Mission Statement

Rooted in the Catholic Jesuit tradition of education, the Center for Service and Community Engagement at Saint Louis University brings together students, faculty and staff, and community partners to work toward an equitable and just society through service, community-based learning, and research.

Strategic Goals and Objectives (based on Center Strategic Plan 12/15/10)

Strategic Direction 1: Enhance academically-based community engagement of faculty and students

*Service Learning: Promote the coordination of academic learning and community engagement by supporting faculty, staff, students, and community partners involved in community based service learning courses. * Center Proposal 8/15/08

- Through network analysis, identified faculty across the University who are engaged in service learning as well as the patterns of interaction across the University.
- Identified contact persons across the University to facilitate communication about service learning and community engagement.
- Worked with faculty on the Health Sciences Campus to identify and survey those involved with service and service learning and to develop strategies to stay connected.
- Provided service learning assistance for individual faculty members in Biology, Clinical and Laboratory Sciences, Communication, Education, English as a Second Language, Family and Community Medicine, History and African American Studies, Organizational Development, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, Political Science, Public Health, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and Theology.
- Provided service learning assistance to Learning Communities and First Year Interest Groups.
- With Center for Teaching Excellence and Office of Mission and Ministry, co-sponsored two workshops on Ignatian Pedagogy attended by 70 faculty members as well as a follow-up workshop on reflection, service learning, and syllabus design.
- Presented to new faculty, International Student Orientation, Honors Program, Occupational Therapy Department, Public Policy Studies students, Resident Assistants, and Social Work students.
- Held two Meet and Greets, one focused on health and the other on youth and education, to link University faculty with community agency representatives.
- Held video conference focused on service learning with Paul Vita and faculty from the Madrid Campus.
- Collaborated with Bryan Sokol to develop presentation for the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement.
- Collaborated with faculty and community representatives to develop response to needs presented by representatives of wards in North St. Louis
*Student research integrated with faculty and staff research: involve students in intentionally designed community-based research projects that better the community.*

- From the network analysis, developed list of faculty interested in community-based research.
- Formed Community-Based Research Subcommittee of Advisory Committee to advise Center and Office of Research on community-based research efforts.
- Contributed $50,000 to President’s Research Fund to support awards for Community Based Research in collaboration with Office of Research.
- Awarded research support to Dr. Lisa Willoughby, Department of Psychology and Dr. Mark Gaynor, School of Public Health.
- Hosted Community-based Research Presentation on February 25 featuring Dr. Lisa Willoughby and Dr. Mark Gaynor. Co-sponsors included Office of Research and Cross Cultural Center.

**Strategic Direction 2: Collaborating with other University units, coordinate assessment of community engagement among faculty, staff and students with focus on social justice.**

*Campus Collaboration: Coordinate collaboration and communication among university programs to enrich service and learning about issues of social justice among our students, faculty, and staff.*  
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- Completed network analysis and presented results to those interviewed, to the Council of Academic Deans and Directors, and to the Directors of the Division of Student Development.
- Initiated follow-up survey to those interviewed and those named in network analysis process.
- Met with Office of Institutional Research to develop strategy of create reliable inventory of service learning courses and to develop survey of student service experience.
- Met regularly with Campus Ministry, Center for Social Justice, Service Leadership Program, and others who do social justice programming.
- Conducted Social Justice and Advocacy Training Program for 25 students.
- With Career Service and Student Financial Services surveyed employers and student workers in the Federal Community Service Work Study Program to assess the program’s effectiveness.
- Surveyed all students regarding their experience of service and analyzed results.
**Strategic Direction 3: Working closely with the University and community stakeholders, pursue opportunities that will ensue Center success and sustainability.**

- Successfully filled position of Assistant Director for Service Learning and revised job description to create Assistant Director for Community Outreach and Engagement.
- Secured funds for positions of full-time director and program assistant. Filled program assistant position.
- Revamped Center website to state Center philosophy and to streamline connection to Center’s major functions. Regularly identified usage of Center’s website.
- Redesigned Center brochure.
- Worked with the Development Office to develop proposal for funds to support supplies for Make a Difference Day.
- Worked with Office of Research to develop Community-based research program.
- Met with community organizations to identify service opportunities. These include: American Cancer Society, Blumeyer Community Center, East St. Louis Collaborative, Grand Performing Arts Academy, Habitat, Greater St. Louis Area Boy Scouts, Green Education Alliance, Jamaa Learning Center, Lupus Foundation of St. Louis, The Mission Center, Riverview West Florissant Neighborhood Development, Shearwater Academy, Stand Up for Kids, and We Win for Kids.
- With the Student Government Association and the Great Issues Committee, developed speaker series highlighting innovative community development activities in the St. Louis Region and featuring SLU alumni and faculty. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay will give the kick-off address.
- Met with SGA representatives to pursue new initiatives such as service learning certificate and strategy to assist with disaster relief. The latter also involved the International Faculty and Staff Association.
- Worked with committee members from Atlas Week, Campus Ministry, Cross Cultural Center, Department of Theology, and Student Involvement Center to develop proposal in response to the President’s Interfaith Service Challenge.
- Developed proposal to AmeriCorps to secure two VISTAs, one for the Center and the other for the Student Involvement Center.

**Strategic Direction 4: Provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage in community service.**

*Community Outreach: Continue to assist students to recognize the role service plays in their own development and education, by involving them in co-curricular projects and opportunities, both one-time and ongoing, that will reveal and enhance their talents, skills, knowledge, and values.* *Center Proposal 8/15/08*

- 77 students placed at 10 sites in the Community Service Federal Work Study Program, a collaboration with the Office of Career Services and Student Financial Aid. 37 students were placed for summer positions, over three times the number participating in 2010.
- Continued and enhanced major student service events/activities
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Involvement Fair</td>
<td>66 agencies</td>
<td>60 agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a Difference Day</td>
<td>2778 students, faculty, and staff worked at 127 sites</td>
<td>2554 students, faculty, and staff worked at 107 sites</td>
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<td>Blue Santa Toy Drive and Christmas at SLU</td>
<td>15 departments participated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Kitchen</td>
<td>2500+ meals per month</td>
<td>2500+ meals per month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relay for Life</td>
<td>1800 participants raised $165,000</td>
<td>1800 participants raised $150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student conduct service placements</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students connected</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes, groups or organizations connected</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>One time service opportunities</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agencies added to database</td>
<td>12</td>
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- With Campus Kitchen, Chartwell’s, and Housing and Residence Life secured relocation of Campus Kitchen to Reinert Hall with new equipment for storage and refrigeration.
- Completed annual survey of community agencies in the CSCE database. Additional questions addressed service learning and community-based research opportunities.