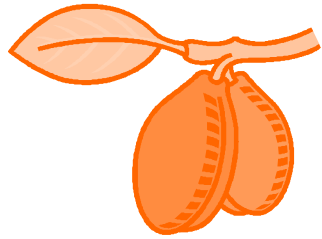


# ***SERVICE LEARNING AT TRADE-TECH***



As part of its grant activities, this fall the Title V Office is launching a service learning project at Trade-Tech. Experience and research have shown that service learning programs make a valuable contribution to students' educational achievement. We invite all faculty to participate in this endeavor. Our office has a variety of resources, and staff willing to work with you. Please contact us for more information on service learning and on how you might participate. We look forward to hearing from you.

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## ***SERVICE LEARNING INITIATIVE***



TITLE V FUNDED



# WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

Service-learning is a method in which students learn and develop through thoughtfully-organized service that

- ◆ Is conducted in and meets the needs of a community
- ◆ Is coordinated with an institution of higher education and with the community
- ◆ Helps foster civic responsibility
- ◆ Is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students

## ***What Does Dewey Say?***

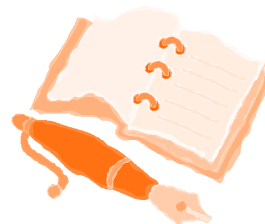
Service learning is the various pedagogies that link community service and academic study so that each strengthens the other.

The basic theory of service learning is Dewey's: the interaction of knowledge and skills with experience is key to learning. Students learn best not by reading the Great Books in a closed room but by opening the doors and windows of experience. Learning starts with a problem and continues with the application of increasingly complex ideas and increasingly sophisticated skills to increasingly complicated problems.

## ***Is Service Learning Just Community Service?***

Service learning is initially a difficult concept to understand. That is because people immediately think of volunteerism. We need to understand the distinction between community service and service learning.

Service learning is a method of teaching that connects classroom content to the community in a way that is helpful to others.



*The primary emphasis is on enriching the learning that happens as students apply their knowledge to a community context.*

By contrast, the primary purpose of community service is to provide service to the community and to foster citizenship and an ethic of service.

## ***Student Outcomes***

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley announced the findings of a study at UCLA, noting: "This study clearly shows that service improved academic performance. Of ten measures of educational achievement evaluated... students that serve did well in educational aspirations, more contact with faculty, and greater levels of general knowledge. They spend more time studying and doing homework — even though they have less free time available."