Community Service-Learning

2017-2018 Year at a Glance

# of courses: 34  # of Placements: 462  # Hours of Service: 10,120
# of students: 409  # Organizations: 51  # of NEW partners: 8

NEW Partners:
- Change it up
- Crooked Spruce Farms
- Brenda Bohmer, Grain Farmer
- Camrose and District Fish & Game Association
- (Alberta Health Services) Wetaskiwin Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Clean Harbors Energy and Industrial Services
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Camrose and District Museum

"I had the pleasure of working with several CSL students in the fall and winter term this past year. They were able to complete fun display projects that I did not have the time to focus on. Now with the museum opening up for the summer there are some new and exciting exhibits to admire. All of the students were enthusiastic about learning museum procedures and also gained an appreciation for what happens behind the scenes in a museum."
~ Dariya Veenstra
Camrose and District Centennial Museum

"I took the CSL practicum because it was an opportunity to engage myself with the surrounding community. The course gave me a unique learning experience at University, by allowing me to explore my creative side by building a modeled sand dam for the Sahakarini organization."
~ Michelle Guspie, BSc Biology

Project Highlights
- Sending books to India
- Researching and establishing land use reports for local farmers
- Creating databases for community partners
- Museum display creation
- Weekly support for Chaplaincy's Soup Supper
- Organizational support for the Round Dance
- Anxiety programming for youth

"I wanted to get my certificate in Community Engagement and Service-Learning, but in the process, I learned a lot about reflection and the importance of my actions, which I consider a very valuable university experience."
~ Becca Dyck, BSc Physical Education
A word from the Director, Jason Taylor

For those of you who have yet to meet me, I was invited to join the team at Augustana in July 2017 as the Director of Experiential Learning (Interim). I bring my experience from the University of Alberta, North campus, where I first started exploring Service-Learning strategies as an instructor (in Philosophy) in 2009/10, and then also as a partner working with students (in 2012). I'm excited to join the Learning, Advising & Beyond (LAB) team to support the wide range of initiatives and innovative projects that enrich the campus and community experiences here in Camrose.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, Augustana underwent a shift to a 3/11 calendar to better facilitate student engagement. In that context, experiential and community-service learning opportunities at Augustana remained a vibrant and strong opportunity for our students, partner organizations, and faculty and instructors - often providing transformative learning and community-based research experiences for stakeholders. We're grateful to the support of our community partners, whose cooperation (and sometimes patience) facilitated this transition.

For me, a highlight of the 2017/2018 year was gaining the chance to meet all the dedicated individuals who pour their efforts into making a difference in lives of others; I'm excited to continue the work with you all to grow the Service-Learning program, to find innovative ways to foster deeper, stronger relationships, and to enrich the learning process.

“It is not “just volunteering.” CSL reinforces theoretical concepts learned in class by stimulating cognitive links to my own observations from my volunteering experience in a more meaningful and personal way, which is what learning should be like.”
~Christine Tran, BSc Biology

“CSL placements have been valuable to me because I’ve had practical experiences that connect with the academic side of my degree while allowing me to build a network of mentors and a strong sense of community. CSL has given me the chance to put into practice the values and knowledge I’ve learned at Augustana and apply them to real life.”
~Melissa Wilk, BA Global and Development Studies

Thank you to all of our community partners - without you, CSL would not be possible! We appreciate your support in providing unique opportunities for our students to apply their academic learning in a ‘hands on’ setting.

The Learning, Advising & Beyond office is always looking for new placement ideas for our students - if your organization has new ideas for placements please complete our new ‘Placement Interest’ form found on our website here: http://aug.ualberta.ca/cslpartners
~ Jayla, Amber, Jason & Alexis