Service-Learning Course Operating Fund

Applications for academic year 2017-18 will be accepted per the following submission schedule:

For Fall 2017 - Submit by Tuesday, September 26th, 2017
For Spring 2018, Submit by Tuesday, November 28th, 2017

The Office for Community-Engaged Learning (OCEL) is offering mini-grants of up to $400 towards course operations that support and facilitate the implementation of high-quality community-engaged teaching practices among faculty and high-impact outcomes for students and community partners.

All faculty from all academic departments are eligible to apply. Funds for these grants are limited; thus, grants are competitive.

Funds may be used for a variety of purposes that supports the realization of a high-quality community service-learning component to a course (new or modified). Examples include: acquisition and provision of consumable supplies and materials, transportation, and support for community events. Funds may NOT be used for the purchase of non-consumable items (i.e. computers, cameras, laboratory equipment, appliances, etc.). Supplemental lectures, orientations, and engagements with community-based educators may be recognized through honoraria at the discretion of the faculty member, but may not exceed $150 total for any specific grant award. While the total dollar amount requested may not exceed $400, grant funds may be combined with other University or external funding sources. (Exception: S-L operating funds may NOT be combined with the $400 course enhancement funds offered to participants of the annual May service-learning workshop sponsored by the OCEL. That is, they may not be granted in combination or used simultaneously). All project-related work and expenses must be completed by the conclusion of the semester in which the course is executed.

Proposals will be reviewed and considered per the following criteria:

1. There is a clear rationale for how grant funds will support the realization of a high-quality service-learning course.

2. The syllabus explicitly demonstrates and effectively communicates the use of community service-learning as a principle teaching and learning strategy for the course. At a minimum, the syllabus MUST include:

   - A definition of service-learning.
   - Specific student learning outcomes to be realized through service-learning (i.e. understanding/applying academic course content, developing personal and professional skills, and achieving purposeful civic learning).
3. There is a plan for achieving reciprocity with community partners and assessing the effectiveness and benefit of service outcomes for community.

For Assistance developing an effective Service-Learning Course Syllabus, please consult:

- Definitions of Service-Learning.
- Guidelines for Constructing an Effective Service-Learning Course Syllabus.
- A color-coded EXAMPLE of an effective service-learning course syllabus.

Funding decisions will be made by a selection committee composed of four faculty members from the SRU Community Engagement Advisory Board and the Director for Community-Engaged Learning.

In accepting funds, recipients agree to share their course syllabus with the campus community via the Office for Community-Engaged Learning. Recipients of the S-L OF will also provide the following documentation that will be used as a resource to publicly disseminate outcomes through the Office for Community-Engaged Learning BLOG.

Reporting Requirements include:

1. A 1-page document summarizing outcomes in three areas: 1) student learning outcomes, 2) service outcomes (deliverables to community, and 3) evidence of reciprocity with community partner(s).

2. 1-2 pictures with captions that help tell the story of the service-learning project.

Documentation may be submitted via email at ocel@sr.edu. Please attach photos as JPEG, or PNG formats. Recipients are asked to submit documentation within 1 month of project completion. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will result in ineligibility from all OCEL resources and support.

Please contact Jeffrey Rathlef, Director for Community-Engaged Learning (Jeffrey.rathlef@sr.edu, X4764) with questions about the application process or if you would like to consult regarding a grant.

To apply, please complete and submit the following:

First Name*
Last Name*
E-mail *
College *
Department *
Administrative Assistant/Secretary *

Briefly articulate your overall service-learning goals for the course and how the grant funds will help you achieve them. *

UPLOAD YOUR SERVICE-LEARNING COURSE SYLLABUS *

Outline how you will assess student learning outcomes. *

Outline a plan/strategy for how you will achieve reciprocity with community partners and assess the effectiveness and benefit of service outcomes for community. *

Please list anticipated budget expenses. *

(Fields marked with an asterisk are required).

This initiative is intended to further support community engagement and as such we will continuously enhance the criteria and invite your feedback or your thoughts via e-mail at ocel@srue.edu.

To apply for the Service-Learning Course Operating Fund, click here (SRU login required).