WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

SERVICE-LEARNING is a teaching method which combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. From the assignment of a project that addresses community needs, students learn from community members and develop leadership skills while practicing theoretical knowledge gained in class.

I REPRESENT A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. WHY SHOULD I PARTNER WITH UMKC ON SERVICE-LEARNING?

- Your organization has the opportunity to expand your reach without substantially increasing costs through new partnerships and resources.
- SERVICE-LEARNING students bring new energy, ideas, and enthusiasm as well as specialized skills.
- Increased public support and visibility in the community as students become ambassadors for the organization in their networks.
- A new generation of caring and experienced citizens, activists, and volunteers is cultivated.

I REPRESENT A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH SERVICE-LEARNING?

- Begin with timing — what timetable of planning and projects works for you and with the academic calendar?
- Identify potential activities students could undertake for the organization
- Determine the amount of time students will spend on service-learning projects
- Identify objectives for student learning based on the service-learning
- Delineate responsibilities for supervising students while at the community organization
- Discuss the academic calendar and community organization’s timeline
- Determine how many students your organization can supervise — consider student availability and your organization’s hours of operation
- Talk about potential risks and how they might be managed
- Clearly articulate desired outcomes, roles and expectations of each partner — community organization, faculty and students
- Identify appropriate contacts and communication modes for keeping partners informed of progress and for handling challenges that may arise
- Add your information to UMKC Serve 2 Learn
- Have orientation sessions specific to the service-learning project
- Keep your Serve 2 Learn page up-to-date!