

## **Service-Learning within UW Colleges**

In the UW Colleges, Service-Learning is defined as "a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities." (National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, <http://www.servicelearning.org>)

## **Service-Learning within UW-Extension**

UW-Extension defines Service-Learning as "an educational strategy that combines service to the community with learning activities to meet both intellectual and civic objectives." Within UW-Extension, Service-Learning takes place in programs in youth development, continuing education, and community and economic development.

-----

## **Why Service-Learning?**

### **Service-Learning promotes lifelong learning.**

Service-Learning is not just for K-12 and college students. Service-Learning can take place in a number of educational settings, both formal and informal; with students of all ages, from preschools to nursing homes.

As pedagogy, Service-Learning encourages learning and retention through active, experiential learning; reflection activities; and real-world applications. Research also recognizes Service-Learning as an effective strategy for fostering a sense of caring for others.

### **Service-Learning extends access to resources.**

Service-Learning helps to improve access to university resources for both students and community partners. Students who are involved in Service-Learning projects have opportunities to apply academic concepts to real-world settings and enhance their learning. Community partners gain access to new ideas and strategies through Service-Learning faculty, staff, and students.