Steans Center Newsletter

Steans Center

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Irwin W. Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning & Community Service Studies

Community service means different things to different people. The Steans Center allows community service to mean different things to different people. Through the promotion of community values to DePaul students, the Center seeks to develop a generation of compassionate, engaged graduates who will challenge the status quo and seek the greater good. By offering the option of an academic minor in Community Service Studies, we are able to connect students to community service through course options, interning opportunities, and a research seminar. Whether students choose to engage in community service through completion of the Community Service Studies minor or through other means, the Steans Center offers a unique opportunity to critically examine the role service plays.

\[\text{Mission Statement}\]

The Steans Center is dedicated to promoting community values at DePaul University through course options, internships, and a research seminar. By offering the option of an academic minor in Community Service Studies, the Center enables students to connect to community service through course options, internships, and a research seminar. Whether students choose to engage in community service through completion of the Community Service Studies minor or through other means, the Steans Center offers a unique opportunity to critically examine the role service plays.

DePaul University Steans Center

Community Service Studies Minor:
Unique option links classroom, experience in field

Griddon Salgado, a senior majoring in Political Science, says that the Community Service Studies minor has provided her with opportunities to learn more about the world around her. "The best way to learn is hands-on and that's what the minor gives you, hands-on experience working in the corporate world for 3 to 5 years and then networking for a position." For Griddon, being involved in Community Service Studies has been a big impact on her life. "The only way to be involved in what's going on is to be part of it." Worrall says, "I think students who have an interest in community service should definitely explore the minor." Murphy says, "For students who have an interest in community service, the minor can introduce students to a world they might not otherwise encounter – the non-profit sector," Worrall says. "It is vital to discuss this country's system of social services and the infrastructures that exist to support social justice and peace." Murphy says, "The minor gives students the opportunity to do something about it through classes and internships at school." Salgado is among a growing number of students who see the minor as an academic minor in Community Service Studies. In doing so, he has learned about community service through a range of required and elective classes and by working as an intern. He currently interns at Prologue Alternative High School in Chicago and his work experience has given him the chance to do something about it through classes and internships at school.

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DePaul students at COOL conference

By Dan Baron, Freelance Writer

Three DePaul students who are exactly the kind of people being encouraged to take advantage of the Community Service Studies minor presented a session at the 2005 national COOL (Community Oriented Learning) conference held at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Magdalyn Guzzo, Billie Drakeford and Josh French, three DePaul students who were among the 25 working in community-based Federal Work Study programs this year through the Steans Center, facilitated a conversation around “Promoting Business Ethics in Payday Loan Project.”

DePaul at the COOL conference.

Students Examine Business Ethics in Payday Loan Project

Students take part in the spring conference of COOL (Community Oriented Learning) at the University of Illinois at Chicago, an English language immersion program which integrates community service, language immersion, and justice studies.

University Ministry and the Community Service Studies minor at DePaul University have devoted their efforts to changing the way people think about payday loans.

For Emily Gharabally, the work study internship has opened her eyes to the ways students can learn through service. “It’s about getting involved in your community,” she says. “I really enjoyed getting involved in the community and actually being able to educate the community and teach them about something.”

Second Language classes at Centro Romero in the city’s Edgewater neighborhood that treats survivors of torture from all around the world, and a graduate human rights organization located in Chicago’s Rogers Park neighborhood that provides services to African nations. “I started out by helping any way I could,” she says, “and now I provide French interpretation and case management.”

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The symposium explores how service learning can be used to enhance the education of non-traditional students (as undergraduates or graduate students), first year law students, and students from other programs at DePaul. It is sponsored by the Payday Loan Project through the DePaul Service Learning Institute and New Learning Institute.

To kick off this year’s spring Community Service Studies minor sessions, Woodstock Institute and the Payday Loan Project will host a symposium on payday loans and their impact on financial education and personal responsibility.

Six students from the Steans Center, University Ministry Community Service Office, and a DePaul Student Voice presented at the conference. These six students received funding to attend the conference through the DePaul Service Learning and Justice Coalition. A student-led group among those three groups comprised of a Foreign Language Exchange and Literacy Program Internship through the Steans Center. The interns have worked with Chicago Public Schools students from different countries, language immersion, and justice studies.

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Napleton recalls volunteering through the program at United Charities, a non-profit organization while he was in graduate school. “As a graduate student, I was working with at-risk youth,” she says. “I decided that paying it forward was a very important part of my life.”

One of the most important aspects of being a student in the Community Service Studies minor is the opportunity to do something meaningful. Napleton, who was a big supporter of the Community Service Studies minor when she was still a student, says, “I know that there are often streets to change the way things are. I’m a big supporter of the Community Service Studies minor.”

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DePaul students at COOL Spring '05 conference.

DePaul University offers a Community Internship Service Learning major in the School of Community Service. The student requires 32 credits in a three-year program that includes 600 hours of supervised experience in local agencies in Chicago and Cook County. The internship experience is a major part of the program.

In Winter Quarter 2005, eight DePaul students studied payday lending regulations and regulations to help influence passage of new Illinois law — the Payday Loan Reform Act — passed in 2001 legislation that incorporated into a new payday loan regulations into a new law. The students learned about the scope of the problem.

DePaul students examined business ethics in payday loan project.

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The program assigns them to a specific reflection group that meets weekly to discuss their internship experiences. The program also provides a site representative who helps interns negotiate their schedules with their organizations, provides support and guidance, and allows students an opportunity to share their experiences.

In the field, Emily Gharabally finds that the work-study internship has opened her eyes to the world of refugee community service and has provided her with valuable experience. "She believes that community-based programs are important and that they serve as a bridge between the community and the university. "I believe that the community-student relationship is a very important aspect of the internship," she says. "Students are the primary beneficiaries of this program." This semester, students and interns will work together on a variety of community-based projects, such as the "Road to Literacy" program, which focuses on providing educational support for children who are at risk of dropping out of school. The program is designed to help students develop the academic and work-related skills they need to succeed in school.

DePaul students at COOL Conference

Three DePaul students who are mentors in the Bringing It Home program (BIH) presented a paper at the Center for Community Service and Social Justice (CCSJ) conference on the Road to Literacy program. The presentation was well-received and illustrated the importance of intercultural programs in the BIH program. The students led a discussion on the need for more cross-cultural programs in the community language laboratory sites. The session led to a fruitful discussion on the need for more cross-cultural programs in the community language laboratory sites. The session led to a fruitful discussion on the need for more cross-cultural programs in the community language laboratory sites.

Each fact sheet to update our payday loan database is a valuable piece of information that students can use to make informed decisions about payday loans. The database includes information on the different types of payday loans available, such as single-payment and multi-payment loans. It also includes information on the fees and interest rates associated with each type of loan, as well as the terms and conditions of each loan.

As a result of the students’ hard work and dedication, the database has been updated and is now available for use by the community. The database is available online, and students can access it by visiting the Payday Loan Project website.

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We are always looking for new opportunities to link community critically examine the role service plays. Studies minor and our Community Federal Work Study Program.

professional work, both inside and outside of the classroom. constitutes community, service, lifelong learning, and rewarding challenging opportunities to grow in their understanding of what [71x843]
The Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning provides a range of opportunities for students to engage with the community. The center seeks to develop leaders and professionals equipped with the skills to contribute to social justice and community development.

**Community Service**

Community service means different things to different people. The Steans Center allows community service to be defined. It includes a range of activities from volunteering to participating in research projects. At the heart of our work, though, is the development of "extraordinary opportunities for DePaul students," to quote our president, Fr. Holtschneider. The Center prides itself on helping students discover and understand their communities through service-learning and community-based research.

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**Schools and Divisions**

Steans Center Staff

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**Community Service Studies Program**

Community Service Studies minor:

- Unique option links classroom, experience in field
- For students who want to study community service
- Course requirements include community study, internship, research, and service
- Enhances understanding of community issues, develops skills, and informs career choices
- Open to all DePaul students

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