



WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

English as a Second Language (ESL)

American University

Community & Economic Development, Education, ESL, Senior Citizens, Fundraiser, Service Learning

Washington Initiative Program

The Washington Initiative Program allows undergraduate business students at American University to enroll in a 2-credit service learning course. In the fall of 2005, the students worked on a fund-raising event for a local group, Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund, applying skills in events management. Twelve students took the class, working closely with both the nonprofit staff and H.D. Woodson High School on an online EBay auction which raised \$1,500. In addition to honing their fundraising skills, these twelve students also developed mentoring relationships with students.

During the 2nd semester, a new set of students in the course applied their skills to help low-income, elderly and limited English speaking residents complete their tax forms. The 21 students completed 12 hours of training provided by the IRS's VITA Program. They then provided more than 500 hours of free income tax assistance. The overall program served a total of 1600 taxpayers, who received over a million dollars in returns.

For More Information:

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English as a Second Language (ESL)

Central College

Community & Economic Development, Education, ESL, Literacy, Youth Leadership, Service Learning

¡Juntos Todos Aprendemos!

During the 2005-2006 academic year, more than 125 students from beginning, intermediate, and advanced Central College Spanish courses volunteered at seven organizations who serve Latinos. The Central College Office of Community-Based Learning collaborates with approximately 35 agencies who serve Latinos in Central Iowa. This work was accomplished with the help of grant funds provided through Learn and Serve America (program administered by the Upper Midwest Consortium of Campus Compact). More than 20 individuals and small groups completed a beginning term of English language instruction and daycare and after school assistance was provided to approximately 100 Latino children. More than 50 families received assistance at income tax preparation clinics and 12 Latino high school students visited Central College and received information about higher education and financial aid. All of these students indicated that the activity resulted in an increased understanding of the college application process and financial assistance; and 75% said that they were "very likely" to apply to an institution of higher education following high school. College students who participated in this project realized increased Spanish language acquisition and enhanced cultural awareness. This is an ongoing effort; the Office of Community-Based Learning continues to promote the growth of existing partnerships while cultivating new ones.

For More Information:

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WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Merrimack College

At-Risk Youth, Education, ESL, Summer Program

Accept the Challenge

Merrimack College students mentor, tutor, and guide ESL students with financial need in goal-setting activities as part of the Accept the Challenge program to send them to college. Since 1986, Accept the Challenge (ATC), a program with administrative and program costs that exceed \$95,000 annually has assisted over 400 deserving students - 90% of which have gone on to college. As high school students, the participants attend classes after school and during in the summer while living on campus. In addition to meeting academic challenges, the 35-40 ATC students accomplish 160 community service hours annually. While in high school, ATC students are encouraged to identify the colleges or universities that are best suited for their goals and admission and financial counseling is provided. Students who choose to apply and are accepted into Merrimack College after graduating from the ATC program are guaranteed full scholarships. In 2005- 2006, 10 students were fully supported with tuition, room and board (\$354,000).

The Accept the Challenge program has been recognized nationally for its innovative and successful way of educating today's urban youth.

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