I'M A STUDENT. WHY SHOULD I DO SERVICE-LEARNING?

Often SERVICE-LEARNING is a course requirement. But beyond getting credit for a course, there are real benefits to you as a learner. According to a 1999 national study by Janet Eyler (Vanderbilt University) and Dwight E. Giles (University of Massachusetts-Boston), students participating in SERVICE-LEARNING develop:

- Deeper understanding of subject matter;
- Deeper understanding of the complexity of social issues;
- Increased ability to apply material learned in class to real problems;
- Increased reported learning and motivation to learn;
- Increased connection to the college experience through closer ties to students and faculty;
- A reduction of negative stereotypes and an increase in tolerance for diversity;
- Increased leadership skills; and
- Increased ability to work with others.

In a 2000 study by Alexander Astin (Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA), et. al., SERVICE-LEARNING participation shows significant positive effects in (among other things):

- Academic performance (GPA, writing skills, critical thinking skills);
- Values (commitment to activism and to promoting racial understanding);
- Leadership (leadership activities, self-rated leadership ability, interpersonal skills); and
- Self-efficacy.