

# Service Learning

## What is Service Learning?

Service Learning combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility to engage students. Service Learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.

## How is Service Learning different from Volunteer Work or Internships?

Service Learning projects provide the student with an opportunity to apply the classroom experience while providing a service to the community. Service Learning projects include a specific activity for effective reflection about what was accomplished and what was gained after the activity, and must include evaluation.

## Service Learning Council

The Service Learning Council serves a paramount mission within the Service Learning program. The members will revise and approve the Training Models, Course Development Protocol, and community partners. They will review new course proposals, act as mentors to faculty who wish to teach Service Learning courses, provide short and long term assessment of the program, and make recommendations for the future.

## Responsibility of Community Partners

The community partners will work in conjunction with the Blinn faculty member to determine a suitable activity(ies) for the participating students that promote the academic nature of the course as well as meet the service needs of the community partner. At the completion of the project the community partners will be asked to provide feedback to the Service Learning Director about the success of the project.

On the cover: Service Learning students combine their classroom instruction with engaging projects such as creating biodiesel fuel for use by the campus maintenance department.

## Service Learning Benefits

### Community Benefits

- Increased human resources for problem solving
- Increased ability to hire good students
- Increased future citizenship support/commitment
- Augmented service delivery
- Volunteer support for community projects

### Student Benefits

- Enhanced critical thinking skills and increased learning motivation
- Improved communication skills and broadened horizons
- Strengthened ethical, moral and civic development
- Improved social awareness and self-esteem
- Opportunities to apply classroom knowledge (active learning)
- Opportunities for career exploration and improved occupational skills
- Development of citizenship skills

### College Benefits

- Improved student readiness for work and transfer to a university
- Increased student satisfaction and retention
- Enriched curriculum and increased learning opportunities
- Establishment of the relevance of academic material
- Strengthen relationship with the community
- Improved linkage to the community
- Reoriented educative process to meet human needs

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The Blinn College Service Learning Program has been recognized at the state and national levels by:

**President's Higher Education  
Community Service Honor Roll**

**The Carnegie Foundation**

**Texas Campus Compact**

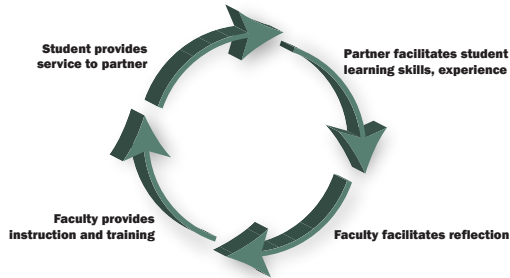
**The Chair Academy**

**Vista Program**

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## Service Learning Purpose

Blinn College will offer Service Learning options to promote active learning, to enable students to see the relevance of the academic subject to the real world, to increase student interactions with the community, and to develop civic responsibility.



### Service Learning Methodology At a Glance

#### Preparedness

(both academic and cultural preparedness).

#### Action

(the interaction with the community is linked directly to the curriculum and desired student outcomes for the course).

#### Reflection

(careful consideration of the projects impact).

#### Recognition

(event to mark completion of project).

#### Evaluation

(assessment that links the curriculum and desired student outcomes of the course).

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[www.blinn.edu/servicelearning/](http://www.blinn.edu/servicelearning/)

Blinn College

# Service Learning



## Academic relevance.

Combining community  
service with classroom  
instruction while  
developing academic  
skills and commitment  
to community.

