Initiatives & Resources

Community Collaborations
AS-L identifies community organizations requesting University collaboration. This list is presented bi-annually to faculty and students and is intended to equally enhance organizational capacity & student learning.
www.emich.edu/asl

Community & Academic Service-Learning (CAS-L) Grants
Our CAS-L grant program supports programming expenses related to faculty initiated innovative community and/or AS-L classes, programs & projects.

Bright Impact
Bright Impact is a software program which we use to track and measure the impact of service-learning on students in classes and in the community. Faculty can request and be trained to use of Bright Impact for their classes and engaged scholarly activity.
www.brightimpact.com

Engage Website
ENGAGE is the University's one-stop shop for Community Engagement. Faculty can locate partners, students can locate community activities, and the community can find a front door for collaboration. The site is managed by the Office of AS-L. www.emich.edu/engage

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Irene Strenski, Ypsilanti Community High School

We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously.
- Grace Lee Boggs

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Eastern Michigan University
Office of Academic Service-Learning
What is Academic Service-Learning?

Academic Service-Learning (AS-L) is a teaching and learning strategy where students participate in a meaningful service activity that meets identified community needs, reflect on the service activity to gain further understanding of course content, achieve a broader appreciation of the discipline and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

About

The Office of Academic Service-Learning (AS-L) is one of the University's most prominent and prolific areas for University and Community programming. Its core mission is to train faculty in integrating service-learning or community into courses and/or curriculum. Support is also given to faculty to develop community based programming and scholarship beyond course development.

AS-L Programs

The B. Side: The Business Side of Youth is a community outreach program created to foster a culture of youth-driven entrepreneurship. The B.Side hosts classes and workshops for youth and teacher training in entrepreneurship and business plan development. www.bsideofyouth.com

Digital Inclusion is a social enterprise dedicated to bridging the digital divide by refurbishing and selling computers to non-profits and low-income residents, training youth in IT fundamentals, and maintaining computer labs in low income housing communities. College students provide the training to area youth who in turn become digital bridges in their own homes and communities. www.direcycle.com

CrossTown Theatre Troupe (CTT) is an after-school drama program housed in local elementary, middle and high schools in partnership with Bright Futures. EMU graduate students and undergraduates in Applied Drama, Performance Studies & Theatre for the Young serve as program teaching artists and provide youth year-long opportunities to practice improvisational skills, dramatic text interpretation and theatre for social change. crosstowntheatre.weebly.com

Art Around Town is a social enterprise focused on addressing inadequate arts funding at local middle and high schools by providing art supplies for art classrooms and students. Youth art is then marketed and sold online and in local communities through exhibits, auctions, community and business venues. www.artaroundtown.us

College Coaching Corps is a partnership program between EMU, the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) and local school districts. Graduate Assistants serve as College Coaches and advisors in local high schools. College Coaches are trained through MCAN, and are able to provide pre-college students with resources and in accessing post-secondary opportunities.

College Positive Volunteers (CPVs) are college students who provide information and workshops on college access. Their efforts support both the EMU and U of M GEAR UP programs and all University outreach programs working in and with K-12 communities. This program is supported through Michigan Campus Compact. http://thecompactaccess2success.com/

AS-L Seminars & Workshops

AS-L Faculty Fellow Seminar

A cohort of 4 to 6 faculty are awarded a one-course release to participate in the AS-L Faculty Fellow seminar, each fall and winter semester. The weekly seminar prepares faculty to integrate an academic service-learning experience and/or community practice into their courses, curriculum and/or scholarly activity. Faculty leave the seminar with a revised syllabus or curriculum, community partners, and membership in a University-wide academic service-learning network. http://www.emich.edu/asl/fellows.php

Adjunct Faculty AS-L and Community Engagement Workshop

This series of workshops provides lecturer and adjunct faculty who teach 100 or 200 level courses and/or core curriculum courses training in integrating academic service-learning or a community service component into their courses or curriculum.

Community Engagement Panels

To encourage faculty and community collaboration, The Office of Academic Service-Learning hosts two annual community panels. Recent community organization and offices have included: 826 Michigan, Jewish Family Services, Ypsilanti City Planning Office, Center for Independent Living, & 21st Century Bright Futures program.