The U.Va. Student Experience: Public Service

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee
September 19, 2013

Julie I. Caruccio
UVA has a high level of student involvement in service compared to peers

Source: National Survey of Student Engagement, 2011
315,000 hours served each year

$7 million estimated worth

Sources: Student Experience in the Research University, 2012 & Independent Sector
Defining our terms

“Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”

~Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

“The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”

~Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
The public service activity students do takes multiple forms and falls along a continuum.

- Volunteerism
  - Madison House programs
  - Student organization activity
  - APO, ESWB, Relay for Life, Greek philanthropy

- Service-learning
  - Volunteering and class projects with community partners for credit
  - Young Women Leaders Program, Intro to Engineering, Global Sustainability

- Internships/social entrepreneurship
  - Doing work on behalf of an organization or population
  - Batten program evaluation, McIntire leadership minor, Curry’s America Reads

- Community-based research
  - Conducting research with community partner
    - JPC projects
    - SEAS Capstones
    - ecoMOD, PureMadi, Community Design Studio

*Intellectual depth increases as faculty get involved with student service activity*
student learning outcomes

- Content knowledge
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Cultural competency
- Career choice
- Commitment to social change

Source – Eyler & Giles, 1999
### Student reasons for engagement align closely with our goals

*Which of the following were significant reasons for getting involved in community service: Scale from 0 (Not a significant reason) to 1 (A significant reason)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Become a better citizen and community participant</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belief in the particular cause</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unique or interesting opportunity arose to participate</td>
<td>0.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change conditions in the community</td>
<td>0.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity to learn new things</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to develop leadership skills</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen resume for grad school/employment</td>
<td>0.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouragement from friends or family</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of where the work was to be conducted</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to enhance my academic achievement</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required by my fraternity/sorority</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required as part of my academic program</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Student Experience in the Research University Survey, 2012
Learning in Action

Welcome to Learning in Action – the front door to public service at the University of Virginia, dedicated to connecting students, faculty and community partners to social entrepreneurship, community engagement and co-curricular service opportunities.

Service Events and Opportunities

Public Service Resources

Student Council Public Service Committee
Helps students connect to public service within the Charlottesville community and beyond.

Jefferson Public Citizens
An academic research-service program for all UVA undergraduates.

EngageUVA
A weekly newsletter committed to connecting students, faculty, staff and community members with opportunities for active engagement within and beyond the University. Event Submission.

Madison House
Student volunteer center at UVA.

Undergraduate Research
Grant and fellowship opportunities in public service.

http://www.virginia.edu/publicservice/
Arts Mentors Program
Arts Mentors Outcomes

For UVA students
• Made connections with local children, faculty & community partners
• Learned more about the arts
• Improved leadership and mentoring skills
• “Working with children the best part of the program”

For children, parents & teachers
• Got to know a U.Va. student
• Learned more about the arts
• Met new people (“mentors the best part”)
• Positive impact on students’ engagement with in-class material, behavior & peer interaction
• Exposed children to activities to which they wouldn’t otherwise have access