The Catholic and Jesuit Identity of Saint Louis University

2013
MISSION STATEMENT
OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

The Mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God’s creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.

In support of its mission, the University:
• Encourages and supports innovative scholarship and effective teaching in all fields of the arts; the humanities; the natural, health and medical sciences; the social sciences; the law; business; aviation; and technology.
• Creates an academic environment that values and promotes free, active and original intellectual inquiry among its faculty and students.
• Fosters programs that link University resources to local, national and international communities in collaborative efforts to alleviate ignorance, poverty, injustice and hunger; extend compassionate care to the ill and needy; and maintain and improve the quality of life for all persons.
• Strives continuously to seek means to build upon its Catholic, Jesuit identity and to promote activities that apply its intellectual and ethical heritage to work for the good of society as a whole.
• Welcomes students, faculty and staff from all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds and beliefs and creates a sense of community that facilitates their development as men and women for others.
• Nurtures within its community an understanding of and commitment to the promotion of faith and justice in the spirit of the Gospels.
• Wisely allocates its resources to maintain efficiency and effectiveness in attaining its mission and goals.

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Originally a part of a strategic plan created nearly a quarter of a century ago, University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J., articulated his personal vision for the future of Saint Louis University:
“My vision is to establish and maintain Saint Louis University as the finest Catholic university in the United States, wherein the entire University community is actively engaged in student formation. Challenged by outstanding faculty and a modern, value-centered curriculum reflecting the Jesuit tradition, students are fully prepared to contribute to society and to be effective leaders of social change based on the ethical values and principles taught in the Saint Louis University tradition.”
— Lawrence Biondi, S.J., President

This vision has become a shared catalyst, influencing discussion and decision-making throughout the University.

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Saint Louis University is a Catholic and Jesuit university founded by Most Reverend Louis William DuBourg, Catholic Bishop of Louisiana, as St. Louis College in November 1818. The Society of Jesus assumed control of the University in 1826, at the invitation of Bishop DuBourg. From that founding, Saint Louis University and numerous other Jesuit apostolates began, grew and flourished in what was once the new frontier of the United States, considered the gateway to the West. In 1832, the State of Missouri formally chartered Saint Louis University, the first university west of the Mississippi River.

Throughout our nearly 200 years of service to the city and the Church, Saint Louis University Jesuits, faculty, staff and administrators have maintained a firm foundation in the traditions of the Catholic Church and the values of the Society of Jesus. Saint Louis University is a Catholic university, and our identity as a Catholic university profoundly impacts our mission, our influence and our responsibility, locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

For more than 450 years, Jesuit education worldwide has educated the whole person intellectually, professionally, psychologically, morally and spiritually. But in our emerging global reality, with its palpable possibilities and significant contradictions, the whole person of tomorrow differs from the whole person of the Counter-Reformation, the Industrial Revolution or the 21st Century. Tomorrow’s whole person cannot be whole without an educated awareness of society and culture to which he or she can contribute and generously serve in the real world.

Not typical of all other universities, though, Saint Louis University offers a depth afforded us by our Catholic and Jesuit traditions and founders, an opportunity to go far beyond other universities, an opportunity to bridge the real or perceived gulfs between humans and God. Pope Benedict XVI noted that gulf when he addressed members of the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in February 2008.

At that time, Pope Benedict XVI called their attention to people “distant today not so much from the geographical as rather from the cultural viewpoint. It is not oceans or immense distances that challenge the heralds of the Gospel but the boundaries resulting from an erroneous or superficial vision of God and man that stand between faith and human knowledge, faith and modern science, faith and the commitment to justice.” Saint Louis University vigorously labors on that cultural frontier.

Two months later, addressing Catholic educators in Washington, D.C., the Holy Father said: “Clearly, then, Catholic identity is not dependent upon statistics. Neither can it be equated simply with orthodoxy of course content. It demands and inspires much more: namely that each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberate within the ecclesial life of faith.”

Later in that address he asked: “Is the faith tangible in our universities and schools? Is it given fervent expression liturgically, sacramentally, through prayer, acts of charity, a concern for justice, and respect for God’s creation?”

While answering “yes” to those questions, Saint Louis University also seeks the Magis, to be and to do “much more.”
Saint Louis University Highlights

- Catholic and Jesuit identity is clearly expressed in the Saint Louis University Mission statement. (Found on page 20.)

- An independent board of trustees governs Saint Louis University. Our Trustees are committed to follow the bylaws of the University to act in accordance with the laws of the United States, the State of Missouri and our Catholic and Jesuit tradition of education, research and service.

- The Board of Trustees’ standing Committee on Mission and Ministry meets quarterly, reports regularly to the full board and guarantees the ongoing expression of our Mission and identity.

- A standing agenda item for the quarterly board meetings includes ongoing formation of Trustees to understand and appreciate our Mission.

- Two Jesuit trustees serve as ex officio members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

- Mission and identity materials are used in the recruitment and orientation of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students.

- The Vice President for Mission and Ministry supervises a division of more than 30 staff members who develop and foster new initiatives to preserve and enhance our Catholic and Jesuit identity. The vice president and division staff members direct the spiritual formation of undergraduate, graduate and professional students through Campus Ministry; minister to patients and their families through Saint Louis University Hospital Pastoral Care; and offer specialized programs, retreats and reflection opportunities to faculty and staff.

- The Mission and Ministry division sponsors or collaborates in Ethics Across the Curriculum, the Manresa Program, Micah Program, Center for Liturgy, Ignatian Spirituality Conference, the Center for Leadership and Community Service, and the Service Leadership Program.

- The Vice President for Mission and Ministry is a consultant to the President and a member of the University’s Executive Staff.

- Biomedical research and health care delivery are provided in accord with the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care as promulgated by the United States Conference of Bishops.

- Tenet Health Care Corporation, which acquired Saint Louis University Hospital in February 1998, has faithfully and consistently fulfilled its contractual obligations to provide pastoral care services, to provide care for the indigent and poor at the historical levels provided by the University, and to adhere to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care as promulgated by the United States Conference of Bishops.
**Research**

*From Ex Corde Ecclesiae:*

15. A Catholic University, therefore, is a place of research, where scholars scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each academic discipline, and so contribute to the treasury of human knowledge. Each individual discipline is studied in a systematic manner; moreover, the various disciplines are brought into dialogue for their mutual enhancement. In addition to assisting men and women in their continuing quest for the truth, this research provides an effective witness, especially necessary today, to the Church’s belief in the intrinsic value of knowledge and research. In a Catholic University, research necessarily includes (a) the search for an integration of knowledge, (b) a dialogue between faith and reason, (c) an ethical concern, and (d) a theological perspective.

32. Included among its research activities, therefore, will be a study of serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world’s resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level. University research will seek to discover the roots and causes of the serious problems of our time, paying special attention to their ethical and religious dimensions.

46. An area that particularly interests a Catholic University is the dialogue between Christian thought and the modern sciences. This task requires persons particularly well versed in the individual disciplines and who are at the same time adequately prepared theologically, and who are capable of confronting epistemological questions at the level of the relationship between faith and reason.

**Saint Louis University Highlights**

- Saint Louis University is one of five Catholic universities in the country with a School of Medicine.
- It is the only Catholic university in the country with a School of Public Health.
- The University’s program in Health Law is ranked at the top of the field.
- Saint Louis University is one of five Catholic universities ranked “research intensive” by the Carnegie Foundation.
- The Philosophy Department is ranked among the top three departments of philosophy in the English-speaking world for philosophy of religion, and in the top four departments for medieval philosophy.
- The Theology Department includes more than 30 faculty regularly engaged in theological research, eight of whom are priests.
- Interdisciplinary centers include the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Bander Center for Medical Business Ethics and the Emerson Center for Business Ethics. The University also offers a Ph.D. in Health Care Ethics to prepare individuals for careers in academic, corporate, research and clinical bioethics settings.
- Saint Louis University sponsors one of the largest umbilical cord blood research centers in the United States.

**Student Formation**

*From Ex Corde Ecclesiae:*

23. Students are challenged to pursue an education that combines excellence in humanistic and cultural development with specialized professional training. Most especially, they are challenged to continue the search for truth and for meaning throughout their lives, since “the human spirit must be cultivated in such a way that there results a growth in its ability to wonder, to understand, to contemplate, to make personal judgments, and to develop a religious, moral, and social sense” (23). This enables them to acquire or, if they have already done so, to deepen a Christian way of life that is authentic. They should realize the responsibility of their professional life, the enthusiasm of being the trained ‘leaders’ of tomorrow, of being witnesses to Christ in whatever place they may exercise their profession.

45. A Catholic University must become more attentive to the cultures of the world of today, and to the various cultural traditions existing within the Church in a way that will promote a continuous and profitable dialogue between the Gospel and modern society.

**Saint Louis University Highlights**

- Reflecting our mission, Saint Louis University strives to engage students in five interrelated dimensions contributing to the development of the whole person: scholarship and knowledge, intellectual inquiry and communication, community building, leadership and service, and spirituality and values.
- The undergraduate curricula for all students include courses in philosophy, theology, humanities and natural sciences. All students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take at least nine credit hours of theology and nine credit hours of philosophy, a standard higher than many Catholic universities in the United States.
- Students experience a global vision and intercultural opportunities through language studies, the interdisciplinary major in international studies, and interaction with Saint Louis University's campus in Madrid, Spain.
- Saint Louis University offers excellent and ethical professional training at the undergraduate and graduate levels in fields ranging from international business to physical therapy.
- The John Cook School of Business Service Leadership program is one of many University efforts to integrate service with learning.
- Saint Louis University is one of only three universities in the United States providing educational and spiritual formation for Jesuit scholastics in philosophy.
SERVICE TO CHURCH AND SOCIETY

From *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*:

37. In its service to society, a Catholic University will relate especially to the academic, cultural and scientific world of the region in which it is located. Original forms of dialogue and collaboration are to be encouraged between the Catholic Universities and the other Universities of a nation on behalf of development, of understanding between cultures, and of the defense of nature in accordance with an awareness of the international ecological situation.

40. Those involved in pastoral ministry will encourage teachers and students to become more aware of their responsibility towards those who are suffering physically or spiritually. Following the example of Christ, they will be particularly attentive to the poorest and to those who suffer economic, social, cultural or religious injustice. This responsibility begins within the academic community, but it also finds application beyond it.

Saint Louis University Highlights

- Saint Louis University students, faculty and staff devoted more than one million hours to outreach and service in 2010.
- SLU Care, the practice of School of Medicine faculty physicians, and Saint Louis University Hospital rank second in the St. Louis metropolitan area for providing free health care to the poor and under-served.
- In collaboration with the Archdiocese of Huancayo, Peru, Saint Louis University faculty studied the health effects of environmental contamination produced by a metal smelter in La Oroya, Peru.
- In addition to the free law clinic for homeless and indigent people, the School of Law partners with Catholic Charities on Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry and the Catholic Immigration Law Project.
- Saint Louis University pioneered the Campus Kitchen initiative, where University students and volunteers cook unused food each week and deliver 500 meals a month to our neighbors in need.
- The University community has a full liturgical life throughout the academic year, beginning with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and closing with the Baccalaureate Mass.
- For nearly two decades, students have gathered for the University’s popular and prayerful 9 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church.
- Campus Ministry offers a variety of retreats, all rooted in Ignatian spirituality. Diverse in focus, setting and length, these retreats provide students time away from campus life to reflect on who they are, who God is, how they are known and loved by God, and how they can respond to that love.
- Casa de Salud, an initiative supported by our Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Social Work and our Doisy College of Health Sciences provides health care to immigrant Latinos in the St. Louis metropolitan area.
- In 1994, SLU medical students established the Health Resource Center (HRC), a free medical clinic providing health services to residents of St. Louis’ north side. Today, more than 95 percent of SLU medical students volunteer at the center, providing an underserved population with access to quality basic health care and developing their own clinical skills by offering free physical exams, seasonal flu vaccines, pediatric immunizations, TB tests and blood pressure checks, among other services.
MISSION AND MINISTRY

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAMS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Shared Vision

Shared Vision, a three-part video-and-discussion series, explores the history of the Society of Jesus, the spirit and insights of the founder St. Ignatius Loyola, and the guiding vision that animates Jesuit education in the third millennium. This series introduces our faculty, staff, trustees and volunteers to the foundational principles underlying Saint Louis University. More than 4,000 University faculty and staff, and Saint Louis University Hospital residents and house staff have viewed Shared Vision since the program began in 1996. The three parts of the series include:

1. Shared Vision: Beginnings examines the founding of the Society of Jesus, the beginnings of the Ignatian vision of a call to service and a commitment to faith that promotes justice, and the development of the Spiritual Exercises.

2. Shared Vision: Transformation examines that Ignatian vision as it transformed, and was transformed by, the new cultures and new areas of knowledge it encountered throughout history and the new partnerships it formed around the globe.

3. Shared Vision: Transitions highlights the transitions of the Ignatian vision as it became part of American culture and the contemporary era. This section of the series challenges participants to consider thoughtfully their next step, as they continue to meet the Ignatian vision and experience in higher education.

National Ignatian Spiritually Conference

Sponsored by Saint Louis University and the Jesuits of the Missouri Province, the conference brings together lay, Jesuit, clergy and other religious who conduct works rooted in Ignatian spirituality in everyday life to educate and encourage their practice of Ignatian spirituality.

Heartland-Delta Conference

The Jesuit Higher Education in the Heartland Conference gathers faculty, staff and administrators from the 12 Jesuit colleges and universities located in the Midwest and southern regions of the United States to explore Jesuit education in the 21st century. Discussions begun at the Heartland-Delta conferences continue throughout the academic year as Journey Reunion Luncheons help participants explore and understand the spirit and meaning of Jesuit education in fulfilling the Mission of Saint Louis University.

Heartland Faculty Conversations

Faculty from the 12 Jesuit colleges and universities in the Midwest and southern regions of the United States gather annually for a two-day conference to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Jesuit mission and identity.

The Manresa Program

The program offers interdisciplinary and integrated study in the intellectual and social traditions of the Catholic Church from the New Testament period to the present. In addition to a variety of courses in the Christian intellectual tradition, the Manresa Program offers interested students opportunities to explore the history and mission of the Society of Jesus and the traditions underlying Saint Louis University as a Catholic Jesuit institution. The program also offers a variety of social and spiritual activities.

MISSION FORMATION

Saint Louis University provides rich and diverse opportunities for students, faculty and staff to grow in their spirituality and understanding of the Catholic and Jesuit heritage and Mission of Saint Louis University. Here are a few highlights:

Faculty and Staff Retreats and Spirituality Programs

1. Twilight Retreats: These twilight retreats during Advent and Lent address the liturgical season and provide time for personal and prayerful reflection.

2. Private Spiritual Direction: Spiritual direction serves anyone sincerely committed to praying regularly and willing to share that experience in confidence with experienced spiritual directors.

3. Mission Brown Bag Series: This regular noon-time series offers a reflection on the Jesuit mission and Ignatian values of Saint Louis University. Examples of programs include “Missionaries, Pioneers, Missouri’s Jesuits,” “Living the Ignatian Spirit,” “Jesuit Saints and Martyrs” and “Jesuit Race Policy and University Activism.”

4. Ignatian Lunch Series: The Ignatian Lunch Series invites the University community to reflect on their encounters with aspects of the University mission in their lives on campus. Presentations are made by University colleagues who discuss how they understand, apply and live the Jesuit and University mission. Discussion enables participants to reflect on their personal experience of mission on campus.

Student Retreats and Spirituality Programs

1. SLU Encounter Retreats: Participants explore their faith through small group discussion, prayer and fellowship. This experience prepares participating students to foster leadership and spirituality among their peers.

2. Nature Retreat: The Nature Retreat introduces students to the presence of God in the natural world and revitalizing our sense of the Catholic sacramental tradition, understanding the natural world as a locus of encounter with God. This weekend retreat involves stargazing, campfires, storytelling, Mass and plenty of personal time to pray and to explore the beauty of God’s creation.

3. Ignatian Silent Retreat: This four-day, silent student retreat follows the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises.

4. Fresh Look Retreat: Freshmen gather to rekindle their enthusiasm and commitment to learning and faith as they begin their second semester.

5. Christian Life Communities: Small groups of undergraduate, graduate and professional students gather weekly to pray and to discuss their faith and their personal commitment to the Gospel, in and outside the University environment.
Social Justice Initiatives

- **Mission Trip Programs:** Campus Ministry provides students immersion experiences with people living on the margins of society, helping students examine the social reality of poverty in our world and its implications for Christian discipleship. During spring break and other university holidays, students travel to learn about immigration, racism, poverty, and the economic reality of globalization. Recent destinations have included El Salvador, Belize, Mexico, Appalachia, New Orleans, the Navajo Nation, and the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

- **Micah Program:** Selected first-year students have the opportunity to live, study, and pray together as part of a larger student community interested in issues of social justice and peace. These students provide at least 30 hours of community service each semester and live on designated Micah floors in a Saint Louis University residence hall. Students are able to pray together, discuss their work in the city, and celebrate Mass on the Feast of the Holy Spirit or the Holy Saturdays. As in the various Saint Louis University residence hall chapels, Sunday evenings at 9 p.m. during the academic year, nearly 1,000 students gather for Mass in College Church. More than 200 students serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, servers, lectors and members of the choir for this Mass, as well as for a 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass, both coordinated by Campus Ministry.

- **Urban Plunge Retreat:** Students who participate in this retreat witness firsthand the disparity between wealth and poverty in the St. Louis area and address situations of social injustice.

Sacramental Celebrations in the University Community

Members of the Saint Louis University Jesuit community, including university faculty, and Archdiocesan priests celebrate Eucharistic Liturgies daily at St. Francis Xavier College Church, as well as in the various Saint Louis University residence hall chapels.

- **Holy Days of Obligation:** Holy days and seasonal liturgical events, e.g., Ash Wednesday, are celebrated for students on the feast day, or as a vigil, or as part of the regular parish liturgies scheduled at St. Francis Xavier College Church, an active parish in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

- **Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available daily at the College Church and on Sundays prior to the 9 p.m. Mass. During Advent and Lent, Campus Ministry offers communal reconciliation services.

- **Marriage Preparation:** Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is offered by priests and Campus Ministry staff for engaged couples. Married campus ministers are also trained to provide additional marriage preparation.

- **Confirmation:** Catholic students who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation meet weekly from September through April to prepare for this sacrament. Generally, the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered at the same time as those who are being received into the Church through the R.C.I.A. program.

- **R.C.I.A.:** Students who are interested in learning about Catholicism or who already know that they want to be received into the Church, participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Guided by a campus minister and a student leadership team, the catechumens and candidates learn about key doctrines of the Catholic faith and are formed in the communal and sacramental life of the Church. At the end of their preparation, the students receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

- **Mass of the Holy Spirit:** In keeping with a worldwide Catholic and Jesuit tradition, the Mass of the Holy Spirit begins each new academic year. The entire University community is able to participate, as classes are canceled and University offices are closed.

- **All Souls Day:** An annual All Souls Day liturgy is celebrated at the College Church commemorating deceased members of the University community.

- **Memorial Service for Body Donors:** Students at the School of Medicine plan and present an interfaith memorial service for body donors that honors and gives thanks to those who have donated their mortal remains to the School of Medicine for research. The families of the donors are invited to attend the service. The donors’ remains are interred in the Saint Louis University plot in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery.
service in the saint louis university jesuit tradition

As context for the charitable works of Saint Louis University students, faculty and staff, it might be relevant to suggest some developmental, progressive distinctions for how and why we do what we do.

In these times, it seems all schools — colleges, universities, high schools, middle and grade schools — expect their students, faculty, staff and often alumni, to participate in some type of volunteer activity.

Part of our long tradition and history at Saint Louis University calls us to enter this arena as well, but for a longer term, more in keeping with our Catholic, Jesuit heritage, more clearly tied to the vision of St. Ignatius.

In these times at our university — and in universities, colleges, high schools and corporations all over this country and the world, we may talk a lot about “service,” but we often confuse it with volunteering, and thereby diminish it, and institutional efforts, on a broader scale.

In fact, at Jesuit universities, we do not “volunteer,” as a sole example of our service efforts. Rather, our work can be classified in three categories, with clear distinctions, providing a context in which to think and pray about what we do in terms of a larger picture, a broader focus and understanding, a deeper meaning.

Philanthropy
This involves collecting and giving money to a designated group or organization for short-term, long-term or emergency needs. Special collections in churches, direct solicitations for funds, bake sales, carwashes and grant opportunities all fall under this category. Concerned with providing physical resources, e.g., money, clothing, buildings, food, objects and real estate, philanthropists often have little or no direct contact with the people their generosity benefits. Clearly, though, while an important and valuable source of necessary resources for agencies and organizations all over the world, philanthropy is not “service.”

Volunteerism
Another worthy act of kindness, volunteering addresses, more often than not, a “one-shot” task to be completed, often an end-in-itself. Examples include filing papers or other clerical work, building a house, clearing weeds, repairing broken items or providing immediate, if short-term, help to organizations or agencies. Though generally motivated by charitable or humanitarian values, these are optional and only more or less essential. Volunteerism, per se, does not question values or the relative justice or injustice of a particular situation, nor does it necessarily seek to change or serve any but immediate and presenting needs.

When a specific task is completed, more often than not, the work is finished. While a good and necessary resource for these organizations, volunteerism is not “service.”

Community Service
In Jesuit universities, the understanding of why we exist in the first place centers around an understanding of our purpose and our value, in and to the world. For St. Ignatius, our purpose and our goal are derived from faith and nourished by faith.

Community service, a means to an end, based on — and deriving from — faith-focused reflection, calls us to a longer-term commitment to the broader issues and a more personal investment than merely completing a task.

For example, working in soup kitchen is volunteering, a good work, to be sure. Working in a soup kitchen while addressing the broad, long-term issue of hunger, though, is service in the Saint Louis University context. This service addresses an issue, rather than just an instant.

This understanding of service calls us into relationships with the people with whom we work and serve, the people from whom we also learn. It calls us into a broader community than we normally define as “my family, my university, my club, or team or organization or activity.”

Community service, in this context, then, calls us to, and prepares us for, a larger life, not just a college life. Community service, in this context, extends to the interrelatedness, the connectedness, of each of us to all of us — as brothers and sisters in Christ, as the Body of Christ. As a result, at Saint Louis University, we focus on “service” as a part of “promoting the faith that seeks justice.”

service-learning
Service-learning at Saint Louis University enhances philanthropy, volunteerism and community service, and it furthers course learning objectives across the curriculum, fostering an academic consciousness of social justice that promotes the common good.

Every semester our faculty teach 80-100 different courses with a service-learning component, covering a wide range of academic disciplines and utilizing hundreds of local agencies, churches and schools. These newly formed partnerships help strengthen urban communities across the St. Louis region.

An important feature of service-learning, consistent with our tradition, includes a guided reflection in which faculty and students integrate the service experience with the academic content of the course and the Catholic and Jesuit mission of the University.

Service learning is service, in the Jesuit context, with academic credit!
Part of the Mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Guiding students in their development through engagement with local and global communities is central to fulfilling this mission. Service for others is a fundamental component of the University’s Catholic and Jesuit identity. Reflective action, oriented to others, ensures an educational experience both practical and theoretical. Saint Louis University’s educational experience remains grounded in the daily life of the communities we serve.

In 2012, Saint Louis University was ranked as the top private university in the country for students engaging in community service by the Washington Monthly. The University also was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth consecutive year. The award is given to the top five percent of colleges and universities that demonstrate a deep commitment to civic engagement and service learning.

The Beyond the Classroom report annually celebrates the many ways faculty, staff and students participate in outreach and service to others throughout the preceding year. The Office of Institutional Research compiles the current report using data from the Beyond the Classroom survey of individual faculty and staff, the Beyond the Classroom departmental survey and information provided by the Center for Service and Community Engagement.

Highlights
In 2011, Saint Louis University faculty, staff and students devoted nearly 1,200,500 hours to outreach and service through a wide range of activities.

Involvement in Service and Outreach
• The 2,381 faculty and staff respondents to the Beyond the Classroom survey provided 163,580 hours of community service and volunteer activities.
• A total of 90 percent of faculty and staff respondents contributed money or items to non-profit organizations in 2011. In addition, 81 percent of those making contributions donated to at least five organizations during the year.
• Saint Louis University students completed 820,395 hours of community outreach through clinicals, internships and practica.

• Students dedicated 32,947 hours to service opportunities offered through classes and 28,345 hours to service opportunities offered through other programs organized by academic and administrative offices.
• Students participated in 14,306 service opportunities, contributing 155,532 hours to programs sponsored by the Center for Service and Community Engagement, Greek organizations and Alpha Phi Omega.
• There are 23 student organizations on campus that focus primarily on service and issues of social justice in the community.

2011-2012 Center for Service and Community Engagement Programs and Activities

Annual Programs and Activities
School Supply Drive: This annual August program collects school supplies from faculty, staff and students. In 2011, the University donated a record number of supplies (more than 20,000 items, providing hundreds of children with school supplies for the entire year) to Kidsmart, a non-profit agency that provides school supplies to the 80,000 children living in poverty in the St. Louis area.

Make A Difference Day: Held the fourth Saturday of October each year, this event brings students, faculty and staff together for a day of service to the St. Louis community. In 2011, a record turnout of more than 3,000 volunteers served at 130 local non-profit agencies, community centers, churches and homes. Hundreds of alumni in club cities across the country served in their local communities. AmeriCorps recognizes the SLU event as one of the largest collegiate days of service in the country.

Christmas at Saint Louis University: Each December, the University brings together more than 200 children from area schools who are tutored by University students. These children are invited to campus for a Christmas celebration at which students, faculty and staff run activity booths, serve food and play with the children. Each child also receives a gift from Santa Claus.

Homeless Awareness Week/Open Doors: Every spring, Saint Louis University dedicates a week to raising community awareness about homelessness in the St. Louis area. Various speakers and programs are scheduled during this time, including a Sleep-Out in the Quad and a Habitat For Humanity service day. The University also sponsors Open Doors during this week, inviting hundreds of homeless people to campus to receive hot meals, clothing, and various social and medical services.

Social Justice and Advocacy Training: Co-sponsored by Campus Ministry, this annual training program allows student leaders from across campus to take their efforts to the next level of more active involvement.

Relay for Life: Held on campus annually each April, this event celebrates cancer survivors and raises money to help the American Cancer Society in its mission to save lives, to help those who have been touched by cancer and to empower individuals to fight back against the disease. In 2012, more than 1,800 students, faculty, and staff participated in this event and raised more than $140,000.
On-going Programs

**Campus Kitchen:** The Saint Louis University Campus Kitchen coordinates food donations to prepare and deliver meals to community agencies identified by the St. Louis Food Bank and other referring agencies. Each month, the kitchen delivers nearly 2,500 meals and snacks to several centers and shelters, and various low-income families in St. Louis.

**Community Service Federal Work Study Program:** Through this unique program, SLU students tutor children at St. Louis Public Schools, SLU-sponsored charter schools and other non-profit organizations. In 2011, 184 students participated, more than double the year before.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters:** Saint Louis University has developed a formal partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. BBBS matches University students with underprivileged children in the St. Louis area to form nurturing, caring relationships. Last year, more than 360 students served as mentors and friends to area children.

**Service Learning:** Believing in the education of the whole person and recognizing that service opportunities are crucial for student formation, the University offers between 80-100 courses that contain a service-learning component each semester.

**Saint Louis University Student Survey on Service Conducted by the Center for Service and Community Engagement**

The 2011-2012 Student Survey on Service was administered to the student body of Saint Louis University from April 24-May 9, 2012. This was the second year for the survey, and similar to the 2010-2011 version, it was meant to assess the service efforts of our students, including:

- Community organizations impacted by our students’ service
- Information on service as a requirement

**New for the 2011-2012 version of the survey, questions also addressed:**

- Reasons why students did not engage in service
- Motivations for students to engage in service
- Impact of service on students

As with past surveys, data gathered offers valuable insights into not only what SLU students are doing in the community, but also how their experience is affecting them, and what they are learning through the service. Data also provides a greater sense of impact on both individual community organizations, as well as geographic areas of the St. Louis area. Finally, survey developers hoped to identify any gaps related to SLU students and service to the community, whether in learning outcomes, intensity of service, or student populations engaging in service at lower-than-normal levels.

**Methodology**

The survey was administered via email on April 24, 2012, to all 13,422 students enrolled at Saint Louis University during the spring semester. This included all undergraduate, graduate, full-time, part-time, and professional students, as well as those enrolled in SLU’s Madrid Campus.

In all, 2,890 students participated in the survey, resulting in a 22 percent response rate overall. This is a significant improvement from the 16 percent response rate obtained for the first year of the survey, 2011-2011.

**Results and Interpretation**

**Key Findings**

The following are several key findings and themes from data interpretation. Key findings are broken down into four categories: 1) Overall Amount and Intensity; 2) Service as a Requirement; 3) Community Sites; and 4) Student Motivations and Impact.

1) **Overall Amount and Intensity**

- 81 percent of SLU students who responded volunteered at least once during the 2011-2012 school year, approximately the same as last year. This is more than three times the rate among college students nationwide (26.1%) in 2010, as measured by USA Today and the National Corporation for Community Service.

- 3,737 instances of service were reported, totaling 174,021 hours from August-May.

- 55 percent of those who engaged in service did so on an ongoing basis, meaning at least two-three times per month.

- Of those students who did not engage in service, the most common reasons given were: 1) Lack of time; 2) Unsure of how to get involved; and 3) Lack of transportation.

2) **Service as a Requirement**

- 51 percent of students who engaged in service did so to fulfill a requirement, while 49 percent did not.

- Requirements for an academic course and for group or club membership were the most common.

- Alpha Phi Omega (co-ed service fraternity) and Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-Health club) were the two groups mentioned most often.

- Of those students who did serve as part of a requirement, 82 percent plan to continue or have continued their service beyond the required number of hours.

3) **Community Sites**

- The top sites for hours were (number of hours provided in parentheses):
  - Saint Louis Public Schools, representing 17 different locations (4,123)
  - Saint Louis University Hospital (3,967)
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters (2,710)

- The top sites for number of volunteers were (number of volunteers provided in parentheses):
  - The Campus Kitchen (105)
  - Habitat For Humanity (83)
  - Health Resource Center (75)

- Make A Difference Day was the most often mentioned program by which students engaged in service, but was not included in the list of sites, since it is a campus event.

- As with last year, the two most popular fields to serve in were "health care" and "youth."

4) **Student Motivations and Impact**

- Students were asked to self-evaluate their motivations for engaging in service, as well as the impact that volunteering had, by responding to statements on a four-point Likert scale (1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Disagree, 4=Strongly Disagree).

- Top motivators included:
  - To make a positive difference in my community (96 percent either Strongly Agreed or Agreed)
  - To help others in need (96 percent)
  - To work for social justice and equality (74 percent)

- Least motivating factors were:
  - To satisfy a requirement (56 percent either Strongly Agreed or Agreed)
  - Because my faith or spiritual tradition inspired me (59 percent)

- Highest impacts included:
  - Gained a greater respect for others’ differences and diverse backgrounds (94 percent either Strongly Agreed of Agreed)
Summary and Conclusion

Overall, results from the 2011-2012 Student Survey on Service were very impressive. The volunteer rates of SLU students remained in the 80 percentages, putting Saint Louis University well above the rates for college students nationwide, as well as at peer institutions (as measured by the National Survey on Student Engagement). Response rate to this survey was drastically improved from the previous year as well, which provided a more reliable sample of students.

It is also encouraging that more than half of all students who engage in service do so in an ongoing way. By being present at their site at least two-three times per month, the students strengthen their bonds with those they are serving, and in turn, strengthen their own spirit of solidarity with the community. And even with students who were required to do service, it is very encouraging that 82 percent of them continued or intend to continue.

For those who did not engage in service, it comes as no surprise that lack of time was the predominant reason given, and not much can be done to assuage that. However, students also mentioned that they were unsure how to get involved, and had no transportation. The Center for Service and Community Engagement will personally following up with the 38 percent of students who did not engage in service, but provided their contact information as a means to do so next year. Ways to lessen lack of transportation as a barrier to service should also be explored.

Finally, it is heartening to see that the top motivations for students to engage in service were “other-oriented,” and not simply self-serving. It is also very impressive that almost all students gained a greater respect for others’ differences through their service — it is clear that the concept of diversity is inextricably linked to service. The single discouraging figure was the lack of impact on students’ involvement in the democratic process. The Center for Service and Community Engagement will explore ways to allow students to become more involved civically, whether through voting, lobbying or other means to affect permanent, lasting change around issues of justice.

CORE VALUES OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

All education takes into account the progressive stages of individual growth and development. As a result, all education contributes to the formation of men and women who will put their beliefs and attitudes into practice throughout their lives. Saint Louis University strives to practice — through concrete action — the values we cherish, the values to which we subscribe and teach in the formation of our students. Thus, text and context lead to constructive action.

As a Catholic, Jesuit institution, Saint Louis University strives to be Catholic, recognizing the values we share with all traditions and persons of good will. Saint Louis University celebrates a tradition that, above all, honors the virtue of love and its call to generosity and selflessness. In our efforts to fulfill the University Mission, we celebrate a shared set of values, ethics and principles that support the common good.

We develop and demonstrate innovation and competence as we fulfill our responsibilities and as we seek excellence. Pursuing competence enables us to comply with legal standards, to adhere to University policies and to live morality beyond legality. By competence we solve problems and support one another in difficult times. We ask questions and seek assistance when we are uncertain about the proper course of action. We promote free, active and original intellectual inquiry among all University members.

We cultivate and follow our conscience for the development of the whole person in community. Respecting conscience encourages us to value inter-religious collaboration and respect the faith of diverse religious communities. Through conscience we deepen and clarify ethical conduct in the ongoing quest for enlightenment, understanding and truth.

We embrace and show compassion through patience with, and understanding of, ourselves and other people. Practicing compassion helps us demonstrate effective communication skills by listening, seeking first to reflect and understand before making decisions and taking action. With compassion, we enhance selflessness when interacting with others, and we seek forgiveness when appropriate.

We demonstrate and celebrate commitment by implementing our responsibilities with honesty and perseverance. Honoring commitment displays our respect for the dignity of others and ourselves. Through commitment, we encourage civility with others and enhance ethical performance and conduct in our lives.

We foster and express community when we respect the dignity of others as much as our own dignity. Nurturing community promotes dialogue and decision-making that address issues of ignorance, injustice, poverty, racism and educational needs. Through community, we welcome others from all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. We work together to build teamwork and to offer mutual support.

From our founding in 1818 to the present day, Saint Louis University has deliberately and intentionally sought the pursuit of truth and the service of humanity. Times change; people and places change; values and truth remain the same. The Catholic and Jesuit values of competence, conscience, compassion and commitment have formed the community we know as Saint Louis University.
We invite you to visit us on the World Wide Web for more information about Saint Louis University and our programs:

www.slu.edu