1-1-2007

Steans Center Newsletter

Steans Center

Recommended Citation

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We will be further institutionalizing objectives with DePaul University’s Vision Twenty12 strategic plan. Our support and to ensure that our partners in the community receive the best collaborations in order to enrich the academic quality of the courses we across the curriculum. During the past six months, the Center has addressed many social, political, and economic challenges of our time. Contributing to redefining how higher education institutions engage in systemic problems in areas such as affordable housing, health care, education, and neighborhood development.

I bring to my new position a continued strong commitment to promoting social justice, engaging community partners in social issues, and expanding and enhancing academically-based service learning opportunities across the curriculum. During the past six months, the Center has undertaken a planning process that directly aligns our goals and objectives with DePaul University’s Vision Twenty12 strategic plan. During the coming year, we will be developing new interdepartmental collaborations in order to execute the academic quality of the Center’s support and ensure that our partners in the community receive the best services from DePaul students. We will also be expanding our support of community-based research, developing new interdepartmental coalitions in the Community Service Studies, expanding our partnerships with Catholic schools and Jesuit institutions, and deepening our collaborations with the North Lawndale community. All of these efforts will provide students and faculty with opportunities to understand the diversity of the Chicagoland Urban Center and many people know little about it,” added Andrea Garces, a DePaul alumna who worked as the Humboldt Park Community Coordinator for the Steans Center. “Instead of focusing on the first few weeks that are aimed and open the way to the learning objectives of DePaul courses to vital community work taking place in Chicago and internationally.

I think you will find that this issue of our newsletter sheds light on some extraordinary examples of how the Steans Center provides a resource for community work taking place in Chicago and internationally.
Be a teacher and a learner, I tell people who come to this community, understand people as human beings, not some object of study.

As he walks outside PRCC’s office in Northside Street, Lopez also repeats a word some students might associate more with biological sciences than the study of communities: ecosystem.

“To understand a community, you have to learn about its institutions, its restaurants, the high-tech stores—everything that goes together,” says Lopez. “You have to understand the community’s intellectual life, says Lopez, to June. “PRCC began “Community...as Intellectual Space 2006: From Community Organizing to Social Change” and is the largest of its kind in the country. And residents are surprised by what they see,” adds Curran, who studied the link between justice issues in a global context.

This project is not about accepting how things are in a community—it is about this partnership with Steans, residents were sharing stories of service, and learning opportunities. Despite the unique 20-year history of the charter school, its students, and DePaul nursing students were able to incorporate the history of the school into their work.

“We are a partner, we are a community,” she says. “The houses are the things that are built, and then the community is the people who come together. The community is the thing that holds the houses together, the people who are there. We are the community, and we are the houses.”

Ibanez said he was “blown away by the quality and artistry” of the project. “I am so impressed by the quality of the work that has been done, and I am so proud of the students who have been involved.”

Collaboration between the Steans Alumni Project and the Steans Center has fostered the creation of the Multicultural Systems service learning course. This program has been strengthened by a collaboration with the Multicultural Center in Merida that is also engaged in service learning or “social action.” "DePaul students..."

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**Steans and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center: Partnership Embaces Service Learning**

**Rivka, Director of the Steans Center:**

Steans and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) has a rich history and future as it celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. As the Puerto Rican flags sit at a dynamic community between Division and Pilsen Streets, Chicago, two gigantic, 50-foot steel sculptures of the Puerto Rican national flags stand on Division Street, Chicago. These iconic sculptures, known as “Puerto Rican Heritage,” represent the cultural heritage of Puerto Ricans who have immigrated to Chicago and other parts of the United States. The sculptures are a visual reminder of the resilience and cultural identity of the Puerto Rican community in Chicago.

As the Executive Director of the Steans Center, I believe that “Steans embraces Service Learning.” Our focus is on community engagement and partnership with PRCC and other community organizations, residents, and businesses, as well as the arts and humanities. The center has developed a strong connection to Division Street and surrounding communities and is committed to fostering a sense of community. Our work is multifaceted, aiming to bridge the gap between academic research and community development, and to enhance the quality of life for community members.

In addition to the “Perspectives” class, DePaul students in recent years have engaged in a variety of service learning projects in the community. For example, students have volunteered at PRCC, conducted research on community issues, and participated in community outreach programs. These projects serve as an immersive model for service learning, allowing students to gain firsthand experience and knowledge about community issues and challenges.

**Ricardo Lopez, Executive Director of the Steans Center:**

“Steans embraces Service Learning” means that the center is committed to fostering a sense of community and partnership with community organizations and residents. Our goal is to provide students with an immersive learning experience that is both academically rigorous and community relevant.

Service Learning allows students to gain real-world experience in addressing community needs and issues, and to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As a result, students are better prepared to make a positive impact on the community and to become effective leaders in their future careers.

This year, we are excited to announce the STEANS Program, which is designed to support DePaul students in their service learning projects. Through this program, students will have access to resources and support to help them develop effective community partnerships and to ensure that their projects are successful.

**Conclusion:**

Steans and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center believe that “Steans embraces Service Learning.” Our commitment to community engagement and partnership is evident in our diverse range of service learning projects and initiatives. We believe that these projects not only benefit the community, but also provide students with a valuable learning experience that will prepare them for future careers.
Vincentian Service Day.

Steans and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center: Partnership Embraces Service Learning

By Dan Rose, Freelance Writer

Division Street, Chicago (Nov. 7, 2014) — Students and scholars of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) have a rich history and tradition that goes back to the time of Puerto Rican migration to Chicago. This tradition has had a major impact on the history of the community, especially in the neighborhoods of Humboldt Park, Puerto Rican and Wicker Park.

For Chicago students who enter Humboldt Park, learning about the community is a vital aspect of their education. This is especially true for those who are interested in the community’s history and culture. The PRCC offers a unique opportunity for students to learn about the community through service learning.

The PRCC’s mission is to promote education about the community through service learning. The center offers courses that focus on the community’s history and culture, as well as courses that focus on the community’s current issues and needs.

The center has a strong partnership with the Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning at DePaul University. This partnership allows the PRCC to offer courses that focus on the community’s history and culture, as well as courses that focus on the community’s current issues and needs.

In addition to the PRCC’s courses, students have the opportunity to engage in service learning projects with community partners. These projects allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

For more information about the North Lawndale Initiative, please contact Chris Brown at chrissnowblood@depaul.edu.

Service Extension in Merida, Mexico

Collaboration between the Steans Center and the PRCC has created the opportunity for students to engage in a service learning project in Mexico. This program has been made possible by the support of the Mexican government and the Grand Valley State University.

The program provides students with the opportunity to engage in a service learning project in Merida, Mexico. The program is designed to help students develop leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of the Mexican culture.

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students to create service-learning opportunities. In this last year, DePaul students engaged in service-learning opportunities with the Pilsen Alliance. They did so in work that ranged from academic research on the gentrification of Pilsen to neighborhood change and preservation in Pilsen. What the project has shown is that, although they are doing a project with a service-learning aspect, young people's experience say it has done just that—broaden their thinking about community and open the eyes of students to a new culture. 

Meanwhile, Ryan Kerkstra, a junior in communication, worked with a group organizing to prevent identity, empowering community members about the issue. "I found it very rewarding to be part of a group that seeks to help turn that around and open the eyes of students to a new culture." 

The idea behind the exhibition is to show how neighborhoods develop and transform over time—"not in a neighborhood at all, but in the experiences of young people who are involved in the neighborhood’s transformation." This is key to the exhibition. 

This project is not about accepting how things are today. It’s about understanding how the neighborhood is likely to be told in the future. Maps of the Pilsen community, in fact, were assigned to a block in the community. It’s likely students will learn about a community in ways they never would have in a text book.
Steans and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center: Partnerships Engage Service Learning

Students as service learners

Among the organizations that “give life” to this community are service learning–oriented community groups that are part of MCCBSC and that have partnered with Steans to create service learning opportunities. In the last year, MCCBSC students engaged in service learning opportunities with Pilsen United, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, the Chicago Park District, and the Steelworkers Local 1000. These partnerships have allowed students an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of specific community issues, investigate the history of a community, and engage in meaningful service in Pilsen.

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) is a non-profit community organization and the largest and oldest Puerto Rican organization in Chicago. As we have seen, the PRCC is an organization that has been active in the community for over 40 years. The PRCC is committed to creating opportunities for young people to engage in community service and to promote cultural awareness. Through its various programs and initiatives, the PRCC has supported the development of new skills and knowledge among students, and it has helped to create a sense of community and belonging among its members. The PRCC has a strong tradition of collaboration with educational institutions, and it has a strong commitment to fostering a sense of community and social justice. The PRCC is committed to providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful service learning experiences that will help them to develop a sense of social responsibility and to contribute to the well-being of the community.

Many students who have been involved in the service learning experience have found it to be the most enriching and rewarding part of their educational experience. They have learned about the critical issues facing the community they serve, and they have gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of urban life. The PRCC provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage in service learning and to contribute to the well-being of the community.

The Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning

The Steans Center is a community-based service learning center at DePaul University located in Chicago. The Steans Center offers a range of programs and services to support the development of community-based service learning opportunities at DePaul University. The center provides students and faculty with opportunities to engage in service learning and to contribute to the well-being of the community. The Steans Center is committed to fostering a sense of community and social justice, and it provides a space for students and faculty to reflect on their experiences and to develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of urban life.

The Steans Center is committed to providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful service learning experiences that will help them to develop a sense of social responsibility and to contribute to the well-being of the community. The Steans Center is dedicated to promoting the development of new skills and knowledge among students, and it is committed to fostering a sense of community and belonging among its members. The Steans Center is committed to providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful service learning experiences that will help them to develop a sense of social responsibility and to contribute to the well-being of the community.