



Soaring Beyond the Nest

Implementing Community Based Learning at Polk State College



Presented by members of Polk State's Community Based Learning Work Group

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Community Based Learning Defined



“Service Learning programs are distinguished from other approaches to experiential education by their intention to equally benefit the provider and the recipient of the service as well as to ensure equal focus on both the service being provided and the learning that is occurring. . . It is this balance that distinguishes service-learning from all other experiential education programs.”

Excerpted from Andrew Furco’s 2006 article “Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education.”



Purpose Statement

The purpose of this plan is to create and implement an institutional framework to support the continued development of community based learning as stated in Polk State Strategic Plan Goal 1.2.1 Objective 1*

* **Goal 1.2.1:** Leverage best practices to improve student success and college experience

Objective 1: Identify and implement best practices in service learning

Plan Goals

- a) Increase enrollment in service learning courses
 - i. increase faculty participation
 - ii. increase CBL course offerings
 - iii. increase advisor knowledge of CBL course offerings

 - b) Improve retention rates in service learning courses
 - i. improve design of current CBL course activities (based on best practices)
 - ii. assess CBL course activities within context of course learning outcomes

 - c) Improve quality of feedback gathered in the CBL course evaluation
 - i. create resource tool to collect both quantitative and qualitative feedback about CBL course activities
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Community Based Learning Benefits

- Attracts new sources of funding (via community partnerships)
- Builds positive relationships between students and faculty
- Engages the whole college in common cause; fosters a renewed sense of community spirit
- Enhances student retention (through heightened engagement)
- Improves specific student learning and development outcomes
- Increases graduation rates (through heightened educational relevance)
- Promotes collaboration and develops interdisciplinary skills among faculty
- Supports faculty evaluation goals



Course Design

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is consistent with Maslow's hierarchy and supports the student learning outcomes and experiential teaching/learning methods of many courses offered as part of Polk State's associate's and baccalaureate degrees. Currently, community-based learning experiences are integrated into Science Department courses such as Introduction to Environmental Science and Biological Issues. CBL is also included in several English Department offerings. In addition, faculty members in other department/disciplines are involved in or interested in incorporating community-based learning into their courses.



Plan Results

As a result of this plan, Polk State College will move towards a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to community-based learning and community engagement (reducing silos and fragmented activities and increasing consistency and tangible results).



Action Plan Immediate Next Steps

Step / Action	Who is involved?				Resources/ Facilities	Timeframe/ Budget
	<u>RESPONSIBLE</u>	<u>ACCOUNTABLE</u>	<u>CONSULTED</u>	<u>INFORMED</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a phased, strategic, sustainable action proposal for the Community-Based Learning Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Team leads present to Provosts * Finalize draft based on Provosts feedback * Provost(s) present to President's Staff 	The designated FLCC workgroup	Dr. Santiago and Dr. Holden	FLCC Dr. Santiago	Dr. Santiago	FL Campus Compact – training and resources Facilities: N/A	Year 1 Completed Spring 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Community-Based Learning committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Round-out committee based on Polk State committee process requirements 	Provosts / President's Staff Current CBL Committee CBL Coordinator as committee chair/co-chair	Dr. Santiago and Stephen Hull	Provosts / President's Staff	Those interested and/or asked to serve on the CBL committee	Procedure # 6002 Current college process for developing new committees - Yvonne Velez Facilities: Conference room for meetings and use of Life Size as needed.	Year 1 Start: Jan. 2015 Complete: Fall 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify an institutional champion at a leadership level at the administrative level of Polk State College 	President's Staff	AVP to be named*	N/A	CBL committee	*FLCC recommends oversight through Academics with support through Student Services Facilities: N/A	Year 1 Start: Spring 2015 Complete: Fall 2015



Thank You!