



National Oral Health Conference
 April 28-30, 2008
 Miami, Florida



Karen M. Yoder, MSD, PhD
 Assoc Professor and Director,
 Division of Community Dentistry,
 Indiana University School of
 Dentistry
 kmyoder@iupui.edu

Fostering A Responsive Dental Workforce: Linking Dental Students and Head Start Through Service Learning




Head Start...

- A comprehensive child development program
- Nearly one million children enrolled
- Majority of enrollees are four years old
- Living at or below federal poverty level
- Mainstreams children with disabilities
- Specific programs for migrant and seasonal farm workers
- Requires complete dental services for every child
- Requires daily toothbrushing



Service-Learning is...

..A structured learning experience that combines community service with explicit academic learning objectives, preparation and reflection



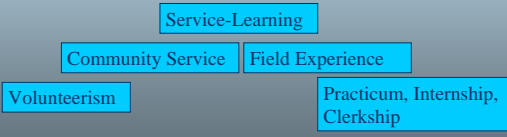
Dental and dental hygiene students learn about

- The context in which the service is provided
- The connection between their service and their course work
- Their role as professionals and citizens

What we learn to do, we learn by doing

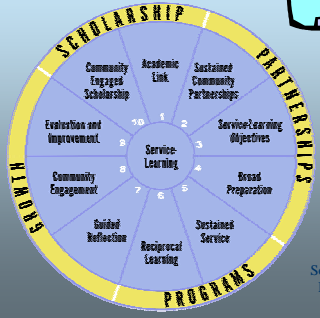

Distinctions Among Service Programs

Recipient ← Beneficiary → Provider
 Service ← Focus → Learner



Source: Furco 1996


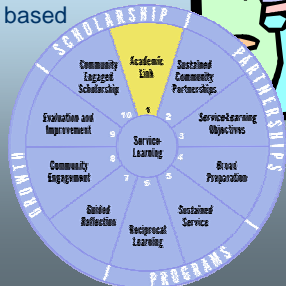
Components of S-L

Source: Yoder, J Dent Education Feb 2006

1. Academic Link

- Course based
- Competency based
- Voluntary

Head Start has been in communities since 1965 – it can be a long-term and beneficial partner for dental schools

2. Sustained Community Partnerships

- Develop a long term relationship
- Head Start Performance Standards identify requirements to be fulfilled; Dental Schools identify skills to be learned by dental & dental hygiene students
- Head Start can provide mentor(s) to:
 - Teach
 - Monitor
 - Evaluate
- Head Start can participate in writing s-l objectives
- Consider a memorandum of agreement or agreed Upon partnership guidelines

3. Service-Learning Objectives

Clearly specify what service and what learning will occur

Service Objective + **Learning Objective** = **S-L Objective**

4. Broad Preparation

- Dental students should learn about
 - History and objectives of Head Start
 - Barriers to oral health that may exist in this population
 - The role policy makers play in sustaining Head Start
 - Service-Learning objectives
 - Problem-based learning cases can be effective
- Head Start staff should know
 - Capabilities of the students
 - Students' time availability
 - Service-Learning objectives

5. Sustained Service

- Sustained –
 - Plan to maintain the relationship for many years
 - Involve each student in multiple events/programs
 - >20 hours of involvement fosters a true service-learning experience
- Plan long term
 - Non clinical, and
 - Clinical services
- Make the program Interdisciplinary if possible
- Ideally includes student leadership

Students serve to learn AND learn to serve

6. Reciprocal Learning

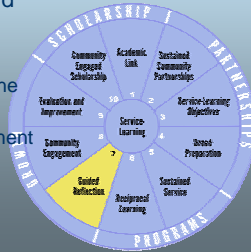
- Traditional definitions of teacher and learner are intentionally blurred
- Foster dental students' respect for reciprocal learning - Head Start teachers/staff can teach dental students a great deal about children and the challenges faced by parents in low-income situations
- Emphasize that we all learn from each other

7. Guided Reflection



- The link between service and learning
 - Link experience to learning
 - Occurs regularly throughout the experience
 - Allows feedback and assessment
 - Fosters the exploration and clarification of values

(Hatcher & Bringle)



A Reflection Framework

What?
So What?
Now What?

Mapping Service-Learning Reflection

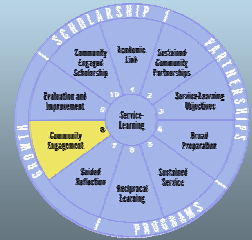


	Before	During	After
Alone	Journal entry about expectations	Structured journals	Reflective essay Letter of advocacy
With Classmates	Discussion about expectations Problem Based Learning case related to Head Start	Discussion prompted by a list of questions supplied by professor or Head Start	Team presentation Collage, video, photo essay, PowerPoint
With Community Partners	Asset mapping Planning w/ Head Start Health Coordinator	Lessons learned, debriefing	Presentation to community group / dental association,

Adapted from Eyer, Creating your Reflection Map

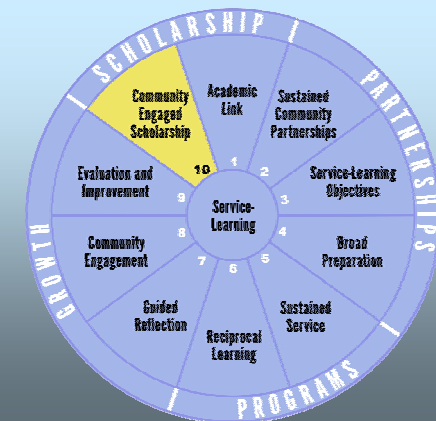
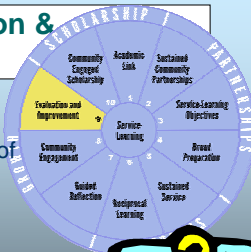
8. Community Engagement

- Developing citizenship skills and achieving social change
- Ethical Considerations
- Cultural Awareness
- Health Policy Activism
- Advocacy
- Risk Management



9. Ongoing Evaluation & Improvement


- Include the observations of
 - Faculty / institution
 - Students
 - Head Start Director and Health Coordinator
 - Head Start parents



10. Opportunities for Community Engaged Scholarship

Peer reviewed publications

Promotion & Tenure



- Scholarly Publications
- Community Based Participatory Research
- Demonstrate Positive Impact on Teaching

Points of departure: Service-Learning and Clinical Education

Service-Learning includes:

- Balance between service and learning
- Emphasis on addressing community-identified concerns and broad determinants of health
- Integral involvement of community partners
- Emphasis on reciprocal learning
- Emphasis on reflective practice
- Emphasis on developing citizenship skills and achieving social change
- Opportunities for Community-Engaged Scholarship


Service-Learning is Mutually Beneficial: What Community Partners Like about Service-Learning

- Receive needed services
- Influence dental education
- Relationship with faculty
- Students' enthusiasm
- Economic benefits
- Networking with other agencies




Service-Learning is Mutually Beneficial: What Health Professions Schools Like about Service-Learning

- Additional depth in teaching
 - Augment faculty
 - Beneficial learning outcomes
- Provide a non-traditional teaching site
- Support with policymakers and funders



Resources:

- National Head Start Oral Health Resource Center
<<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/index.html>>
- Community Campus Partnerships for Health (Service-Learning in Health Professions Schools)
<<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/partnerships.html>>
- National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
<<http://www.servicelearning.org>>

Questions?

Comments?

