

FLORIDA CAMPUS COMPACT STUDENT ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM 2008-2009

BACKGROUND

Florida Campus Compact (*FL|CC*) is affiliated with a national coalition of more than 1,000 college and university presidents committed to the civic purposes of higher education. *FL|CC* promotes learning through service that develops students' citizenship skills and values; encourages collaborative partnerships between campuses and communities; and assists faculty who seek to integrate public and community engagement into their teaching and research.

OVERVIEW

Over 16 million people and 65,795 sq miles make up the state of Florida. Due to *FL|CC*'s small staff and limited budget a better way was needed to meet the needs of its members. In order to support Community Service Directors (CSD) around the state and continue our efforts to reach and empower the students of Florida, the Student Assistantship Program (SAP) was created. The SAP has been created to increase the quality, impact and sustainability of the scholarship of engagement through service-learning, civic engagement, and campus-community collaboration in Florida. By cultivating student leaders to assist CSDs with the implementation and development of service-learning on campuses and in communities, the SAP will help bridge the gap between the student body, CSDs, faculty, community, and *FL|CC*. The SAP promotes *FL|CC*'s mission on campuses, builds sustainability and a stronger infrastructure, and provides necessary training that will enhance student leadership, helping to develop a stronger student voice in Florida. There are two main jobs within the SAP including being a member of the Student Leadership Council, and an assistant to the CSD with a work plan created to promote the advancement of service-learning within the campus culture.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Selected participants in the SAP will contribute to their own campus by serving as an assistant to the CSD and to the state-wide effort by serving on the Student Leadership Council (SLC).

STUDENT ASSISTANT:

The Assistant will follow an individual work plan created by the student, CSD, and *FL|CC* staff. The individual work plan will ensure that the CSD and Student Assistant are adequately meeting the needs of the students at each individual campus while promoting the institutionalization of service-learning within higher education.

The SAP will empower the selected student assistants at campuses around Florida to advance dimensions of institutionalization based on the 2002 Andy Furco *Self-Assessment Rubric for the Institutionalization of Service-Learning in Higher Education*. These five dimensions include: Philosophy and Mission; Faculty Support and Involvement; Student Support and Involvement, Community Participation and Partnerships; and Institutional Support. While the Furco Rubric specifically focuses on Service-Learning, the SAP has an expanded focus to help institutionalize the following community-based instructional activities:

Course-based Service-Learning: a teaching tool that reinforces specific classroom learning, meets community needs, and fosters civic responsibility. Service projects are used as a part of a class assignment to help students display achieved learning as part of their grade.

Co-curricular Service-Learning: a teaching tool that reinforces general and/or specific participant learning, meets community needs, and fosters civic responsibility. Service projects may be voluntary, but are not associated with a specific course.

Service Internships: an intensive teaching tool that reinforces cumulative student knowledge. Students are placed in a professional field gaining supervised, practical experience while serving the community. The placement is typically with a non-profit, civil service/government, or charitable organization.

Community-Based Research: Community-based research takes place in community settings and involves faculty, students, and community members in the design and implementation of research projects. Community partners should: be involved helping to define research objectives and have input into project organization; have influence on project direction; be part of the analysis and interpretation of data and should have input into how the results are distributed; and benefit from the research processes and outcomes.

Community Federal Work Study: as part of the Federal Work Study (FWS) program, evaluated students may be paid to work with non-profit and government agencies on community-based projects while students expand their professional and personal skills, earn work-study dollars, and gain actual work experience. This work is not tied to a specific class or major, and can focus on a variety of issues such as: literacy training, social services, housing and neighborhood improvement, public safety, recreation, “at-risk” youth, and community improvement.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

The SLC will be composed of all the student participants in the SAP from around the state of Florida. The SLC is a main function of the assistantship which will allow students to learn from each other, empower their respective student bodies, and to help lead the statewide effort to engage students. The SLC’s responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Collaborating with FL|CC on the annual state-wide Student Scholars’ Institute.
- Help guide/steer FL|CC’s student programming.
- Help create student-driven resources and promote civic engagement that will be available to campuses in Florida state-wide.
- Formulate outreach objectives and strategies to advancing civic engagement and service-learning.
- Attend a training program, which will address issues relevant to the SLC.
- Voice and represent student concerns and issues in the state of Florida.

COMMUNICATION

Most of these activities will take place at the participating student’s individual college/university campus. The conferences and training sessions will take place in a centralized location in Florida, and most of the communication will be done via monthly conference calls, e-mail, and online forum.

COMMITMENTS

The SAP is a yearlong program, though the program may be repeated by each participant for up to three (3) years. Other time commitments are monthly conference calls, online activities, and weekly office hours with the campus CSD. Conference calls and online activities will be decided by the SLC and FL|CC staff, while weekly office hours will be agreed upon between the student participant and the CSD.

ADVANTAGES

Through this program the student participants will have opportunities for personal and professional development, to gain in-depth knowledge concerning the field of service-learning, leadership training and monetary compensation. For students and schools that qualify, this position is optional as a FWS position. Upon review of end of semester assessment reports submitted to *FL|CC*, student participants have the opportunity to earn a \$200 stipend from *FL|CC* for each semester of work.