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THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY LINK

The Campus — Community Link Project

An Initiative of WV Campus Compact

In Partnership with the West Virginia Community Development Hub

With Funding Provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Request for Proposals — Community Development Projects

Please return an electronic version of the completed application to:

Francesca.Nestor@mail.wvu.edu

Or mail a hard copy to:

Francesca Nestor, Director
Campus Compact
West Virginia University
345 Stansbury Hall
P.O. Box 6412
Morgantown, WV 26506

Proposal Submission Deadline: April 9, 2012

West Virginia Campus Compact

West Virginia Campus Compact (WVCC) advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. It is one of thirty-five state Campus Compact offices nationwide. WVCC fulfills its mission by striving to make it easier for colleges and

universities to provide high-quality service and service learning opportunities to their students, with the goal of increasing students' levels of engagement and commitment to their communities.

West Virginia Community Development Hub

The West Virginia Community Development Hub is a statewide non-profit organization with the mission of engaging communities and providers in an intentional, aligned and continuous system of community development.

Through that system, the Hub builds the capacity of communities and organizations by pursuing the following goals:

1. Catalyze community development in West Virginia.
2. Act as a liaison to strengthen relationships among community development stakeholders.
3. Build community development capacity.
4. Develop and distribute resources for community development efforts.

The Hub does this by connecting communities with the Network of resource and technical assistance providers they need to succeed; connecting those resource and technical assistance providers with one another in an effort to align those services to reduce redundancies and identify gaps; and connecting communities with one another to share best practices and reinforce one another's community development efforts.

The Campus — Community LINK Project

WV Campus Compact serves 28 member institutions. The colleges and universities that will participate in the 2012-2013 LINK program will be selected from those members. Campuses will be selected on the basis of their applying faculty members' past experience with and/or aptitude for service learning, the availability of a central contact to handle multiple faculty projects, and the appropriateness of the fit between the project and the class.

This round of Benedum Foundation funding will provide support for 40 community service learning "LINK" projects between involved campuses and communities. We anticipate 20 projects will take place in the 2012 fall semester, and 20 will take place in the 2013 spring semester.

To make sure the service learning LINK projects incorporated into the college and university courses meet real community needs, we are asking interested communities to propose the projects. LINK project proposals are due April 9, 2012. Proposals will be placed in a "project pool" for review and selection, which will be password protected and viewable online by faculty interested in LINK. During the month of May 2012, faculty interested in specific projects may contact communities directly to learn more about the proposed projects and aid with the selection process. At the same time, applying faculty will similarly be placed in a pool which community teams may utilize to review applying faculty interest areas and connect with individual faculty. Conference calls and, potentially, meeting locations will also be provided to allow these connections to take place. By May 31, 2012, faculty and community teams in the pools will provide information on their top picks for a potential match.

LINK project matches receiving funds will be determined by June 15, 2012, and a training for faculty/community teams will be held in early July.

To guide your proposals, we want to define service learning, illustrate how it is different from volunteerism or community service, and provide some examples.

What is Service Learning?

“Service learning means a method under which students learn and develop through thoughtfully organized service that: ... meets the needs of a community and is coordinated with an institution of higher education, and with the community; helps foster civic responsibility; is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students enrolled; and includes structured time for students to reflect on the service experience.”

American Association for Higher Education (AAHE): Series on Service-Learning in the Disciplines (adapted from the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993).

Definition of Service Learning vs. Volunteerism and Community Service

“**Volunteerism** is the engagement of students in activities where the primary emphasis is on the service being provided, and the primary intended beneficiary is clearly the service recipient.”

“**Community service** is the engagement of students in activities that primarily focus on the service being provided as well as the benefits the service activities have on recipients (e.g., providing food to the homeless during the holidays). The students receive some benefits by learning more about how their service makes a difference in the lives of service recipients.”

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

(From Introduction to Service-Learning Toolkit)

How Does a Service Learning Project Differ from a Volunteer Project?

Volunteer projects tend to be one-time activities, such as picking up garbage along a roadway for an afternoon, or painting a building. There is certainly benefit, but the project has no ties to the server’s academic work and does not require the server to reflect on what he has learned. With service learning, a longer-term project is tied to academic objectives outlined by a faculty member, and that project requires thought and planning and time to complete. Rather than picking up garbage for an afternoon, a student might create plans for a community recycling center. Rather than painting a community organization’s building, a student might help that organization create a new method of data collection, or conduct a survey about its clients. The benefit, then, to student and community is deeper and more meaningful. Ideally, the project provides or looks toward longer-term solutions, rather than short-term fixes.

Examples of Service Learning Projects

- In a history of architecture class, students create a research database for a historical community park in need of renovations, and propose a new design for that park that is modern, yet mindful of that historical research.

- In an economics class pertaining to housing allocation, students interview working poor households to gain an understanding of the access issues present in their housing and communities (such as access to health care, access to childcare, etc). Students analyze themes in the interviews and provide a report to a nonprofit organization researching ways to improve housing policy.
- In a geology and ecology class, students collect samples on a nearby body of water and present their findings and solutions for improving problems. Students in an education course could take these findings and develop and present ecology lesson plans to K-12 students, while students in a computer science course could develop a website to promote community awareness of the issue.
- In a media course, students design a media literacy curriculum and present it to school children in a series of workshops at afterschool programs.
- In a business course on tax concepts, students train community members in tax preparation with a focus on low-income individuals, enabling the community to create a tax help center for low-income families.
(Source: www.compact.org)

Remember, there are endless higher education disciplines and thus endless possibilities for service learning projects in the Campus-Community LINK Project! Think of the challenges and opportunities your community is facing and how college students in an academic course might be able to help.

Project Timeline:

March 1, 2012	Request for community development project proposals distributed to Hub focus community teams
April 9, 2012	Deadline for submission of community proposals
April 30, 2012	Proposals placed into pool for faculty review; applying faculty also placed into pool for community team review
May 2012	Faculty and communities may contact one another to learn more about possible project connections
May 31, 2012	Faculty and communities supply WV Campus Compact with their top picks for a potential match
June 15, 2012	Projects matched/selected for funding
July 2012	Training for LINK teams
August 2012	First round of LINK projects begins
December 2012	First round of LINK projects concludes
January 2013	Second round of LINK projects begins
May 2012	Second round of LINK projects concludes

Project Contacts:

Franchesca Nestor, Director
West Virginia Campus Compact
West Virginia University
345 Stansbury Hall
P.O. Box 6412
Morgantown WV 26506
Email:
Franchesca.Nestor@mail.wvu.edu
Phone: 304-293-7133
Fax: 304-293-2906
Website: www.wvcampuscompact.org

Kent Spellman, Executive Director
WV Community Development Hub
301 Water Street
Stonewood, WV 26301-4648
E-mail: k.spellman@wvhub.org
Phone: 304-566-7332
Fax: 304-566-7309
Mobile: 304-476-3838
Website: www.wvhub.org



**The Campus – Community Link Project
Proposal Application
Community Development Projects**

Submission Deadline: April 9, 2012

Contact person:

Organization:

Email address:

Office phone number:

Cell phone number:

Mailing address:

Please list other members of your project team:

Name: E-mail:

Name: E-mail:

Name: E-mail:

Name: E-mail:

Name of the project:

One sentence description of the project:

Has your community worked with the WV Community Development Hub in the past?

If so, in what way?

Has your community participated in the following initiatives:

Blueprint Communities

Community Design Team

Sustainable Communities Training Prog

ON TRAC

HubCAP

Main Street

First Impressions

Power of 10

Is this project part of an overall community plan? Explain.

Has your community participated in a Campus-Community LINK project in the past?

No Yes

Do you anticipate that this a single semester project, or one with the potential for multiple semesters of work? Please explain your response in the needs description section.

Single Multiple Uncertain

Is this project an extension of a previous LINK project?

Yes No

If yes, are you interested in continuing work with the same professor/campus? Explain.

Needs description (please be as specific as possible!):

Type of assistance requested:

Signature of Contact Person

Date

Please return an electronic version of this proposal to:

Franchesca.Nestor@mail.wvu.edu

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