonprofit Alliance close its doors in 2018, we have been proud to continue offering nonprofit support locally in partnership with United Way of Central Arkansas and the Arkansas Community Foundation. In 2018-2019, we offered our first training for new and prospective nonprofit board members, designed to assist nonprofit community partners in building committed and prepared boards, as well as our first regional training in northwest Arkansas, in collaboration with the Center for Community and Economic Development and the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce.

The work of the UCA Service-Learning Program continues to focus on bringing together students, faculty, and community partners around mutually identified goals and a shared commitment to strengthening our communities and preparing civic-minded graduates. It is our privilege to be able to bring together these inspiring stakeholders and we look forward to another year of collective action and impact.

Yours in Service,



Lesley Graybeal
Director of Service-Learning

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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.

Program History and Structure

The University of Central Arkansas Service-Learning Program advances the university's mission to engage with local, national, and global communities by providing central coordination for academic service-learning and co-curricular service opportunities in partnership with community organizations. While many UCA faculty members were using service-learning pedagogy in their classes prior to the creation of a formal program, the Service-Learning Program officially began operations in 2013. The Service-Learning Program is housed in the Division of Outreach & Community Engagement and additionally supported by the Service-Learning Faculty Liaison and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Project Examples

Service-Learning is often best understood through the use of examples, and UCA faculty have guided their students through many unique and engaging projects in 2018-2019, including:

- **Heather Yates, Political Science:** Students conducted a 12-week research-based service-learning project in conjunction with the WikiEducation Foundation to train undergraduate students to learn how to edit public knowledge available through open-source platforms.
- **Whit Barringer, Honors, and Kim Little, History:** Students worked with the Audubon Society to create an archive for Gillam Park, a historically black community in Little Rock. Students engaged community members to identify the subjects of photographs found in an abandoned building.
- **Anita Segó, Health Sciences:** Graduate students created and adapted training materials to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Division, for new juvenile justice officers in the state of Arkansas. Each student was responsible for the development of three learning modules for an online learning program.
- **Mike Gallagher, Exercise Science:** Students participate in assessment of the obesogenic environment on UCA's campus with particular attention to bicycle use, counting walkers, runners, and cyclists and analyzing and reporting data for the UCA Bicycle Friendly University committee.
- **Zach Smith, History:** Students complete a two-part zine project, first articulating a concern on campus that includes identifying a social problem, contacting stakeholders, and articulating an action step for readers who wish to make a positive change; then leading a community-based zinemaking workshop with a partner organization.

- **Lydia Sartain, Nutrition:** Capstone students create a theme meal, which includes planning the theme, cooking and delivering the theme meal at the Faulkner County Senior Center, and reflecting on the experience. This year, grandchildren were invited for an intergenerational experience.
- **Duston Morris, Health Sciences:** Students provide health education and health screenings to Special Olympics athletes during sports competition, including education and resources relevant to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers.

By the Numbers: Program Outputs

Community Partners Served	68
Number of Service-Learning Courses	147
Number of Service-Learning Faculty	65
Number of Service-Learning Students	2,480
Number of Academic Programs Represented	33
Number of Colleges Represented	7
Estimated Hours Served	13,500+
Estimated Value of Community Service*	\$276,615

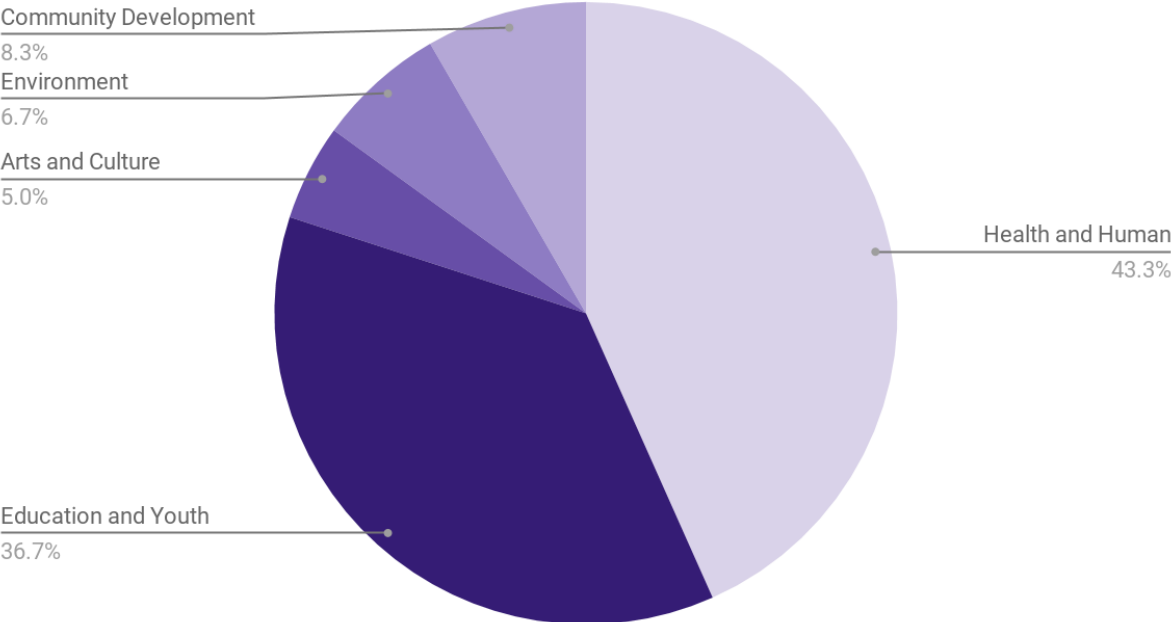
*The value of volunteer service is estimated at \$20.49/hour in the state of Arkansas. Source: Independent Sector, "The Value of Volunteer Time." Available from https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

The following year-to-year trends can be observed:

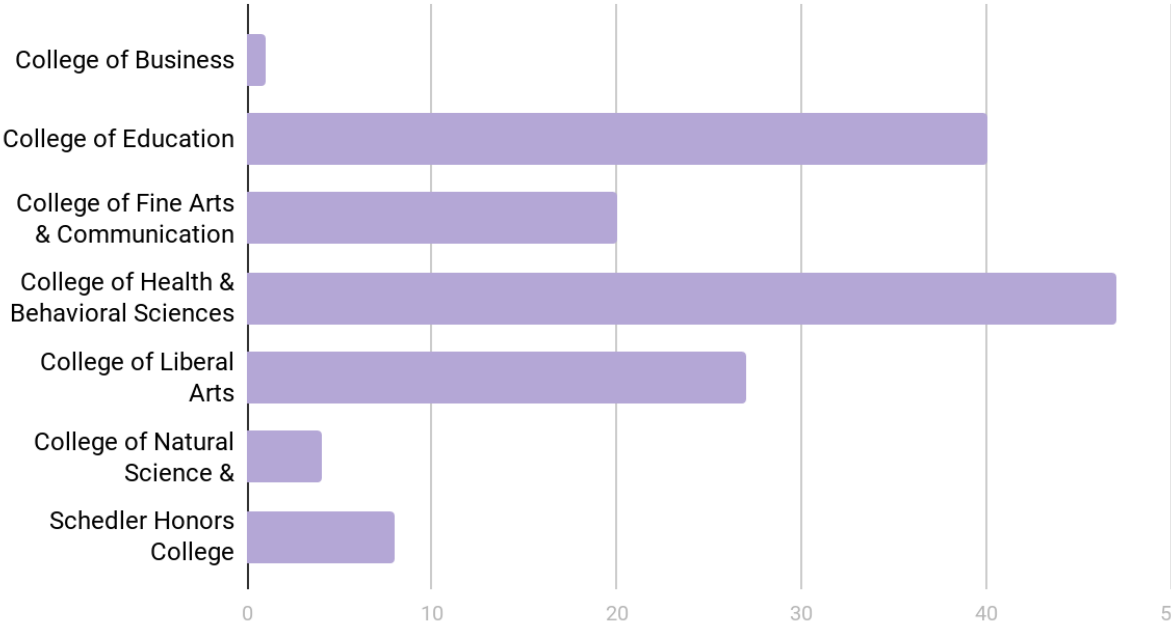
Criterion	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
SL Faculty	59	65	+10%
SL Courses	134	147	+10%
SL Students	2,307	2,480	+7%

The Service-Learning Program met and far exceeded its goal of 10% growth in number of courses offered every year for the first five years, starting with 55 courses taught by 29 faculty in 2013-2014. While this exponential growth has slowed, we anticipated that it will continue at a more modest pace as the university focuses its experiential learning efforts across the colleges.

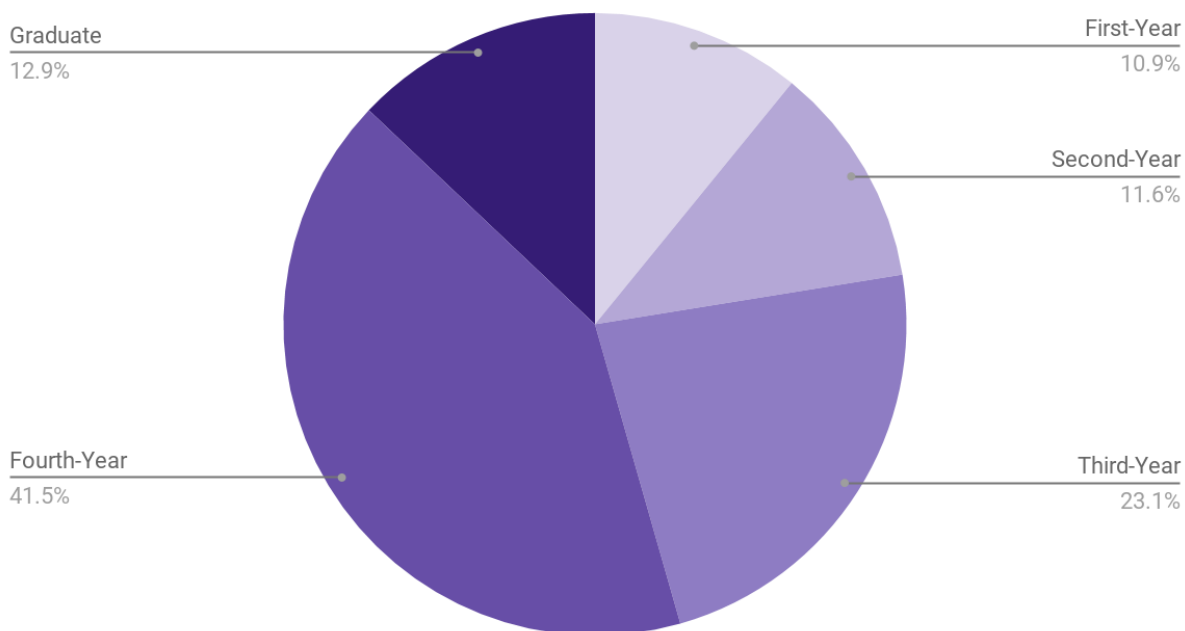
Type of Community Partner Organization



Service-Learning Courses by College



Service-Learning Courses by Level



Faculty Development and Support

Across the university, deans and department chairs selected the largest cohort of Service-Learning Faculty Fellows since the program's inaugural year to participate in an intensive five-week seminar during June 2019 to learn best practices for service-learning pedagogy.

- Cristine Busser, School of Communication
- Kathryn Carroll, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Clayton Crockett, Philosophy and Religion
- TK Gault, Teaching and Learning
- Monica Lieblong, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Amanda Martin, Student Transitions
- Ashley Phillips, Accounting
- Alana Reid, Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures

Additionally, Service-Learning Seed Grants of up to \$250 each were awarded to ten faculty members in 2018-2019 to cover costs associated with service-learning projects.

Faculty Member	Course	Project Expense
Kim Little	America in the Modern Era, Senior Research, and Independent Study in Research and Public History	Supplies for Faulkner County Museum Open House event
Sonya Fritz	Literature for Adolescents	Books selected by students for Children's Advocacy Alliance
Duston Morris	Health Coaching I & II	Materials and supplies for health screenings at Arkansas Special Olympics
Conrad Shumaker & Jennie Case	Writing about Place / Studies in English and American Lit	Printing and binding of an oral history essay anthology
Staci Fritzges	Event Planning	Printing of infographics for an exhibit at Conway EcoFest
Stefanie Sorbet	Guidance and Management of Children	Books for Our House shelter
Julie Meaux	Costa Rica Study Abroad (Nursing)	Supplies and equipment for therapy activities
Kim Little	American Environmental History	Food costs for oral history project community meal
Alejandro Gonzalez Landeros	La Frontera (Border Literature)	Travel to border town to work with relief organizations

Recognition of Service-Learning

The UCA Service-Learning Program has hosted a Service-Learning Awards event each year since the program's inception. This year, the awards were held in conjunction with recognition by the Center for Teaching Excellence at the Excellence in Teaching and Community Engagement reception.

The following individuals were recognized in 2018-2019:

- **Chelsey Iglesia**, Leadership in Service-Learning
- **Brittney Richardson**, Spirit of Humanity
- **Michalli Tencleve**, Exceptional Achievement in Service-Learning
- **Dr. Alejandro Gonzalez Landeros**, Peter J. Mehl Service-Learning Faculty of the Year
- **Faulkner County Museum**, Community Partner of the Year

The Service-Learning Program additionally nominated one student for a national award through Campus Compact.

- **Itzel Velazquez**, Newman Civic Fellows Award

Events and Programs

The Service-Learning Program supported our campus and community partners by hosting or collaborating on the following events in 2018-2019:

- **Community Partner Summit** attended by nonprofit community partners, UCA faculty, and Hendrix faculty focused on collective action and impact
- **Poverty Simulations** with University Training, Housing and Residence Life, Conway Area Youth Leadership Institute, Conway Area Leadership Institute, the town of Hot Springs, and others.
- **Nonprofit Workshop Series** in partnership with United Way of Central Arkansas, including four workshops in Conway, Arkansas and one regional training in Siloam Springs, Arkansas
- **Board Development Training** in partnership with the Arkansas Community Foundation / Faulkner County

Co-Curricular Service

In 2018-2019, the Service-Learning Program continued to collaborate with the Office of Student Life to promote and track co-curricular community service (community service opportunities not associated with an academic course) using the OrgSync Volunteer Opportunities portal and a “Service” category in all portals.

- Students recorded a total of **18,042 service hours** in OrgSync from August 2018 to May 2019, representing a value of \$369,681 to the communities they served
- **551 students** volunteered on a single day of service through UCA’s Big Event to complete 45 projects with nonprofits and Conway residents
- **Bear Boots on the Ground** volunteers worked over fall, winter, and spring breaks and travelled to Panama City (50 volunteers), Fayetteville (10 volunteers), Memphis (33 volunteers), Puerto Rico (11 volunteers).
- **195 students** were recognized at the Student Involvement Awards for completing the Bears Serve Challenge (logging 30 hours of community service in one year)
- **82 students** received a community service graduation cord (logging at least 100 hours of community service during their time at UCA) for December 2018 or May 2019 graduation

Civic Engagement

The Service-Learning Program provides support for UCA’s Vote Everywhere program, part of a national network of campuses committed to voter education and engagement. In 2018-2019, the Vote Everywhere team partnered with other campus and community organizations on the following actions:

- Voter registration at SOAR sessions and a mass voter registration drive on National Voter Registration Day
- An on-campus candidate forum for prosecuting attorney and bipartisan meet & greet
- A faculty teach-in and Party at the Polls events