

# Serving the community enhances education

By Daniel Prater  
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Many college students want to contribute to society as well as their community. However, finding the 'right fit' for doing your part can be frustrating and somewhat confusing. Most times we don't know where to look when approaching this moral responsibility. Luckily, Fayetteville State University has the Center for Community Justice & Service Learning (CCJ&SL).

That's a mouthful, I know, but it's difficult to put a label on the huge impact this center has on the local community. For those of you who've attended service learning courses in the past, you know what CCJ&SL represents, a community-university-government partnership working to improve the quality of life and the quality of justice throughout the community.

Located in Bronco Square at suite 100, CCJ&SL started in 2007 with Dr. Melissa Barlow, director, as the Institution for Community Justice with university funds. In 2009, the program received the Learn & Serve Grant for their service learning program. They have over 50 community partners, like the NAACP, American Red Cross and De-

mocracy of NC, and provide nearly endless opportunities for students to achieve co-curriculum hours.

Ms. Monique Broadhurst, University Program Associate stated, "Because most partners are non-profit, they can't afford to hire personnel and heavily rely on volunteers, like the NAACP." Many Fraternities and Sororities have also partnered with CCJ&SL to conduct community action events.

As stated in their Student Resource Guide, located on the CCJ&SL Bronco Advantage website, service learning balances emphasis on course learning objectives and the real needs of the community. One example includes Political Science students contributing hours to help with voter registration.

Another involves H.R. Management students conducting surveys around UNC-FSU questioning whether someone would rat out a co-worker for substance abuse on the job. Ms. Melissa Lyon, SL Program Manager explained, "Students designed the survey." Ms. Broadhurst added, "It's all part of the IPAD-C system that spans three semesters." The first class conducted the Investigation, finding that no data on this issue could be found anywhere. The second class started Planning a method to compile data, leading to a third

class joining them in the Action of conducting surveys throughout campus.

The Demonstration-Celebration will take place towards the end of this semester after the data is collected and analyzed in the CCJ&SL office.

"Hopefully the data can be used to put a plan in place where employees can feel comfortable reporting co-workers," Ms. Broadhurst said.

These projects benefit both organizations, just as the Food Drive for Hungry Angels helped to establish a relationship with CCJ&SL and Cross Creek Early College High School. The projects not only focus on the instructions of specific courses, but also consist of multiple areas in which to help the community.

More than 19 classes participated in service learning this semester, ranging from Freshman Seminar and Social Work to Political Science and Criminal Justice. Outside the classroom, CCJ&SL hosted the Balancing the Scales: Exploring the Impact of the NC Racial Justice Act in Seabrook, co-hosted the Holiday Mail for Heroes event and resource for various volunteer and tutoring programs throughout all grade levels in the area.

One of the organizations most popular

events is the MLK Challenge, an annual event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"We had 172 people come out last year and we're hoping for over 200 in 2012!" Ms. Lyon commented.

This semester's Service Learning Celebration was held on Nov. 15th at the CCJ&SL center in Bronco Square. Snacks and refreshments were served.

The CCJ&SL staff wishes that more students would participate in the celebration held near the end of each semester. This event involves a social gathering of community service students who share the same civic and ethical responsibilities. The warm atmosphere radiated with students talking about their rewarding experiences from the multiple opportunities provided.

Obviously, when we think about contributing to society, community service proves the first logical path to take. Hopefully, for UNC-FSU students the first place you visit is the Center for Community Justice & Service Learning. Also, if you're still considering which courses to take next semester, look for one with service learning in the description. From one student to another, you won't be disappointed. Get involved!

*Happy Holidays*  
from your friends at The Voice.

It's been an amazing fall semester and The Voice would like to thank the students, faculty, staff and the community for your support.

**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!**

We'll see you again in January.

## Special Thanks

The Voice would like to say congratulations to graduating senior, L'Asia Brown. Ms. Brown is a mass communication major with a concentration in print journalism. She has been a member of The Voice student newspaper for three years and has held such positions as Editor-in-chief, managing editor, staff writer and photographer. Ms. Brown was a part of a small team of students who revived The Voice during its hiatus and has been a contributing factor to its success today. Congratulations and good luck in all your future endeavors!

Sincerely,  
The Voice Staff

