

How community partners work with WVU service-learning courses

BCOR 199 – Honors Intro to Business (Fall Course)

Groups of 4-5 students who will complete 8 service hours. Projects should allow the students to explore some basic business practices such as accounting, finance, management, marketing or economics. These are first year students. They may do well with projects involving inventory, social media campaigns, updating/compiling policy and procedures, or researching or evaluating potential programs. If you are looking for ideas, some previously successful projects included:

- Literacy Volunteers had a group of students plan and conduct a resume writing and job application workshop for adults in the community with low literacy levels.
- The Mountaineer Area Robotics had a group of students research potential funding sources and organize a binder for potential funding opportunities

COMM 112 – Small Group Communication (Fall and Spring)

**COMM 112 students will choose projects that are posted on iserve. You can post projects that you think will be a good fit for them or you may complete our request form if you would specifically like your need to be met by only by COMM 112 students.*

Groups of 4-5 students who work together (all must be present during all project hours) to complete 10 hours of service. They will also be creating a video focusing on telling the story of the organization they serve with. This could be a great way to have a sharable video telling your story. The focus on this opportunity for the students is to learn about working well collaboratively. If you have an upcoming fundraiser or event, this can be a great way to get students to help promote and/or staff the event but students need to be involved throughout the semester and not just present for one event. Past successful projects have included:

- Students at Christian Help spent time researching community calendars to help choose a strategic date for an event as well as to advertise upcoming events on all of these community calendars.
- Students at Westwood Middle School planned and coordinated an afterschool activity event for students

COMM 335 – Social Media in the Workplace, 3 credit hours (Fall and Spring)

Students are learning about strategies for effectively using social media to market and gain awareness of organizations. Groups of 5 students will work collaboratively and will each complete 10 hours of service. The first half of the semester, they will each complete 5 hours of general service with an organization to learn more about the organization's culture, reach and mission. During this time, they will be completing class assignments where they do research about your organization's social media presence and needs. The 2nd half of the semester, the students will each complete an additional 5 hours with the organization, involved in the organizations' social media. This may include scheduling posts, developing new social media platforms or plans or other needs as determined by the organization and the students' research. All organizations working with this course will receive a social media plan at the end of the semester to include an analysis of current social media

presence, recommended strategies for increased followers and interaction with followers. This is a new course and we will welcome your feedback along the way!

GEOG 412 – Gender and Geography (Fall Course)

Students will work either individually or with 1-2 others and will complete 10 hours of service. Students will be comparing gender roles through a geographical context, they may explore the history of a particular area or group of people and explore how gender roles impacted this. They are also meant to learn more about community and building connections. These are upper level students (juniors/seniors). This is a new course so we are looking to you to help us build examples for the future!

LDR 201 – Principles of Leadership (Fall and Spring)

Groups of 4-5 students will complete approximately 15 hours. These students are studying to be leaders and this is an opportunity for them to practice their skills, they are generally midlevel students who are likely to show initiative. As these students are learning about leadership, it is a good opportunity to give them some ideas and information about your organization and allow them to plan and implement a project. The instructors of this course are particularly interested in expanding projects with local government and faith based groups however all interested partners can request projects! Past successful projects have included:

- Students at Christian Help held a toiletry drive, they independently planned and promoted the event and were able to donate a significant amount of supplies.
- Students at the Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club planned and executed a superhero themed dance party for the afterschool kids

MANG 480 – Corporate Social Responsibility (Spring)

This is an upper-level management course that students apply to be accepted into. Students will complete 20-30 hours individually or in pairs. Students will be learning about the critical role of the nonprofit sector in communities as well as how businesses can serve as effective partners. Projects should have a long-term impact for the organization. This class also has \$20,000 to award in grant funding at the end of the semester, they will put out an RFP and will act as a foundation board to award funds. Having a student from this class does not impact whether or not you will receive funding but is a great way to make sure they are aware of your organization! Successful projects have included:

- Students at CASA for Kids developed a volunteer manual/handbook that can be used to help train volunteers.
- Students at In Touch and Concerned worked closely with the ED to update policies and procedures manuals for staff and board

MDS 489 – Multi Disciplinary Capstone (Fall and Spring)

Groups of 4-5 students who will complete 20 hours. This project can accomplish a lot and is especially good for helping to plan and put on a fundraiser or other type of event! These are usually seniors who are getting the

opportunity to put into place the skills they've been developing over the past 3-4 years. Previous successful projects included:

- The Mountaineer United Soccer Club had students coordinate with vendors and participants for their spring soccer celebration. The students were responsible for developing a schedule of events as well as advertising and promoting the event.
- Students working with the American Red Cross were trained as trainers for the Pillowcase Project, they then did outreach to youth programs, scheduled and provided Pillowcase Project training to groups of children.

SRVL 495 – Independent Study in Service-Learning, 1-6 credit hours (Fall and Spring)

This course provides students an opportunity to gain academic credit while completing a guided, intensive service project. Students take the course for 1-6 credit hours which determines the amount of service required (20-95 hours). This service project can be anything that meets your needs while providing the student with new experiences to learn and reflect on. Many students enroll in the course because they are already involved in service and want to get academic credit for it, however we do have students that enroll and are looking for a service project. Submitting a project helps us provide them options but know that we may not have the students to fill these projects. Past successful projects have included:

- Delivering meals regularly for Meals on Wheels
- Helping to facilitate a weekly life skills group with Stepping Stones

STCM 315 - Strategic Communications: Strategic Advertising and Public Relations Writing, 3 credit hours (Fall and Spring)

This course has a very specific focus on strategic writing and public relations. Pairs of students will complete 30 hours. You pick the message you would like to promote as well as your target audience. Through specific assignments, including a press release, a public service announcement, social media strategies and event materials students will help with your communications campaign. They can also meet custom communication needs such as helping with websites, designing promotional materials etc. These students are juniors or seniors and are excited to have the opportunity to put the skills they are learning to work in a real setting! Successful projects have included:

- Operation Welcome Home had students help with the promotion of a fundraiser, specifically targeting current and potential donors.
- Golden Horseshoe had students work to promote their organization and spread the word about their mission and services.