Community Service-Learning

Abridged Evaluation Report

2018-2019
CSL Students

Total number = 1690
Those who have responded to the survey = 983

- 89.1% felt that CSL was an effective teaching/learning strategy.
- 82.1% felt that their CSL experience provided them with the opportunity to use their classroom knowledge in the community.
- 78.3% felt that their CSL experience helped them understand the complexities of social issues.

Instructors

Total number = 58
Those who have responded to the survey = 29

- 75.9% would recommend CSL to other University instructors.
- 89.6% felt that course work and class instruction seemed to enhance CSL students' ability to understand their community experience.
- 72.4% felt that CSL enhanced the classroom learning environment.

Community Partners

Total number = 190
Those who have responded to the survey = 85

- 95.3% would recommend participation in CSL to colleagues in other community organizations.
- 92.9% felt that involvement in the community helped CSL students understand some of the complexities of social issues.
- 92.9% felt the CSL placements significantly contributed to students' learning.
Quotes

Placement Students

Impact they had in the community:

I believe I helped my community organization to gain more information about food insecurity programs on other university campuses in Canada, due to the research portion of my CSL placement.

Through my CSL placement, I was able to provide education on alternative protein sources to food insecure individuals in the Edmonton area.

I believe I had a strong impact on the community organization because I was seeing the kids in my placement frequently they were excited to be working with me for my hours, as I helped with their literary skills.

What Students Gained?

I think I gained a better sense of how to perform to the best of my ability in a professional environment, and my social skills. I also gained some cooking skills!

I learned so much about cerebral palsy and the societal issues that arise from having it

Broadened perspective on disability and problem in society those with disabilities face.

I felt like I got a greater appreciation for the difficulty of teaching math to younger grades. I also got to experience the true diversity of backgrounds in classrooms that have a high proportion of ESL & economic/social backgrounds.

Improving my social skills with youth and building relationships. Getting the chance to use experiential learning instead of hearing about others experiences was important to my learning.
I gained knowledge about how teachers deal with various types of learners as well as different activities that I could do with my class when I become a teacher.

Instructors

I think this is an essential part of EDU 100. I hope it remains mandatory. :)

This CSL experience is the best I've had so far. My comments are more for future improvements. This requires the efforts of both instructors and the CSL office. 1. Placements that provide more meaningful experience for students 2. Opportunities to build on instructors’ already established community networks 3. Ways to bring CSL into the classroom beside presentations

Overall, my experience with CSL has been extremely positive. The staff at the office are always friendly and supportive, and have lots of great ideas. I do think that picking the right community partners is essential, and I’ve been lucky to snag an enthusiastic and creative group. Our biggest hurdle is probably just fitting everything into one semester. It always takes time to get things started, but I’m reluctant to ask students to sign up early (i.e. in the previous semester) and give them priority over the projects.

Community Partners

The CSL students have a huge impact on our school. They work with small groups of students to provide support in the area of numeracy. It is one of our targeted interventions. It allows our students to get extra support. This is especially important for struggling students and those who do not get extra support at home. CSL students also grow and learn as teachers (our students come from Education classes).

They supplemented our teaching teams and in some cases contributed significantly based on their individual skills and comfort levels. For instance, one of the CSL students had quite a bit of theatre training and background, and was able to provide a warm up for the students as part of their learning while they were on site.

They helped produce high-quality edited content for our organization to share with the community
In one course, CSL students helped our organization to plan, implement, and evaluate programming that we did not have the resources to do ourselves. In the other course, the CSL student helped us to better understand the perspectives and experiences of community members (through qualitative research), which allowed us to better focus our advocacy work.