"The course prepares you for real-life situations that you will encounter while volunteering at your site. The course teaches you how to be an effective listener through conversations and also through silence. She enabled us to practice our counseling skills with each other and reflect on our experience thus strengthening our skills. Based on this experience, I now plan to pursue a career in hospice care."

-CSUSM student, 2014

Faculty Learning Community: Developing Service-learning courses
Spring 2015- Fall 2015

Want to explore how you can develop authentic collaborations with community partners to create meaningful experiences for you and your students?

Want to introduce or re-introduce a meaningful high-impact practice, service learning, into your course?

Join us for our faculty learning community sponsored by the Faculty Center and the Office of Community Engagement

- The learning community will meet one Friday a month. The two-hour meeting will take place between 9am-2pm based on participant feedback.
- Participating faculty will be compensated $500 participation in the FLC and work related to their own course development an additional $250 for generation of a syllabus to be shared with a wider audience.
- Open to all faculty

Utilizing the benefits of the learning community format, participants will engage in the topic of service learning with other interested faculty. This will include explore the best practices for service learning, how to identify and develop collaborations with community partners, applying this knowledge to your classroom or curriculum, developing new service learning curriculum or re-introducing service learning in a new format into an existing service learning course and developing reflecting and assessment tools. Faculty will be expected to apply the knowledge they have learned in the form of developing a syllabus and introducing service learning into a course in Fall 2015.

What is Service Learning?

This faculty learning community will examine the introduction of the practice of service learning into a new or existing course. The Corporation for National and Community Service defines service learning as "a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities."
The two major components of service learning in an academic course are:
- The student’s participation in a community service activity connected to course materials and
- The student’s active reflection on the meaning of that service

Reflection activities may range from classroom discussions to journaling to research papers connected to the service activities.

Who should apply?
Faculty from any discipline and of any rank/status are encouraged to apply.

What is the time commitment?
- Participants will be expected to meet with the learning community for roughly 20 hours. This will take place primarily during the monthly meeting and a retreat just prior (pre-instruction) to the start of the fall semester.
- Participants will spend an additional few hours engaging in modest readings prior to learning community meetings and working on deliverables (see below).

What are the deliverables?
- Syllabus with service learning component (before Fall 2015 semester)
- Faculty will be required to produce student reflection material and/or assessment products about how service learning has changed the students’ experience in that particular course (end of Fall 2015 semester).

How will faculty be selected?
Faculty will be selected based on several criteria:
- Application clearly articulates interest in service learning
- Application demonstrates specificity in terms of the course that is of interest for introducing (or re-introducing) service learning. Specifically, the faculty can select a new course that has never had a service learning component or take a course that already has service learning and plan to change it to reflect best practices.
- Diverse representation within FLC (ideally we would like to include different ranks and disciplines)

What is the compensation?
Faculty who develop or reformat an existing course will receive $500 in professional development funds at the completion of the FLC; upon the delivery of a syllabus that
will become a shared resource at the Faculty Center and Office of Community Engagement, faculty will receive an additional $250.

**To apply**

At the top of your application, please include the following information:

- Name
- Email address
- Department
- Rank
- Times you would be able to meet on Fridays (two-hour blocks)

In your application of approximately (200-250 words) Letter please include:

- Overall reason of interest
- The specific course you plan to target for introducing service learning

**Applications are due by Friday, January 9th, 2015 and should be submitted electronically to facctr@csusm.edu, those chosen to participate will be notified by Tuesday, January 20, 2015.**