

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

— Annual report | Academic Year 2018 —

Highlights of the Center for Community Engagement's accomplishments in service-learning and community research during the summer & fall 2017 & spring 2018 semesters.



CCE LEADERSHIP



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VISION

The vision of the CCE is to foster public engagement of all members of the Missouri State community. As a collective commitment, the CCE is committed to:

- Reflecting the values of Missouri State University through a standard of high quality work
- Empowering students and faculty and fostering their success
- Understanding our audience(s) and communicating appropriately
- Valuing reciprocal relationships (and collaborative work)
- Shining a light on our strengths and weaknesses, and seeking ways to always improve
- Having positive presuppositions of others



A service-learning student overlooks Port-de-Paix, Haiti during the 2017 vision screening trip



Students help prepare Eden Village homes for new clients.

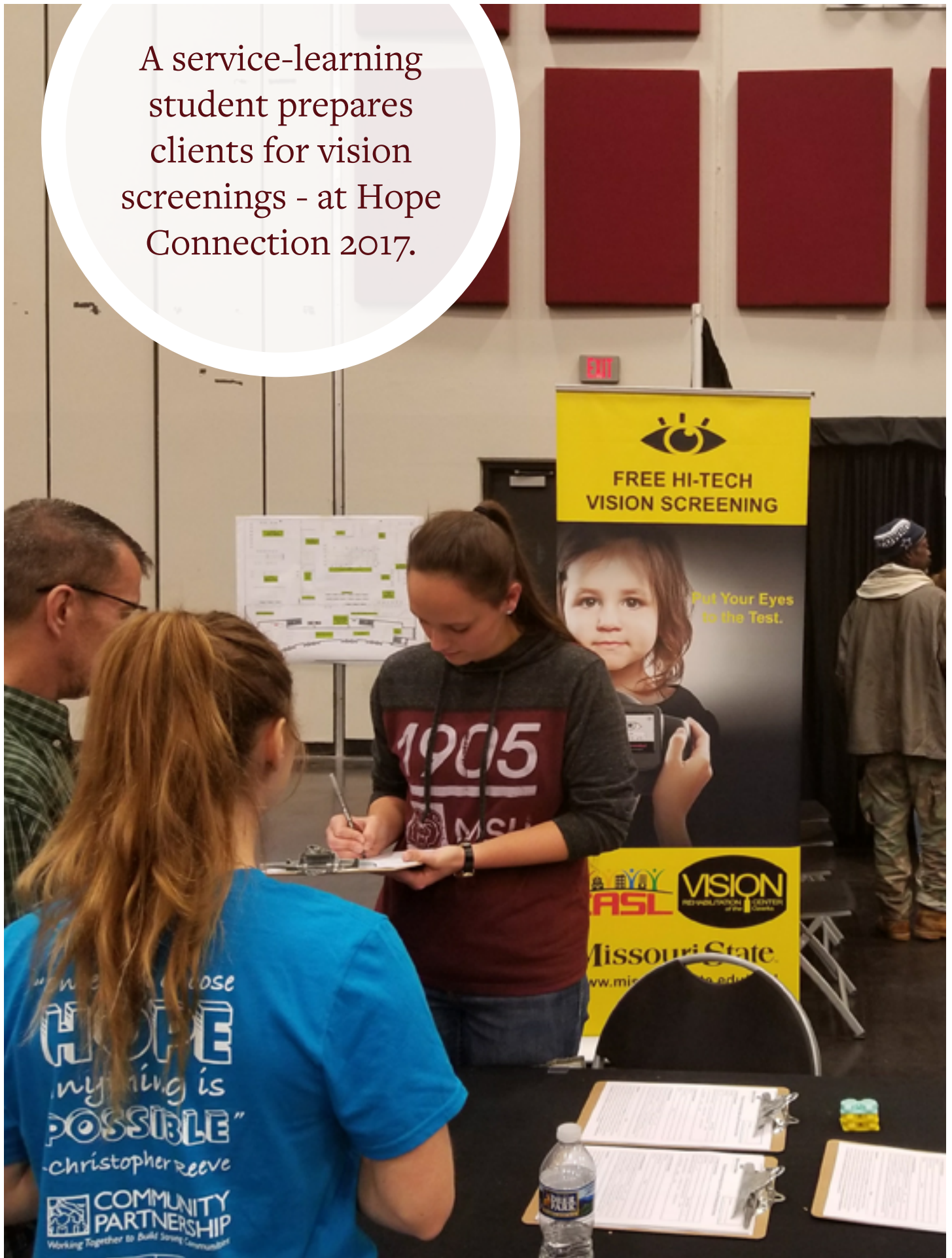
MISSION

The Center for Community Engagement, on Missouri State University's campus, serves as an interdisciplinary hub for publicly-engaged service, education, and research. The Center works to deepen the University's commitment to engagement (adopted from the Ten-Point Plan for Advancing Public Engagement) by:

- Enhancing faculty support for research and teaching activities associated with public interest
- Establishing a system, University-wide, for providing students with articulated public engagement experiences that are tied to students' academic goals and professional goals and ambitions
- Expanding opportunities and ways for the University to gain community input and feedback regarding issues of public engagement
- Strengthening the internal alignment and coordination of the University's public engagement activities to foster and promote more collective community impact and capacity building

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE), on Missouri State University's campus, serves as an interdisciplinary hub for **publicly-engaged service, education, and research.**

A service-learning student prepares clients for vision screenings - at Hope Connection 2017.



CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE-LEARNING (CASL)

The office of Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL) provides academic service-learning opportunities through various courses for students attending Missouri State University. Service-learning, which requires the use of effective reflection activities as a part of the coursework, is a type of experiential education that combines academic achievement and work with a community learning site in a seamless weave. Service-learning is shown to increase student retention, GPA, career/major exploration and preparedness, and long-term commitment to civic engagement in communities. Service-learning opportunities help students connect their coursework with real-world experiences, explore majors and careers, engage in core career readiness skills (like critical thinking, collaboration and professionalism), and gain meaningful hands-on experiences with a learning site partner in our community. The CASL office continues to experience growth in number of students engaged in service-learning over the 2017-2018 academic year, in the development of new and sustainable community partnerships, and in the number of service-learning courses:

5,005

students participated in one or more service-learning courses



82,063

total service-learning hours provided to community



1,904,682

value of service to the community (based on IndependentSector.org estimate of \$23.21 per hour)

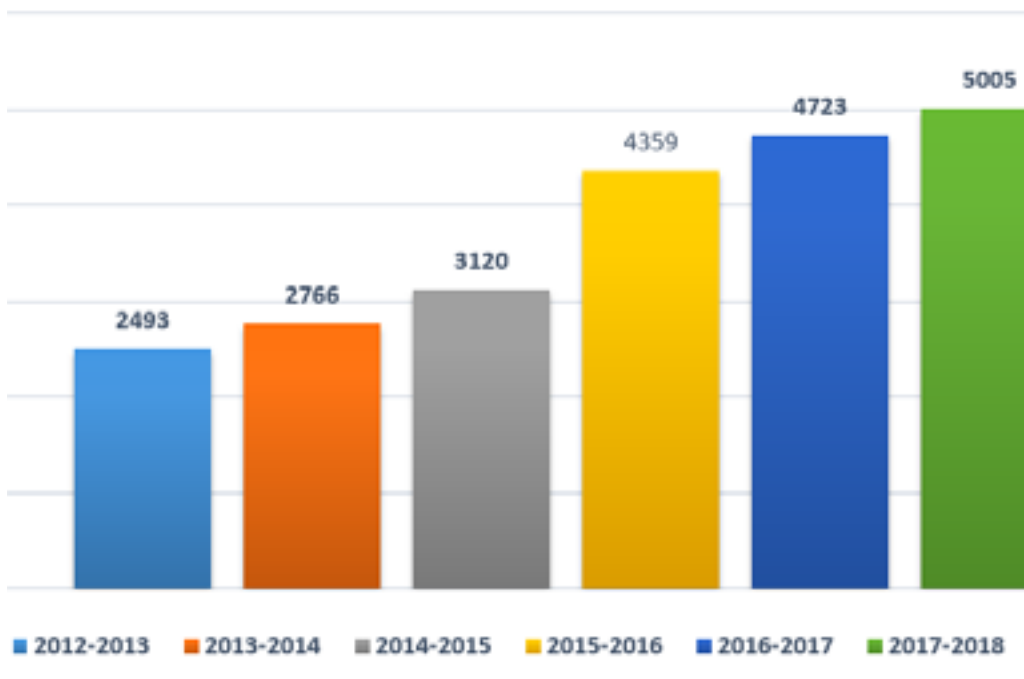


637

number of service-learning courses



The following graph illustrates the increase in the number of students completing service-learning courses since the 2012-2013 academic year. Of the 5,005 students who completed academic service-learning courses, 585 of those students enrolled in and completed more than one academic service-learning course during the 2017-2018 academic year.



During the 2017-2018 academic year, 1,080 students who identified as first-generation students completed an academic service-learning course. Of those students, 979 re-enrolled in coursework for the following semester. [This represents a 91% semester-to-semester retention rate for first-generation students.](#)



Service-learning uses the **Community Focus Report's Red Flags Issues** to connect Missouri State University students with career experiences to continue to address problems and issues in our communities through a variety of signature projects. The CASL office added five new signature partner programs and continued another year with our ongoing signature projects. Here are a few of our programs that address community issues:

Vision Screening Program

In fall 2017, service-learning **students screened over 10,000 individuals**. The MSU Vision Program is the top



service-learning opportunity for students. In total, Biomedical Science, Nursing, Pre-Med, Pre-Optometry, Biology, and Education majors enrolled in service-learning courses screened 13,730 children, youth, and adults throughout southwest Missouri. MSU Leaders, community members and learning sites, faculty/staff, and service-learning students participated in the "10,000 Celebration" held this past spring. Screenings took place in low-income day care centers; elementary, middle, and high schools throughout southwest Missouri and in the West Plains area; OTC's Adult Literacy Program; the Hope Connection event; and other locations. **1,462 or 10.5% screened were identified as having significant or potentially significant vision problems**. The program provides early detection screening to identify significant or potentially significant vision problems such as hyperopia, myopia, astigmatism, anisometropia, esotropia, exotropia, vertical alignment errors and opacities.

The service-learning office is now able to look at the retention rates, associated with the completion of service-learning courses, for a variety of demographics including students who identified as first-generation students or Veterans. Fifty-eight students who enrolled in and completed a service-learning course during the fall 2017 or spring 2018 semesters identified as a veteran. Of those students, 47 re-enrolled in courses the following semester, representing an **81% semester-to-semester retention rate**.



Springfield Community Gardens

This three-year collaborative partnership between Springfield Community Gardens, the US Department of Agriculture, and Missouri State University is to create a local food hub that empowers low-income individuals to reduce food insecurity and enables those individuals with education and skills to generate their own mean for financial security. During the 2017-2018 academic year, students **provided 4,976 hours of service at a value of \$115,493.00** (independentsecor.org).



VITA

Voluntary Income Tax Assistance - Accounting, business, and gerontology students continue to work



with the VITA program to provide individuals throughout the community who are high-poverty or seniors with limited resources with assistance in preparing their income tax returns during tax season.

16 service-learning students completed 640 hours of service at community VITA clinics during the 2018 filing season. **They prepared 838 federal tax returns;** federal refunds totaled \$800,175, and Earned Income Credits totaled \$318,065. State refunds totaled \$164,470.

SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

As a commitment to research and resources for faculty and staff, CASL provided the following opportunities:

- Provided service-learning faculty presentation for a session at the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning 2018 Fall Showcase
- Provided one-on-one training for new faculty engaging in use of the service-learning teaching methodology
- Engaged in and worked collaboratively with faculty on research studies centered on service-learning topics
- Provided Faculty/Student Showcase for the university and the community during the Public Affairs Week (fall 2017) and the Public Affairs Conference (spring 2018)

Nixa CASC

Community Alternative Sentencing Courts - In partnership with the Nixa Court Systems and the City of Nixa, Missouri, Psychology, Social Work and



Criminology service-learning students work with low-level offenders to reduce potential jail time. Service-Learning students continue to serve as Case Managers conducting assessments, identifying educational and other resources for their clients, and reporting the client's progress to the court system.

Bear Power

Bear Power (Promoting Opportunities for Work, Education and Resilience) is a two-year, five-semester, inclusive college program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. MSU service-learning students from Social Work, Education, and Psychology worked during the spring 2018 semester to assist with the development of the program, the preparations for a summer event, and the support of the first cohort of students in January of 2019.



A new cohort of Bear Power students pose with staff and service-learners from the CCE. These Bear Power students are the first wave in a new program designed to teach valuable skills instill the university public affairs mission.



Of the unduplicated count of 4,420 students, 855 graduated. Of the remaining 3,565 students, 3,268 students re-enrolled in MSU courses the following semester. **This represents an overall semester-to-semester retention rate of 92%** for students who completed academic service-learning courses.



Dr. Follensbee earns this year's Excellence in Service-Learning Award for her exemplary work in integrating service-learning into Art History courses.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

In May, at Missouri State University's annual Faculty Awards ceremony, Citizenship and Service-Learning was pleased to announce Dr. Billie Follensbee as the recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Service-Learning Award. The award, represented by a beautiful, engraved glass trophy, was presented at the Faculty Awards event, honoring exemplary teachers at Missouri State University.

Dr. Follensbee is the Art and Design department's Museum Studies Program Coordinator and a specialist in art history and archeology. She teaches courses on non-Western art (African, Oceanic, Mesoamerican cultures) to art history and anthropology students seeking careers in museums, educational institutions or community organizations. In addition to her successes as an arts and culture educator, Dr. Follensbee has skillfully integrated service-learning into her courses, giving students valuable work experience in a competitive field and a passion for connecting the arts with community.

"It makes my classes much more interesting," said Dr. Follensbee of service-learning. "Instead of just studying things in books, I can show students actual works of art and artifacts that relate to the cultures that we're studying."

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Students on the Immersion Trip to Aurora, Colorado take a hike before serving alongside the Colorado Children's Hospital.



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Mission

The mission of the office of Community-Engaged Learning is to promote positive change through experiential learning opportunities and foster understanding of Missouri State University's public affairs mission.

Vision

By promoting a campus culture that inspires community engagement, Community-Engaged Learning aspires to develop students who are active citizens of enhanced character; sensitive to the needs of community; competent and committed in their ability to contribute to a global society; and civil in their habits of thought, speech, and action.

Programs

Community-Engaged Learning includes a set of programs involving and engaging students in meaningful experiences throughout the community. These programs seek to engage students to foster experiential learning opportunities that enhance the Missouri State University public affairs mission:

- Bear Service (Ongoing service experiences, large-scale service events)
- Immersion Programs (Learning and serving alongside communities across the US and abroad)
- Service Tracking (Supporting scholarship, GEP, and FSL students through training and education)
- Education and Outreach (Connections to local agencies and issues; workshops and consultation for student groups, faculty, and staff; and support of MSU students through Food Pantry)

Recruiting for Bear Service Team in the Plaster Student Union





After arriving in Texas, this group of Elementary Education majors developed a Spring Break Camp for kids in West Dallas.

Bear Service included more than **103,000 hours of service worth \$2.4 million** to community

Immersion Programs (Learning and serving alongside communities **across the US and abroad**)



A faculty member and students sort coffee beans alongside an organic coffee farmer in Monteverde, Costa Rica.



Alex Johnson speaks to service-learning students about community engagement and the Public Affairs Mission.

Service Tracking (Supporting scholarship, GEP, and FSL students through **training and education**)

Education and Outreach (**Connections to local agencies; workshops and consultation** for student groups, faculty, and staff; and support of MSU students through Food Pantry)



Bear Breaks Trip Leaders discuss Community Revitalization in preparation for their Immersion Trip to New Orleans.

Bear Service

Bear Service is a set of programs and reciprocal partnerships connecting the Missouri State community with meaningful service opportunities. We organize Bear Service into three main parts: Bear Service Days, which are one-time large days of service; the Bear Service Team, which is a student organization dedicated to service-learning; and the exploration of service in Springfield, MO, through GivePulse. Bear Service promotes positive social change through the following service-learning elements:

Education

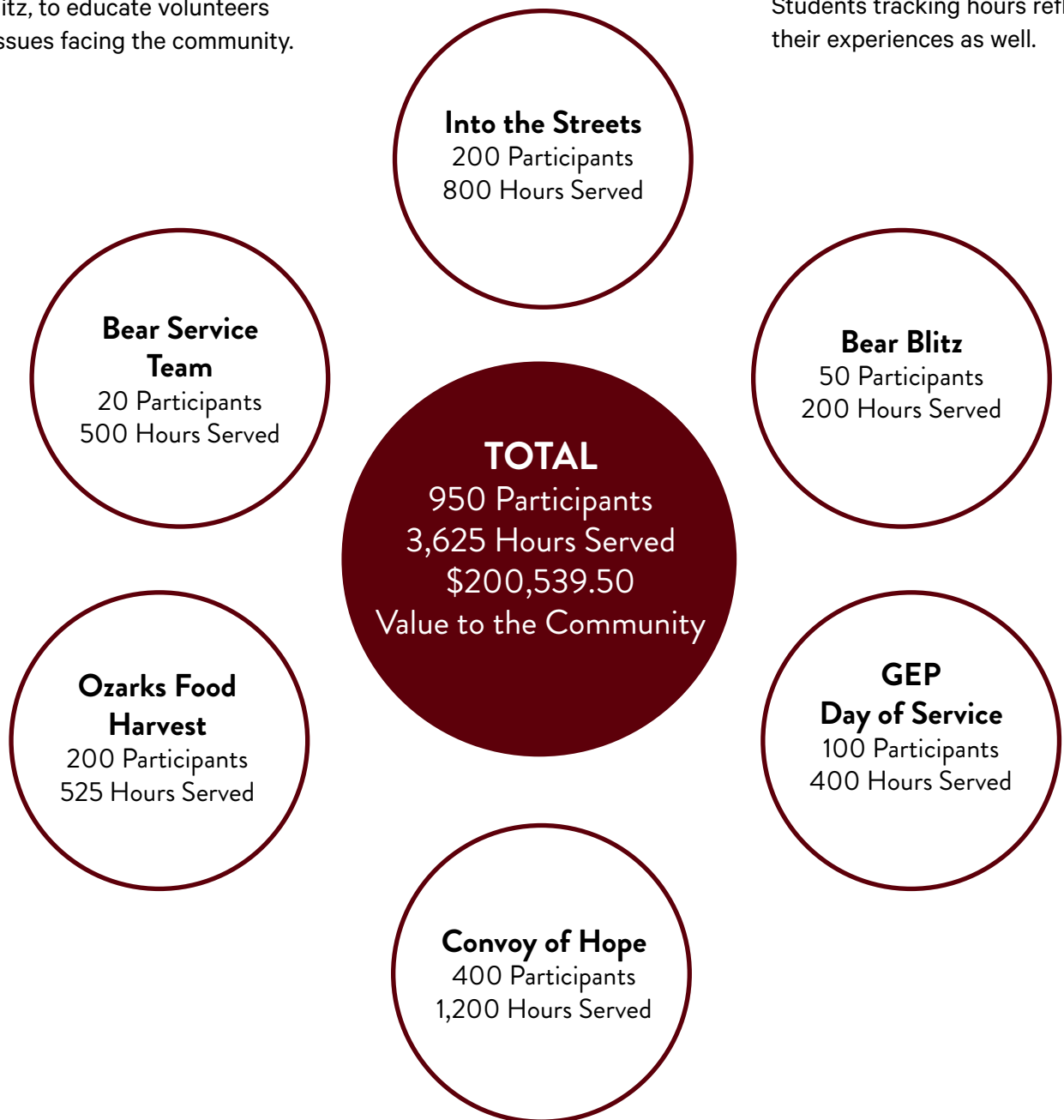
The first goal of a Bear Service experiences is to learn more about the issue of focus, the community agency/learning partner, and our goals for making a positive difference. Our learning partners and staff use local data from initiatives, such as Community Focus Report, Impacting Poverty Commission, and Zone Blitz, to educate volunteers about issues facing the community.

Engagement

Bear Service promotes experiential learning opportunities. The more we engage with each other and our neighbors, the more we will learn about ourselves and the expertise in the community. We work alongside the community through direct service, indirect service, and advocacy.

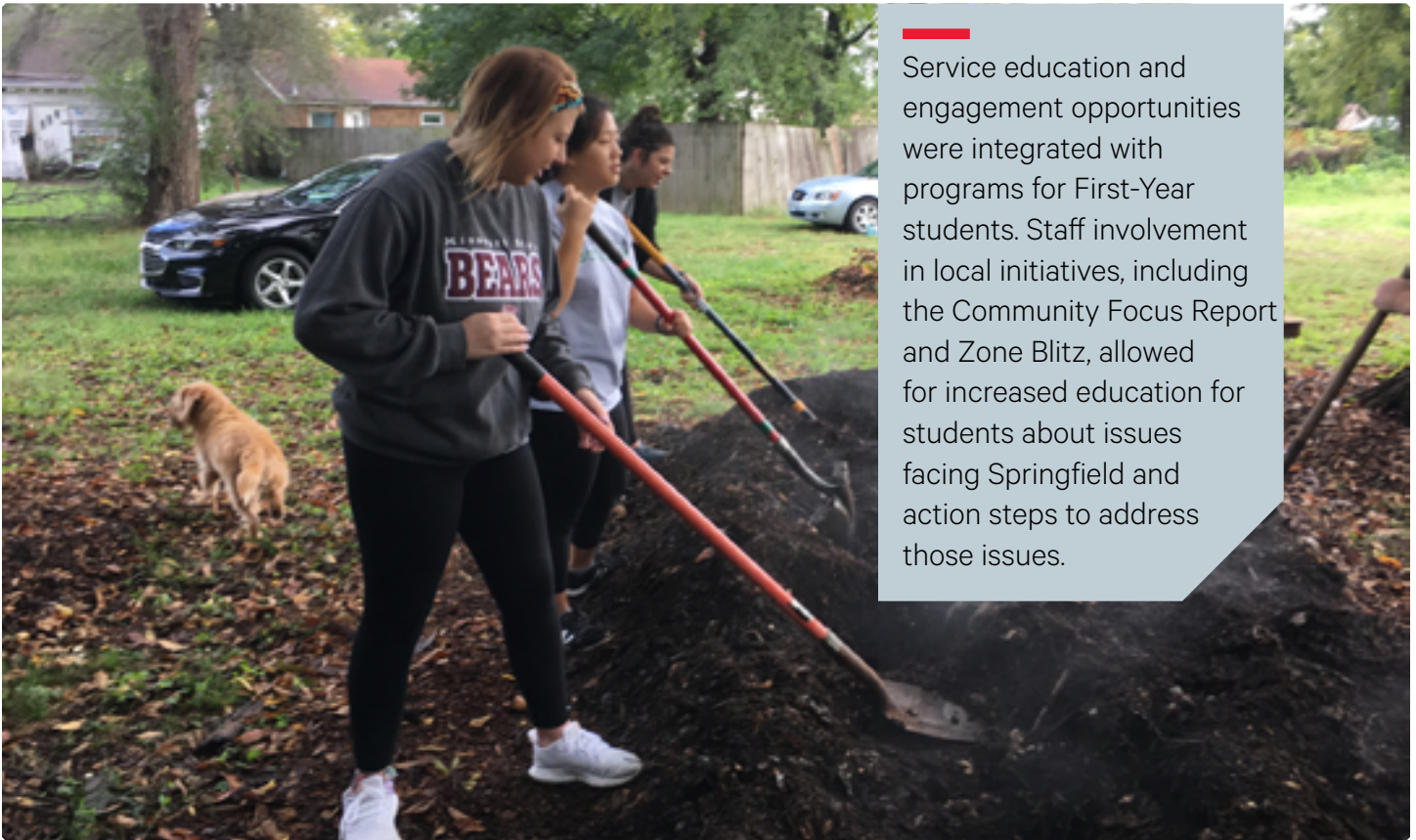
Reflection

Structured reflection encourages us to learn more about ourselves and our communities. Thinking critically about service experience is a key step toward active citizenship and better understanding of Public Affairs. Our staff provides reflection activities and materials for all service opportunities. Students tracking hours reflect on their experiences as well.





Givepulse, a service software, was integrated to streamline service project management for community agencies. This was a collaboration between the Northwest project, City of Springfield, Drury, and MSU.



Service education and engagement opportunities were integrated with programs for First-Year students. Staff involvement in local initiatives, including the Community Focus Report and Zone Blitz, allowed for increased education for students about issues facing Springfield and action steps to address those issues.

Service-Learning students work with compost alongside Springfield Community Gardens

Education and Outreach 2017 - 2018

Program	Type	Collaborators	Results
Fall Community Engagement Fair	Outreach	Career Center, CASL, PA Support	50 community agencies
Student Food Assistance	Outreach	Food Pantry Board, Education Department	30 students served, 500 lbs of food donated from MSU Campus Garden
Community Engagement 101	Education	First-Year Programs	This seminar was available to GEP students to learn about engagement.
Hunger & Homelessness Awareness	Outreach and Education	Eden Village	Donation Drives and service opportunities.
URSA Community Engagement	Education	New Student & Family Programs	Educational material for URSA and engagement opportunities
Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness	Outreach and Education	Isabel's House, CASA, Harmony House, Child Advocacy Center	Campus Campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness

Immersion Programs

Immersion programs are opportunities for students to spend their breaks (spring, summer, winter, and fall) learning and serving in communities locally, nationally, and globally. These experiences allow students to learn more about a community, immerse themselves in the culture and social issues of a community, and grow as volunteers toward becoming active citizens. Bear Breaks is a student organization within the Center for Community Engagement dedicated to developing and leading immersion experiences for their Missouri State peers. This group is advised by Center for Community Engagement staff and collaborates with MSU faculty on trip implementation.

Student Trip Leaders met with our staff every week throughout the fall and spring semesters to learn about community issues, best practices for reflection, facilitation and reorientation.

Every Immersion Trip participant engaged in focused journaling, which can be found at blogs.missouristate.edu/immersion.

Highlights of 2017 - 2018



MSU students and staff smile for a picture outside Haywood Respite in Asheville, NC

- Six First-Generation students received financial assistance for their Immersion Trip fee through a partnership with First-Year Programs.

- Development of credit-bearing Immersion Programs in partnership with Sociology, English, and Biomedical Sciences. Student can enroll in a 1-credit Component Service-Learning course for learning outcomes on trips.



At the Bear Breaks Trip Leader and Executive Board retreat learn about team building on a low ropes course.

- Common reader connected directly to fall trip focused on sustainability, consensus and consequences. Students and faculty learned and served alongside the 2017-2018 common reader author Will Allen at his agency, Growing Power.

- Understanding of Public Affairs Mission Enhanced through Immersion Programs. 100% of students who participated in Immersion trips said they can connect real-world application to their major or future career.

- MSU Alumni were included in Immersion Programs through collaboration with MSU Alumni Association. Alum joined students in St. Louis, MO, during Fall Break.



Students, faculty, and staff pose for a picture at the Continental Divide in Costa Rica's Cloud Forest.

- MSU Students represented Bear Beaks Immersion Trips at national BreakAway conference. Missouri State Immersion Programs are part of a nation-wide alternative break movement called BreakAway. In the summer of 2017, a student leader of Bear Breaks represented MSU at a week-long service experience in the Grand Canyon, during which they collaborated with other programs across the nation

- Incorporated local community leaders as Learning Partners for Trip Leader Workshops to give students a direct connection to issues and resources in Springfield for reorientation. This increased awareness about immersion in the community.

- Bear Breaks and Immersion Programs received Mark of Distinction Award at university-wide STAR Awards for excellence in programming, leadership development, and connection to public affairs.

IMMERSION TRIPS



EJOURNAL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The eJournal completed its sixth year of publishing in the past year and began its seventh year:



Vol. 6 No. 2 Public Engagement and Literacy Research



Vol. 6 No. 3 Open Submissions, The Public and Private Spirit of Engagement



Vol. 7 No. 1 The 2017 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting

Launched new eJournal website with the publication of Vol. 6 No. 2 Civic Engagement and Literacy Research. This upgrade fulfills our intention to enhance access to mobile devices, improve our process-steps and tracking by implementing a content management system, improve navigation, and visually enhance display.

We're now evaluating the Digital Commons platform, or MSU BearWorks publishing software.

Upgraded to DigiCert software for the computer services server, which houses and operates the OJS publication software.

Highlights of 2017 - 2018

The Editors attended, presented, and promoted the eJournal at conferences—including the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting, MSU Public Affairs Conference, and MSU Showcase for Teaching & Learning—and made site visits to Ohio University and American Democracy Project to promote awareness and participation.

Renewed eJournal of Public Affairs logo through the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Completed the guide for guest editors and have distributed the guide to potential section editors to help inform them about their responsibilities and processes.

Continued to obtain new Reviewers to expand the eJournal's peer-review pool.

Replaced two Editorial Board members who stepped down after completing their terms.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT

The Office of Public Affairs Support saw tremendous growth in events and activities during 2017-2018. The year also included the decision to move the spring Public Affairs Conference to the fall beginning with the fall 2018 semester. This decision was made in part to tap into the large GEP 101 first year experience class. This move introduces the freshmen class to this annual public affairs event and enhances understanding of the university's mission. The annual public affairs theme for 2017-18 was Sustainability in Practice: Consensus and Consequences.



Public Affairs Highlights

Facilitated the appearance of Will Allen, author of “The Good Food Revolution,” for the Fall Convocation Lecture. **Attendance at the convocation event was 2,200.**

The keynote address for the Public Affairs Conference with Dr. Robert Ballard had approximately **1,200 attendees**, including students, faculty and staff.

The Excellence in Community Service Awards were awarded to two faculty and two staff. The Board of Governors Excellence in Public Affairs Award were awarded to two faculty and three staff member.

The Michael N. Compton Public Affairs Essay Contest was awarded to a senior Animal Science major.

Public Affairs Support hosted its second Naturalization Ceremony.



19 EVENTS | 2834 IN ATTENDANCE

- **15% increase** from 2016 in total number of participants
- 1,077 volunteer/service hours generated
- 110 students volunteered one or more hours at PAW events
- 220 students did **880 hours of service** through the Into the Streets
- **PAW 2017 saw 161% increase** in participants since 2014

Student Organizations Collaborating as PAW Partners

Ekklesia Campus Ministry	Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity	Holt V. Spicer Debate Team	Student Eco- Reps	Model U.N., Student Group	Social Work Club	Student Activities Council	Student Govt. Assoc.
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MISSOURI STATE
BONNER LEADERS

SERVE | LEAD | GRADUATE

The Bonner Leader program is designed to provide under-represented, low-income and first-generation students opportunities to earn money while serving in leadership roles that strengthen communities - locally and globally. Follow the path and then flip the page to take a look at what's in store.

START



1st Year

GO EXPLORE

Intentional placements that provide exposure and assist in additional coursework.



2nd Year

GAIN EXPERIENCE

Gain programmatic skills (Program Assistant)



3rd Year

BE AN EXAMPLE

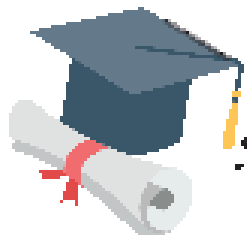
Work as a Staff or Project Leader



4th Year

ACHIEVE EXPERTISE

Specialist in the field





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