

WESTERN

CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs Division
(Office of Undergraduate Studies)
Center for Service Learning

FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Background & Purpose

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates community service with academic instruction and structured reflection in such a way that students gain further understanding of course content, meet genuine community needs, develop career-related skills, and become responsible citizens.

– WCU Center for Service Learning, 2007

The Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program began in Fall 2004 as a partnership between the Office of the Provost (Division of Academic Affairs) and the Department of Service Learning (Division of Student Affairs). The Center for Service Learning, now a unit of the new Office of Undergraduate Studies, coordinates the program.

The purpose of the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program is to develop a cadre of scholar-practitioners who will assist in integrating the philosophy, pedagogy, and process of service learning into the academic programs at Western Carolina University. Fellows assist the Center for Service Learning in providing resources and support to their faculty colleagues as they make service learning an integral part of their teaching, research, and professional service. The program is aimed particularly at increasing the number and quality of both service-learning courses and service-learning faculty.

Fellowships are awarded through a competitive process, and Fellows are appointed for one-year periods. Five fellowships are currently available in the Center for Service Learning. Each Fellow represents a college – Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Allied Professions, Fine and Performing Arts, and Health and Human Sciences – and is given a three-credit course release each semester. (The Honors College and the Kimmel School of Construction Management & Technology are represented by Liaisons.) Current Fellows may be reappointed after a favorable review of their performance, but no Fellow is allowed to serve for more than two consecutive years.

Strong candidates are those who have demonstrated – primarily through quality teaching of service-learning courses, as indicated in their curriculum vitae – the potential to advance the University's Service-Learning Program. Candidates who show – by means of an application essay and interview – a practical, creative approach to service learning, are also regarded as

strong candidates. However, any faculty member with a keen interest in service-learning pedagogy may apply.

Prior to the beginning of the academic year/Fall semester, Fellows participate in a three-hour Orientation and Professional Development Session. Faculty Development Sessions are held monthly, and Fellows also have regular, ongoing consultations with the Director of Service Learning.

Faculty Fellows' Responsibilities

Each Faculty Fellow has the following major responsibilities:

1. Integrate service learning into a course taught during the period of the fellowship
 2. Coordinate and conduct a service-learning workshop on the principles and practice of service learning or a roundtable on a service-learning issue
 3. Serve as a consultant and mentor to faculty in designing or revising courses and syllabi to include service learning as a component
 4. Make a conference presentation or write a journal or newspaper article on a service learning-related topic
 5. Assist the Center for Service Learning in student learning assessment and program evaluation, involving both campus and community partners
-

Special Opportunities for Faculty Fellows

Faculty Fellows are provided with opportunities to

1. Broaden their horizons by working with and learning from faculty across disciplines
2. Enrich their professional development by attending a service-learning conference during the Fall or Spring semester
3. Write a credential-enhancing article on a service-learning topic for a peer-reviewed journal or a newspaper, or make a service learning-related presentation at the conference of a professional association
4. Participate in the University-wide initiative focusing on the Boyer model of scholarships (discovery, integration, application, and teaching) and in the implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan

Fellows are featured in *The Service-Learning Sentinel* (quarterly newsletter) in the Fall semester and are recognized at the annual Service-Learning Awards Ceremony in April.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Members of all categories of faculty may apply for a fellowship. Favorable consideration is given to applicants who demonstrate the potential to advance the University's Service-Learning Program. Applicants are selected through a process

that includes completion of a Service-Learning Faculty Fellowship application and an interview. The Dean of the College and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies “sign off” on each appointment.

Selection of the Fellows is based on

- A signed application (indicating the Department Head’s approval)
- The applicant’s curriculum vitae – evaluated for quality teaching, research, and service experiences
- An essay on “The Practical Application of Service Learning as an Effective Method of Teaching and Learning” – evaluated for clarity, practicality of approach to the use of service-learning methodology, expression of a sound philosophy of teaching, and specific information on how curriculum-based community service enhances student learning
- An interview of the applicant

How to Apply

Please submit the completed application form with the relevant documents by the deadline – **second Monday of January** (January 14, 2008) – to:

Glenn Bowen, Ph.D.
Director of Service Learning

Service-Learning Fellows, 2007-2008

Arts and Sciences:

Business:

Education and Allied Professions:

Fine and Performing Arts

Health and Human Sciences:

Prof. James Holbrook

Dr. Paul Jacques

Dr. Mickey Randolph

Dr. Erin Tapley

Prof. Jeanne Dulworth

Information

For further information, please contact:

Center for Service Learning

Scott East

Western Carolina University

(828) 227-7184 or 2643; gbowen@wcu.edu

Or visit the Web site, http://www.wcu.edu/studentd/service_learning/

