Did you know?

Service-learning is defined as engages students in community service activities with intentional academic learning goals and opportunities for critical reflection that connect to their academic disciplines.

"Service-learning" was first initiated in 2000 when national expert Edward Zlotkowski came to USF and implemented training sponsored by the Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence and taught a core group of faculty that was already familiar with pedagogy.

USF is one of only 40 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

At the 2015 Awards Gala, USF was chosen Engaged Campus of the Year as Florida Campus Compact focuses attention on building students' citizenship skills and effective community partnerships.

90% of faculty teaching service-learning courses implemented it based on personal interest in organization/community.

87% of faculty teaching service-learning courses believe it greatly benefits students' interpersonal skills.

Meet Our Staff

Dr. Harold Keller, Director

Dr. Keller's research has addressed school-community parental strengths-based approaches and connections to enhance student learning and development. He also is examining approaches to assessing and documenting the multiple impacts of community-based learning and research on students, faculty, and community partners.
Contact: hkeller@usf.edu or 813-974-6709

Lance Arney, Ph.D., Associate Director

Lance earned a Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology from USF. He uses community-based participatory research methods to study the impacts of poverty, inequality, and criminalization. He is interested in exploring how university–community engagement can help foster social justice and create transformative learning in communities impacted by poverty.
Contact: larney@usf.edu or 813-974-0697

Bonnie Beth Silvestri, J.D., Director for Strategic Communications

Bonnie Beth Silvestri, J.D., writes feature stories and has an ongoing series called "OCEP Conversations" designed to foster dialogue on university-community engagement, including civic and political engagement, community-engaged research partnerships, service-learning, and social justice. Silvestri also teaches courses, including a service-learning course called Examinations of Poverty, Constitutional Law, and Women and the Law for USF Sarasota-Manatee.
Contact: bsilvestri@usf.edu or 813-974-3233

Jennifer Webb, M.A., Director of Community Partnerships

Jennifer is the point of contact for community organizations looking to partner with USF. Jennifer's areas of studies include the theoretical, ethical, and methodological challenges and benefits of engaged research; anthropology of public policy, and activist and urban anthropology. She is an active scholar and experienced educator in the fields of anthropology and community engaged research and experiential learning.
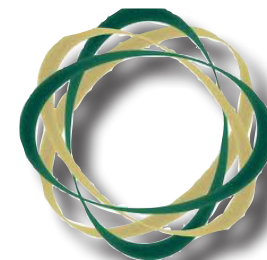

Jo Averill-Snell, Research Administrator

Jo works on grants for our faculty and community partners. She comes to OCEP from the USF Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice, where she has been a Social and Behavioral Researcher. She has been with USF since 2007. She also holds a Master's in Library and Information Science.
Contact: javerill@usf.edu or 813-974-2185

Location: Grace Allen Building (ALN) room 185.
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 813.974.4829
Email: communityengagement@usf.edu.
Website: http://www.usf.edu/engagement/

USF Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Building partnerships to improve our communities.

We're here to help.

OCEP'S MISSION

The mission of the Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships is to expand and strengthen university–community engagement locally and globally in support of USF's strategic priorities: student success, research and innovation, partnerships, and sound financial management.

GOALS

*Producing well-rounded global citizens.
*Improving social circumstances through research.
*Cultivating relationships in the community.
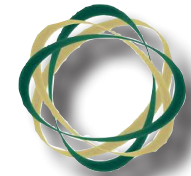*Ensuring economic prosperity.

WHAT WE DO

The Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships provides a variety of services, delivered through workshops, conferences, scholarly resources, off-campus events, one-on-one consultations, and digital media.

The faculty are a major component in executing service-learning courses. Without the faculty, these opportunities would not be tangible to our very own USF bulls.

Here's how we help the faculty:

- Provide you with resources for developing community engaged research and creative activities.

- Assist you in developing community engaged teaching and learning, e.g., service-learning courses.

- Help you find potential community partners and develop mutually beneficial partnerships.

- Support your community engaged research and teaching through our grant programs and grant search and proposal development services.

- Provide you with resources for developing your Tenure & Promotion portfolio that incorporates your community engaged scholarship activities.

- Assist you in linking your program evaluation and assessment expertise with community organizations.

Benefits for Faculty Members

- Assist in the development of innovative approaches to instruction.

- Provide support for service-learning courses (student orientation, site monitoring and reflection activities).

- Sponsor programs, speakers and symposia on service-learning.

- Support faculty members' efforts to disseminate information through conference presentations and publications.

- Provide opportunities for collaborative community research and project development.

We're here to help.