

# Service- Learning

Collin County Community College District (CCCCD) is not only dedicated to academic excellence, but also to providing opportunities for students to become engaged in the community. To this end, CCCCCD has established an award-winning service learning program to encourage students to enhance their educational experience.

Service-Learning integrates community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking, problem-solving, social and personal development, and civic responsibility. Combining academics with community service provides a unique opportunity to put into practice those principles that are taught in the classroom.

*"We believe that the challenge of the next millennium is the renewal of our own democratic life and reassertion of social stewardship. In celebrating the birth of our democracy, we can think of no nobler task than committing ourselves to helping catalyze and lead a national movement to reinvigorate the public purposes and civic mission of higher education. We believe that now and through the next century, our institutions must be vital agents and architects of a flourishing democracy. We urge all of higher education to join us."*

*- Presidents' Fourth of July Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education, Campus Compact*

## CCCCD CORE VALUES

We have a passion for:

Learning  
Service and Involvement  
Creativity and Innovation  
Academic Excellence  
Dignity and Respect  
Integrity

CCCCD is an equal opportunity institution and provides educational and employment opportunities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.

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# Service Learning

*Integrating community service with  
academic instruction.*



COLLIN  
COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
DISTRICT



# SERVICE



COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## Benefits of Service-Learning

*Getting involved in service learning benefits everyone:*

### Students

- Promotes community and civic responsibility
- Makes curriculum relevant to students' lives
- Affords career exploration
- Encourages multicultural awareness
- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Clarifies values
- Fosters social and personal development
- Supports responsible and challenging action for the common good



CCCCD student Beth Mortenson participated in the Service-Learning program while in a sociology class. *"Service-Learning takes the fundamentals of the textbook and breathes life into them. How better to grasp the concepts of the classroom than to live them firsthand? This can be a life-changing experience for everyone involved; it certainly was for me."*

### Faculty

- Validates teaching and enhances learning
- Encourages a community within the classroom
- Satisfies the desire to contribute to their students' educational experience and to the quality of their community
- Provides an invigorating and innovative pedagogical tool that inspires students' interest in the course material

CCCCD math professor Rosemary Karr believes that combining and connecting service with academics can be an extraordinary learning tool for students. *"Among the many benefits of service-learning, one of the most powerful is to the student providing the service. By working with others, within the subject discipline, students deepen their understanding of the material."*

## Community

- Provides meaningful service to our community
- Establishes an active pool of students to assist in community-based problem solving
- Creates opportunities for community-based organizations to participate as co-educators in the student learning process
- Builds community awareness of college programs and services

*"Service-Learning works because it is based on one simple principle: you don't learn the basics by memorizing the basics, but by doing projects in which you utilize the basics. More than any other educational institution, the community college's very mission is enmeshed with a commitment to improve the communities that surround its campuses. The real value, though, lies in enhanced learning."* - Judith S. Berson, "A Marriage Made In Heaven," *Community College Journal*

## Who has been impacted?

CCCCD's Service Learning Program has been involved in many projects with hundreds of local organizations. Some examples of past service-learning activities/projects include the following:

- Advanced graphic design students designed web pages for Plano Symphony Orchestra, Plano Information Exchange and Volunteer McKinney Center.
- Math students tutored at Bowman Middle School.
- Spanish student translated for the City of Plano.
- History students organized display cases for McKinney's Chestnut Square Historical District.
- Psychology students assisted in Angels League Athletic Association of Texas.
- Government students registered voters in Frisco.
- Dental Hygiene students educated children in local schools about the importance of oral hygiene.
- Culinary Arts students assisted Allen Community Outreach's Meals-on-Wheels program.
- Sociology students worked with at-risk youth at C.I.T.Y. House.

## CCCCD's Service Learning Program has garnered several prestigious awards for its work including:

- Recognition by Campus Compact as one of 20 community colleges in the nation as a model of exemplary practices related to civic engagement.
- Being named Regional Site for the Texas Campus Compact (2001).
- Receiving the 2001 Bellwether Award honoring our "Engaged Scholarship" initiative, a partnership between Service-Learning and Learning Communities.
- Receiving the 2000 Service-Learning Collaboration Award from the Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges.
- Being established as founding member of the Texas Campus Compact (2000).

For more information about Service Learning, please contact:

Regina M. Hughes, Director of Service-Learning  
Central Park Campus, 2200 W. University Drive  
McKinney, TX 75070  
972.548.6739, rhughes@ccccd.edu  
<http://www.ccccd.edu/servicelearning>



# CONNECT INVOLVEMENT