Office of Service-Learning Annual Report Highlights Successes

In the past year, more faculty and students participated in Service-Learning, which offered more courses and programs than ever before.

The Office of Service-Learning recently released its annual report for the Academic Year 2013-2014 which outlined new service initiatives, faculty and student participation in Service-Learning courses, and professional development workshops.

Service-Learning data showed growth in the number of faculty, courses and students participating in the program. Sixty-four faculty members participated and 99 courses offered Service-Learning credit over the past year. About 1,895 students logged 12,975 hours of service, volunteering with 165 community partners.

Since 2011, the number of Service-Learning courses offered has grown 46 percent, faculty has increased by 8 percent, and students, 38 percent.

For the second time, the Schools of Health Sciences, Business, and Social and Behavioral Sciences (SOBL) comprised the largest component of student majors, representing 60 percent of all Service-Learning students, with SOBL offering the most courses.

In AY 2013-14, the Office of Service-Learning kicked off the first-ever Service Engagement Advocates and Activist-in-Residence programs.

“This year, one of our goals was to implement support staff for students, faculty and community partners,” said Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning.

“We celebrated success with first-year installments of the Service Engagement Advocates (SEAs) and Activist-In-Residence (AIR) programs. In the SEAs pilot year, we learned that our priorities need to shift. We must focus on better evaluation (or assessment) of faculty members and community partners to work with students as colleagues in order to address social issues and influence positive change.”

Stockton’s inaugural AIR, Erin O’Hanlon, presented trainings titled “Activism 101” in faculty classes to encourage student activism and mobilization. O’Hanlon inspired students to think globally and act locally in various settings. The success of O’Hanlon’s work has led to the current development of an AIR Toolkit to be used by the American Democracy Project as a resource to implement AIR positions on other college campuses.

Service-Learning also serves as a member of the college’s Annual Martin Luther King Day of Continued on next page
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Service Committee. This year celebrated its 10th anniversary with more than 800 volunteers working on 40 community projects in Atlantic, Cape May and Ocean counties.

Day of Service has grown steadily over the decade, with additional Days of Service held in the fall beginning last year. In 2013-14, Service-Learning worked with other departments and community partners to expand the project to a “Semester of Service,” focusing on three large service events each semester. The next Day of Service, which is a collaboration with the Office of Student Development is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6 beginning at 8 a.m. in the Campus Center Grand Hall & Events Room.

Over the past academic year, the Office of Service-Learning co-sponsored an array of dialogues to connect students to larger social issues. Among these dialogues were “For the Greater Good,” “#REALTALK,” Democracy Cafés, HEADLINERS and the ITVS/Independent Lens Film Series. The office also co-sponsored additional dialogues which offered students opportunities to hear from national activists and journalists, among others.

The Service-Learning report also highlighted the office’s efforts to encourage active citizenship and political engagement and education through the work of the American Democracy Project/Political Engagement Project and The New York Times Readership Program.

Professional development workshops were held throughout the academic year to enhance the relationship between students, faculty and community partners.

“The New York Times workshops were extremely resourceful to our faculty,” said Fidalgo Tomé. “Being able to utilize all the tools - from online resources to the traditional hard copies of the newspapers - reinforced the importance on an interdisciplinary instrument. At the end of each semester, we offered a reflection session to share our experiences on what we’ve learned and how we can improve our craft.”

Fidalgo Tomé also noted the success of the “Community Voices” workshops offered specifically to Service-Learning’s community partners which allowed for networking, a review of resources on-campus and an opportunity to brainstorm on how to work with students.

“We hope to address these main points in the upcoming year, working on our five year program review, implementing our Service-Learning Standards and running our new Perspectives of Civic Engagement course – addressing the core purpose of a liberal arts education is to prepare engaged citizens.”

School of Education Represents College at National Conference

Jeanne DelColle and Dean Claudine Keenan of the School of Education participated in the “At the Core: National Network of State Teachers of the Year” conference held July 9-12 in Philadelphia. More than 100 of the present and former State Teachers of the Year from many of the 50 states gathered for the conference.

DelColle, New Jersey’s 2012 Teacher of the Year, served as national conference chair and gave opening remarks.

“The National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) is a professional home for State Teachers of the Year (STOYs) and works to ensure that teachers have a voice in policy, advocacy and practice,” said DelColle. “Our conference began with a day of service, where over 60 STOYs volunteered at Philabundance, Cradles to Crayons, and the zoo in order to give back to the community.”

In addition to the 2012 State Teacher of the Year, DelColle was also named 2012 New Jersey History Teacher of the Year and 2010 New Jersey Council for the Humanities Teacher of the Year.

DelColle worked on education policy as a 2013 National Hope Street Group
School of Education Represents College at Conference Continued

Fellow. In her role as Stockton’s Instructional Development and Strategic Partnerships Specialist, DelColle is responsible for building the bridges that connect P-12 to higher education while also teaching current and future teachers.

“Though the conference had many exemplary speakers, one of the hallmarks was that STOYs, with recognition years ranging from 1983 to present, participated in panel discussions to talk about some of the incredible work they do every day. Teachers, education leaders, and policy makers were able to network and discuss ways in which we can work together to ensure that our students get the best education possible,” DelColle explained.

Dean Claudine Keenan of the School of Education served as a panelist on a forum which discussed “Leading Change in Partnership with Leadership.”

Among the keynote speakers were U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, MacArthur Fellow Angela Duckworth of the University of Pennsylvania, internationally-renowned education expert Charlotte Danielson and well-known educational author, Rick Hess.

“It was an honor to work with these exemplary educators, who, thanks to networking and the information they gained at the conference, returned home full of ideas, plans and a renewed energy to do what is right for our students and the profession,” DelColle said.

“It is Stockton’s honor to be represented so well by our alumna and now professional staff member,” Dean Keenan said.

Angel Mojica Reunites with EOF Program Leader After 30 Years

Angel Mojica, former Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) student and security professional at Kramer Hall, was recently reunited with his former EOF director after 30 years. Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president, served as director of the EOF program and as a math instructor in 1984 when Angel “Moe” Mojica was enrolled as a student at Stockton.

Mojica, a retired police sergeant who served 26 years with the Hammonton Police Department, is now employed by Stockton’s Campus Police as a part-time Security Professional for Kramer Hall.

After realizing that Mojica was a student of Dr. Kesselman’s, Dr. Eileen Conran-Folks, manager of Instructional Sites, organized a reunion for the two.

“We reminisced about the old times in the EOF program, the early morning physical exercise and the Lake Fred morning run,” said Mojica. “We discussed all the great instructors and administrators, like Franklin Smith, Frank Cerreto, William Daly, Vera King Farris and Paul Lyons.”

Mojica has returned to his studies at Stockton through the R.E.A.L. program (Re-Enrolling Adult Learners), working toward a degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration on Forensic Investigation. He also resumed his role as a DJ with WLFR where he hosts the weekly Latin program, “La Ley with DJ Moe.”

Mojica remembers the most valuable gift Dr. Kesselman gave was building the students’ self-esteem. “He inspired in us the idea that we could accomplish anything we set our mind and heart to achieve.”

Stockton Athletics Announces New Women’s Tennis Coach

The Office of Athletics and Recreation has selected Harry Silverstein to be the Ospreys’ new head women’s tennis coach.

Silverstein retired as the coach of Vineland High School after three decades. He coached the girls tennis team from 1984 to 2014, amassing 465 wins, and coached the boys tennis team from 2002 to 2014, achieving 172 victories for 628 career wins overall. Silverstein won six Cape Atlantic League championships, four for girls tennis and two for boys tennis. His team won nine division titles, seven girls and two boys, plus the 2005 South Jersey Group IV girls crown.

Silverstein was inducted into the New Jersey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1998 and New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Hall of Fame in 2000. He was named Vineland Daily Journal Coach of the Year five times. Silverstein was a physical education teacher for over 30 years and spent 12 seasons as Vineland’s assistant boys tennis coach from 1983-1995.
Office of Affirmative Action Has New Name, Interim Chief Officer

The Office of Affirmative Action and Ethical Standards will now be known as the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity. The change in name reflects Stockton's goals for achieving an open, diverse and inclusive learning, living and working environment.

Diane Epps has been named Interim Chief Officer for Institutional Diversity and Equity. A campus-wide committee is conducting a nation-wide search for the Chief Officer position to replace Nancy W. Hicks, who retired June 30.

Construction Projects Continue to Transform Stockton’s Campus

A number of large construction projects are planned or underway on campus, which will continue Stockton’s transformation and provide faculty, staff and students with state-of-the-art facilities.

The Board of Trustees has awarded an architectural contract for the Unified Science Center² to the international planning and design firm of Perkins Eastman, which is based in New York. The 54,000-square-foot expansion of the Unified Science Center will nearly double its capacity, allowing the college to prepare more students for jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Donald Hudson, associate vice president for Facilities and Construction, said the $28.6 million Unified Science Center² is expected to be ready for classes in the Fall 2017, as is a new $18 million, 50,000-square-foot classroom building. The classroom building will house 24 classrooms, 20 offices and teaching space.

Renovations are also scheduled for the Arts and Sciences building designed by renowned architect Michael Graves. The $4.2 million project is expected to take place next summer and include exterior repairs and improvements in energy efficiency. All three projects will benefit from funding from the Building Our Future bond act approved by voters in 2012.

Plans are also proceeding for a countywide central dispatch facility for police, fire and emergency medical services, in partnership with Atlantic County.

The county would build and operate the facility while the college would contribute $4.8 million toward construction and donate approximately 10 acres on Pomona Road and Duerer Street on the Galloway campus. In return, Stockton would receive dispatch services for the college in perpetuity, including all upgrades.

The long-term project will provide an increased level of safety and service to Stockton's students, faculty and staff while benefiting residents and visitors to the county.

Additional funding for construction of the facility will be provided from the county’s capital budget. Construction costs are estimated at $17.2 million, depending upon the architectural design and plans, the county has said.

A new Center for Sustainability is underway and is expected to open in Spring 2015. The college plans to break ground in August for the 3,800-square-foot facility to advance the Sustainability Program with hands-on training in alternative energy and conservation.

The $900,000 facility off Louisville Avenue will include a classroom with cutting-edge interactive technology, a large laboratory focused on alternative energy and energy efficiency, as well as faculty offices and a student workspace.

The building was designed by Stockton Sustainability faculty and an architectural team for high-energy performance.