



Service-Learning News

DBU Honors Curricular and Co-Curricular Community Partners of the Year



Participants in an awards ceremony to honor Dallas Baptist University's community partners included Gail Linam, DBU Provost; Ken Shields and Victoria Jones representing CC Young, Curricular Partner of the Year; Sean Mann representing Bethesda Young Life, Co-Curricular Partner of the Year; Andrew Briscoe, DBU Director of The Center for Service-Learning; and Nancy McLaughlin, Assistant Professor of Education, Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and Chair of the DBU Council for Service-Learning.

DBU Professors and Community Partners

Come Together and Celebrate

Dallas Baptist University honored two organizations for their significant contributions to the service-learning program at DBU at the annual Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon. The CC Young Retirement Community was recognized as the Curricular Community Partner of the Year, and Bethesda Young Life was honored as the Co-Curricular Community Partner of the Year.

DBU partners with many community ministries and agencies each year to provide service-learning opportunities for students. The annual luncheon recognizes community partners that work with students to provide meaningful learning experiences.



Luncheon guests work together to build bookshelves for Books for the Border, a ministry of Literacy Connexus, one of DBU's many wonderful community partners.

Gail Linam, DBU Provost, described the importance of community partners in allowing DBU students to expand their education beyond the classroom. "What DBU students learn in the classroom springs to life as they learn to serve those in need through your ministries and organizations," she stated.

Andrew Briscoe, Director of the Center for Service-Learning at DBU, expressed gratitude for all of the community partners. He encouraged them to network with faculty and staff members to find ways to connect students with opportunities through service-learning programs.

DBU has partnered with the CC Young Retirement Community for many years, and students have volunteered service hours working with the residents. CC Young was recognized this year for its excellent assistance in partnering with the DBU faculty to provide academically enriching experiences for DBU students. Nancy McLaughlin, Assistant Professor of Education in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and Chair of the Council for Service-Learning, presented the award.

Bethesda Young Life works with students with disabilities in the Dallas area. Last year, 14 DBU students served as leaders with Bethesda, providing guidance and encouragement to students in this club. DBU recognized Bethesda Young Life for its assistance with co-curricular service activities. Jay Harley, DBU's Dean of Students and Spiritual Life, presented the award.

Luncheon participants also helped construct four bookshelves to be donated to Literacy Connexus, one of DBU's community partners. The bookshelves will be sent to the border of Texas to aid in literacy programs. Participants also wrote encouraging messages in childrens' books and placed them on the newly constructed shelves.



Dr. Judy Morris, Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education Program and Associate Professor of Christian Education in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership, shares a book with a special message of encouragement for a child learning to read.

SERVANT UNIVERSITY

One hundred high school students from across Texas spent a week at Dallas Baptist University discovering what it means to be servant leaders. The students participated in the second annual Servant U at DBU July 15-20, 2012, exploring five different tracks aimed at providing experience and ministry opportunities across the Metroplex in their chosen fields of study.

“Servant U provides high school students with the opportunity to take a deeper look at their future career fields and gain insight into how they might be able to serve on a local, national, and international level,” said Andrew Briscoe, Director of the Center for Service-Learning at DBU.

The five tracks included Life Influencers with a focus on ministry, Artists of Impact for visual and music vocations, Peacemakers for medical professions, City Builders for business and public service, and the Equippers for the field of education.

Students attended workshops each morning and participated in activities across the Metroplex each afternoon, some service related and others to hear from Christian leaders in various vocations. Field trips included meeting representatives at Dallas City Hall, creating and filming a video about ministry for Brother Bill’s Helping Hand, touring the Dallas Baptist Association, and visiting Buckner International to learn about humanitarian aid.

The City Builders had the opportunity to visit the Petroleum Club in downtown Dallas to meet with real estate developer David Watson. He shared with the students how to integrate their faith into their calling in the business world. While many times he faced great risk in development projects, Watson shared, “I couldn’t take a risk without knowing God is in control. Personally, I couldn’t do what I do without faith.”

At lunchtime one day, as the rest of Servant U sat down for their meals, the Equippers set out on a one-mile walk to University Method of Education (UME) Preparatory Academy. On their walk through the heat of the day, the students spent the time praying for different levels of education including teachers, students, and administrators.

Upon their arrival at the school, they were met by UME’s Superintendent and Dean of Academic Study, Rollin Mayes, who gave them a brief greeting in Spanish. The Equippers then sat down to lunch and learned about the object lesson they had just been through.

Andrew Briscoe shared that many public school students walk up to two miles a day to and from school. Those from lower-income neighborhoods may not have had a meal the night before, and some may not speak English in their homes. The exercise the Servant U students went through was to help them have a better understanding of the experiences children in their future classes may face on a daily basis.



The Equippers prayer-walked to UME Preparatory in Dallas during Servant U.

Each night, the campers joined together for a time of worship and to hear from noted speakers including Doug Lawson, President of Baylor Medical Center of Grapevine; Heather Mercer, former missionary to Iraq and author; and A.J. Rinaldi, Director of Academic and Parachurch Ministries for EvanTell.

“Servant U is not like your average camp,” said Marcus Dooley, a senior from Red Oak. “You don’t come to do activities. You come to learn about service to others, and then you take that knowledge from the meetings and the classroom into the field to actually serve others.”

By: Kalie Lowrie

FINDING TRUE PROFIT IN BUSINESS

This fall, students in Dr. Ross O'Brien's Social Entrepreneurship mini-term course at Dallas Baptist University were introduced to a new side of Dallas and ideas about business practices they had not previously considered.

Dr. O'Brien, Associate Professor of Management, said he designed the course to allow students "to engage in the community around them, to learn about challenges facing people within the community, and to participate in the creation of solutions to address a social problem."

During the week, students visited Buckner International's Community Transformation Center and H.I.S. Bridge Builders. H.I.S. Bridge Builders is an organization located in Bonton, an area in South Dallas marked by high crime rates and a median income of \$9,800 per year. The purpose of the organization is to advance urban transformation through education, health, economic, and community development. The class met with staff members from these organizations as well as residents in the communities to discuss community needs and opportunities for business and ministry.

"These business leaders are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change," DBU student Samuel Galicia expressed.

After visiting the two organizations, the students came back to class and created their own business models, implementing creative ways they could help impact the community.

One group decided to create a business plan for two men they met in Bonton. Cole and Darus will soon be starting their own lawn care business, so the DBU students met with them to gather information about available resources and start-up costs to assist in creating a business plan for them. At the end of the week, three student teams presented their business plans, and Cole and Darus were able to come to class and hear the proposed plans for their new business.

"Many start-ups are motivated by a singular drive to make money, but this was different because Darus and Cole really desire to make a difference in their community," Galicia reflected. "Midway through the process, we realized that this new business can and will change the community. Darus' dedication and love for the community is what will make the business successful."

Others in the class were equally surprised how experiencing such practical application of business principles changed their minds for their future careers. Student Ariel Palacios shared, "This class revolutionized our idea of success. Life is not just about us, but about following God and caring for the needy, the broken, the poor, the weak in spirit. As business majors, we have been given this beautiful opportunity to impact lives through our profession."

After completing the course, student Andi Scarborough noted, "Now, I literally see opportunities for social entrepreneurship everywhere I go."

By the end of the week-long mini-term course, the students had created three business models; however, the lasting impressions from the course will go beyond the assignments and continue to impact the lives of the students involved.



DBU Associate Professor of Management Dr. Ross O'Brien and students listen as Buckner International leaders share about community needs.