



Virginia Commonwealth University  
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Service-Learning Institute

2015 Service Learning Institute

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# 2015 Service-Learning Agenda

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**Disciplines**

Higher Education

**Presenter Information**

Lynn E. Pelco

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**Service-Learning Mini-Institute Agenda**  
ASPiRE Classroom  
West Grace Street South Residence Hall

**Day #1**

**Introduction to Service-Learning & High-Impact Educational Practices**

All institute participants will be emailed a packet of readings prior to the day's presentations.

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|------------------------|--|
| <b>8:30-9:00 am</b>    | <b>Light Breakfast</b>   |
| <b>9:00-9:30am</b>     | <b>Opening Reflection</b>  |
| <b>9:30-10:30 am</b>   | <b>High-Impact Educational Practices</b><br>This introductory session will engage participants in activities and discussions related to high-impact educational practices in higher education. Participants will explore critical learning outcomes for today's university graduates and discuss teaching approaches that engage students and support their mastery of these critical learning outcomes.   |
| <b>10:30-11:30 am</b>  | <b>Why Community Engagement is Important for Higher Education Today</b><br>This session will explore the centrality of community engagement for higher education in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. The presenter will overview VCU's roles within the Richmond community and explore the university's strategic plan as it relates to community and civic engagement. The presenter will provide specific information related to service-learning course designation and to the funding/resources that are available to VCU faculty members who participate in community-engaged teaching and research. |
| <b>11:30-11:45am</b>   | <b>Tour of ASPiRE &amp; Overview of ASPiRE Faculty Fellows Program</b><br>VCU ASPiRE is a living-learning community promoting community engagement and co-curricular activity. The mission of VCU ASPiRE is to enrich and deepen students' understanding of their capacity to create positive change in communities and address critical societal needs through long-term sustainable partnerships. VCU faculty members have a unique opportunity to work with the ASPiRE program in various ways and to utilize the building space for service-learning course work and meetings.                     |
| <b>11:45 – 1:30 pm</b> | <b>Lunch Conversations</b><br>Lunch is provided so that participants will have opportunities to get to know each other, as well as the Service-Learning Office staff members and the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows. Discussion prompts will be provided at each table.  |
| <b>1:30 – 3:00 pm</b>  | <b>Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Conversations</b><br>Service-learning faculty fellows serve for two years as expert service-learning consultants to the Service-Learning Office, to their academic units, and to novice service-learning instructors. During their tenure as fellows, many faculty members also complete scholarship related to their service-learning work.<br><b>Part 1:</b> Fellows Panel "How service-learning has impacted me"<br><b>Part 2:</b> Small group discussions with fellows   |
| <b>3:00 – 3:30 pm</b>  | <b>Closing Reflection</b>  |

**Day #2**  
**Reflection and Community Partnerships**

All institute participants will be emailed a packet of readings prior to the day's presentations.

<b>8:30- 9:00 am</b>	<b>Light Breakfast</b>
<b>9:00-9:30am</b>	<b>Opening Reflection</b>
<b>9:30- 11:00 am</b>	<b>Mobilizing Community Partnerships</b> Not every community organization will make an appropriate community partner for a service-learning class. Like a good marriage, even the best community-university partnerships needs ongoing attention and care. This session will describe strategies for establishing and maintaining mutually-beneficial community-university partnerships for service-learning. By the end of the session, participants should have an increased awareness of issues community organizations face in working with student volunteers and concrete steps they can take to insure that critical community-identified needs are met through service-learning.
<b>11:00- 11:45 pm</b>	<b>Reflection in Service-Learning</b> This session is designed to help participants understand the importance of reflection activities within service-learning classes and provide key resources for reflection activities. By the end of this session, participants should be able to describe a variety of reflection activities that would be appropriate to use in their own (future) service-learning classes.
<b>11:45-1:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Conversations</b> Lunch is provided so that participants will have opportunities to meet and get to know several community partner representatives who are joining the Service-Learning Institute for the afternoon as well as to continue building relationships with each other. Discussion prompts will be provided at each table.
<b>1:00- 3:00pm</b>	<b>Service-Learning Community Partner Conversations</b> This highly interactive session will provide faculty members and community partner representatives with an opportunity to discuss together the issues that are currently impacting the metro-Richmond community and to begin to explore connections across these issues, the work of community partner organizations, and academic course content. <b>Part 1:</b> What big issues currently impact the metro-Richmond region? <b>Part 2:</b> How do these issues relate to (a) the courses you teach and (b) the work your organization does?
<b>3:00-3:30pm</b>	<b>Closing Reflection</b>
<b>3:30 – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Transition to Conversation Social Hour</b>
<b>4:00-5:00 pm</b>	<b>Continue the Conversation Social Hour at Noodles &amp; Company (W Grace St)</b> Join the staff of the Service-Learning Office, the Service Learning Fellows, and our community partners for conversation and refreshments at Noodles & Company (817 West Grace Street).