

**ACADEMIC SERVICE-
LEARNING**

AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



**SERVICE
LEARNING
ACADEMY**

When You Do It, You Get It.



ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING IS. . .

- Experiential learning
- A collaborative effort among faculty, community partners and students
- Project-based, with projects designed to promote academic learning and to meet community needs
- Tightly linked to course content



- **In the *community* setting...**

- Students do a meaningful, worthwhile community service;

- **On *campus*...**

- Students reflect on their service experience, considering its relationship to their reading and research, as well as its impact on their personal values and professional goals.

- **At *semester's end*...**

- Students make a presentation to the academic community and to community partners about findings and the impact of the service.



HISTORY OF SERVICE-LEARNING AT UNO



Center for Faculty Development

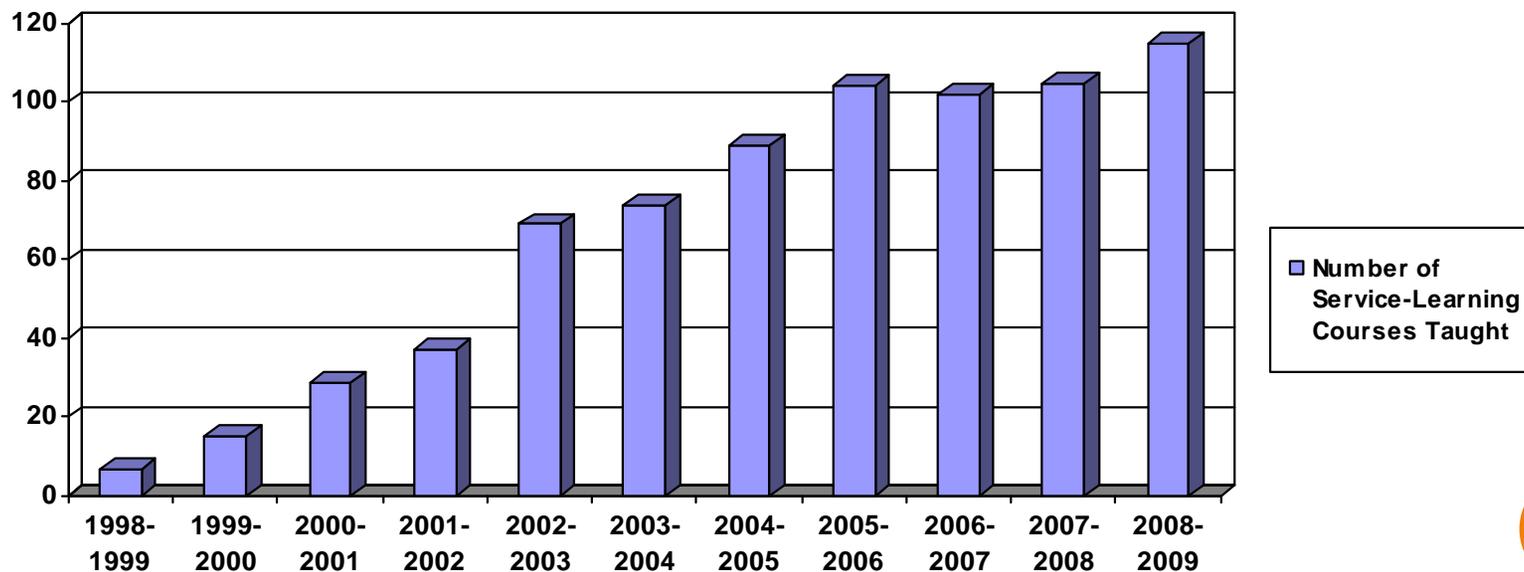


- Service Learning Academy created 1999 within UNO Center for Faculty Development.



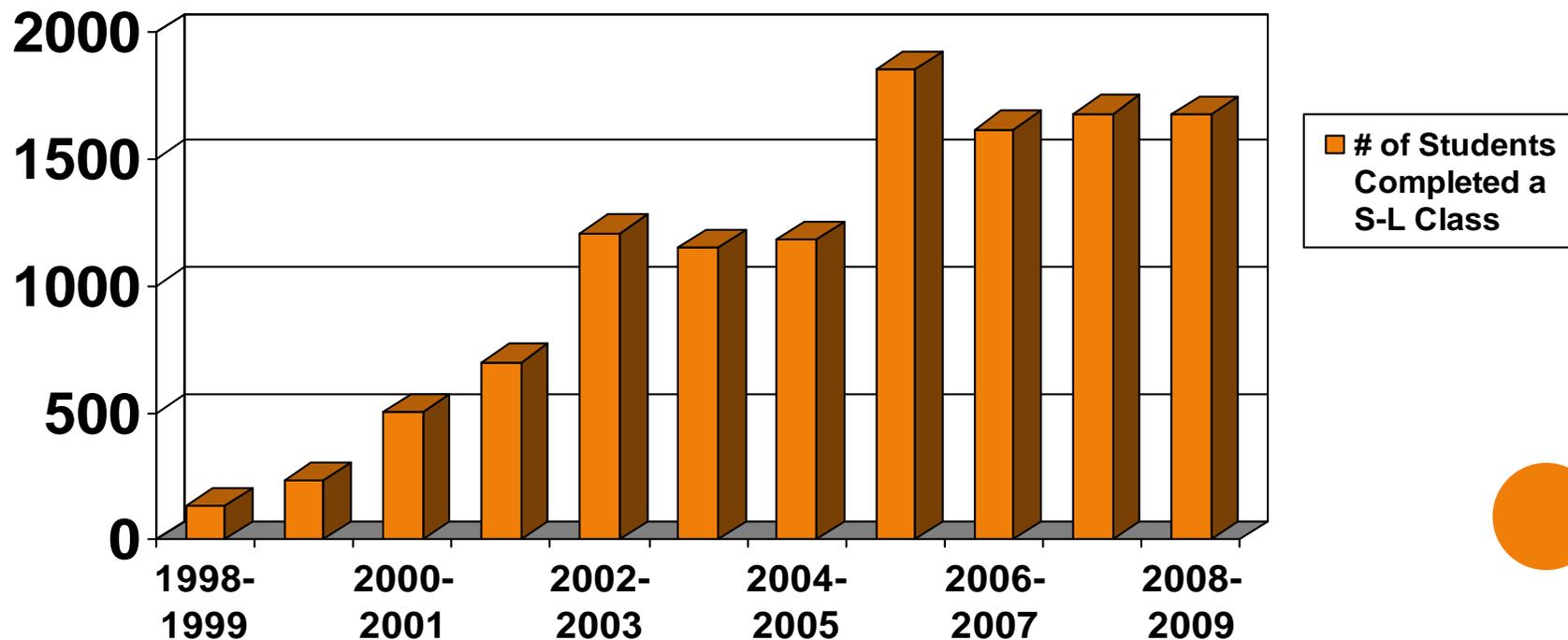
HISTORY OF SERVICE-LEARNING AT UNO

- Since 1998, over 125 faculty members have taught at least one service-learning class.
- 7 courses offered in 98-99, over 100 the last four years.



HISTORY OF SERVICE-LEARNING AT UNO

- 133 students participating in 98-99; over 1000 in each of the past seven years.
- Approximately, 10,000 students have taken at least one service-learning course, since 1998.

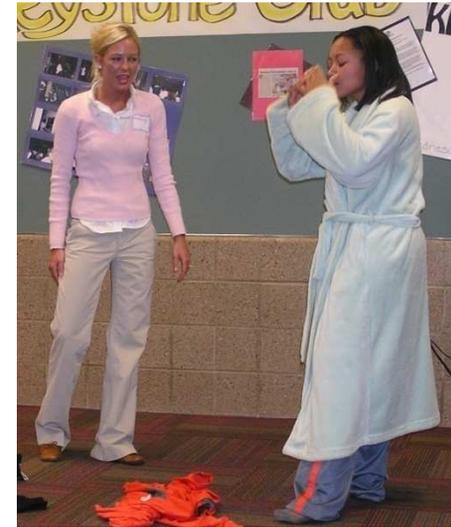


HISTORY OF SERVICE-LEARNING AT UNO

- Partnerships with over 200 community partners.
- Examples:
 - All Our Kids
 - Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc.
 - El Museo Latino
 - Fontenelle Nature Association
 - Heartland Refugee Resettlement
 - Hope Skate
 - Nebraska AIDS Project
 - Raptor Recovery of Nebraska
 - Rebuilding Together
 - Social Settlement Association



STAND ALONE COURSES



Interpersonal Conflict



INTERDISCIPLINARY SERVICE-LEARNING

- **Spring Break 2010:** Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Lauritzen Gardens
- **Martin Luther King Day 2010:** Turning Point, South Omaha Boys & Girls Club
- **Fall Break 2009:** Habitat for Humanity, Lauritzen Gardens, Salvation Army, Santa's Village
- **Global & National Youth Service Day:** April 25, 2009
- **Spring Break 2009:** Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army Lauritzen Gardens, Stephen Center, Little Bellevue Theatre
- **Fall Break 2008:** Social Settlement, Willa Cather home – Red Cloud, NE



THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

- Millennial Generation: Those born between 1978 and 2000
- Important characteristics of this generation include:
 - More ethnically and racially diverse than previous generations
 - Are slated to be the most educated generation in the U.S's history
 - First “always connected generation” = technology is important to millennials



THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION AND SERVICE

- 57% of millennials report volunteering in the past 12 months
- Virtually all millennial students (80%) participate in a community service activity
- In 2006, more than a quarter of National Service volunteers were Millennials (at a time when Millennials comprised no more than 15% of the adult population)



THE UNO FOCUS ON SERVICE AND LEARNING

- In the UNO Strategic Plan, the third goal focuses on civic engagement:
 - Goal 3: UNO will be recognized for its outstanding engagement with the urban, regional, national, and global communities.
 - UNO promotes partnerships that transform and improve urban, regional, national and global life. UNO supports dynamic and reciprocal relationships with constituents. Knowledge can be shared; accessible resources applied; and energies can be extended to continuously address contemporary issues.



AT UNO, STUDENTS EXPECT...

- 87% of entering freshmen and transfer students expect a diverse curriculum and experience at UNO.
- 65% of entering UNO freshmen and transfer students expect to engage in public or community service in the Omaha area while at UNO.
- 50% of students provided their names on the survey indicated that they wish to be contacted about their interests identified on the survey.



THE MAGNET SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

- **2009-2010** - Buffett Middle School: Honors Speech Class
- **2009-2010** - Benson High School: Project Hope
- **2008-2010** - Omaha North HS: North Omaha Media Alliance
- **Spring 2007** - *Marrs Middle Magnet School*:
 - Finance Fair: April 19, 2007
- **Spring 2007** - *North High School*:
 - Honors Business Students and DECA Club: Hope Skate Project

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING

- Summer 2009 – Lima Peru



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING

- **A collaborative effort among:**
 - OLLAS - The Office of Latino/Latin American Studies
 - Sociology Department
 - UNO Service-Learning Academy



LLS 4950/8956-850

- Latin American Study Abroad:
Lima, Peru! *A Study Abroad, Service-Learning,
and Distance Education Course*
- Spring Semester (Jan – May, 2009)
- Travel Dates: May 15- May 31, 2009



ENCOUNTERS WITH THE COMMUNITY



ENCOUNTERS WITH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES



FACULTY/STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- **National Service Learning Conference:** San Jose, CA March 2010
- **Applied Learning National Conference:** St Joseph, MO. February 2010
- **Midwest Consortium Conference:** Omaha, NE September 2009
- **American Democracy Conference:** Baltimore, MD June, 2009
- **Campus Community Partnerships for Health:** Vancouver, BC. May, 2008
- **National Service Learning Conference:** Minneapolis, MN. April, 2008
- **International Symposium on Service Learning and Civic Engagement:** Indianapolis, IN. May, 2007
- **Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism:** Omaha, NE. March, 2007
- **Texas Campus Compact National Conference on Civic Engagement:** Austin, TX. February, 2007



BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING: STUDENTS

○ Deep Learning

- Application and enhanced mastery of course content;
- Exposure to diverse populations and perspectives;
- Commitment to active citizenship; and
- Increased sense of self-efficacy.



BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING: FACULTY

- Revitalized sense of purpose for both teaching and community-based research;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Connectivity
 - To institutional mission and goals;
 - To students
 - To community
 - Faculty and staff (interdisciplinary projects)



BENEFITS OF SERVICE- LEARNING: COMMUNITY

- Direct economic benefits;
- Increased capacity;
- Connectivity
 - UNO
 - Faculty and students
 - Businesses
 - K-12



RECOGNITION

- **The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction - 2009**
- **Governor's "Points of Light" Award - 2009**
- **Excellence in Service-Learning Award 2008-2009 & featured in Guide to Service-Learning Universities and Colleges**



A Student's Reflection

“I felt that the opportunity would be rewarding and interesting, which it was, but there is so much more. I could have never imagined that connection that I would make with the work and the feeling of really being able to impact youth. The project allows for so much more than a typical class, it involves the heart and the mind unlike any typical class can do. Normally we as students are simply using our minds to try and get the best grade that we can, while this project goes much deeper. The further we advanced into this project, the less I worried about a grade and the more I worried about creating a result that could really make a difference. I have never in my entire educational “career” felt anywhere near that level of pride in what I was doing.”



**“Let Us Build The World By Building One Another”
-Teilhard de Chardin**

