

2014-2015 Academy for Community-Based Learning
Supporting Community-Based Learning
Practitioners at Gustavus
Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 1st, 2014
Sponsored by the Center for Servant Leadership

The Academy for Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a series of seminars designed to assist faculty or departments in developing and enhancing core competencies of effective community-engaged teaching, service, and scholarship. More specifically, the 2014-15 seminars will support improvement and growth through a learner-centered community of practice based on the following principles:

Shared Work – acquire examples, strategies, and knowledge of your colleagues work and expertise.

Co-Learning – hone, build, and improve upon your current practice and identify new resources and tools of interest.

Supportive Relationships – benefit from peer-to-peer mentoring, networking, exchange, and camaraderie.

The Academy will consist of a series of four evening seminars distributed throughout the 2014-2015 academic year. The objectives of the seminars are: 1) to improve the practice of each practitioner through a learner-centered curriculum; 2) to provide participants with resources throughout the academic year that will assist them in developing new or modified CBL courses; and 3) to increase the visibility of CBL activities on the Gustavus campus and to share best practices within the Gustavus community. Seminar facilitators may consist of Gustavus administrators and faculty, representatives from community organizations, faculty from other colleges in the region, and visiting specialized trainers. The dates and themes of the four seminars will be:

Wednesday, Oct 22, 2014: 5-9 PM – St. Peter Room

Seminar 1: Integrating CBL Experiences with Academic Curriculum and Coursework:

- Designing course syllabi that provide meaningful CBL experiences for students;
- Modifying a current course to include a CBL component;
- Understanding the resources available in the CSL;
- Planning and logistical considerations – where and how to begin thinking about a CBL course.

Wednesday, Dec 10, 2014: 5-9 PM – St. Peter Room

Seminar 2: Promoting Engagement with Community and Reciprocity

- Locating community partners and managing logistics and site visits;
- Examining community and partner needs;
- Building sustainable, long-term relationships;
- Ensuring mutually-beneficial outcomes for all parties.

Thursday, March 12, 2015: 5-9 PM – St. Peter Room

Seminar 3: Designing Course-Embedded Reflective Practices:

- Designing course syllabi that provide a method or methods for students to reflect on what they learned through the engaged experience and how these relate to the subject of the course, as well as students' sense of civic development and responsibility;
- Exploring methods to use, e.g. journals, group discussions, blogs, etc. to facilitate reflective learning;
- Developing assignment prompts that will stimulate reflective learning;
- Exploring available resources such as sample assignments.

Thursday, April 23, 2015: 5-9 PM – St. Peter Room

Seminar 4: Systematically Assessing Community Impact and Student Learning Outcomes:

- Measuring what counts – Assessing CBL outcomes on partner programs and mission-driven metrics;
- Assessing the impact of CBL coursework on student-learning outcomes;
- Tools of the trade: A review of CBL assessment best practices.

Participant Expectations and Stipend: Each faculty participant (up to eight) will receive a stipend of \$300 upon completion of the Academy. Participants will be invited to work collaboratively in the 2015 spring semester following the Academy to further refine course details. Each faculty participant may then earn an *additional* \$200 during the following 2015-2016 academic year by executing a NEW or SIGNIFICANTLY modified community-based learning course.

Eligibility: Continuing faculty from all academic departments and interdisciplinary programs are eligible for the Academy. Both new and experienced faculty are encouraged to apply.

Application Process: Applicants are NOT expected to have a fully designed course/project at the time of the Academy. We expect that seminars will provide new insights, learning, and resources that will shape the course. Nevertheless, applicants are encouraged to have some concept of what they want to accomplish. Therefore, selection of participants will be based on the following criteria within application narratives (no more than 2 pages):

1. Enhancing student learning and civic development through community engagement.

A brief description of the course or departmental curricular goals to be modified or created, and the student learning objectives that are perceived to be enhanced through engagement.

2. Contributing to the public good.

A brief description of the perceived issue or need among community-based organizations, groups, or individuals that guides your interest in community engagement.

3. Personal skills, gifts, and talents.

A short statement regarding what personal assets you would bring to a community of practitioners.

4. Alignment with professional goals;

A short statement outlining the faculty member's personal and professional interest in developing competencies in community-based learning.

Application and Notification: Please submit your application narrative per the selection criteria above (no more than 2 pages please) to the selection committee ACBLselectioncommittee@gustavus.edu, **no later than Wednesday, October 1st by 5:00 PM.** The selection committee will review all applications and notification will be made **by Friday, October 3rd.** General questions and inquiries regarding the workshop may be directed to Jeffrey Rathlef, Director for Community-Based Service and Learning, jrathlef@gustavus.edu, X6011.