

# Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education

MCSLHE Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2005

Lincoln, Nebraska- University of Nebraska- Lincoln City Campus Union,  
Colonial Room, 10 AM - 3:00 PM

Pre-meeting: Duke University Service Learning Representatives 10:30AM-11:30AM.

Attendance:

MCSLHE Staff	Gary Heusel, Christine Haney
Chadron State College	Robert Stack
Clarkson College	X
College of Saint Mary	Jennifer Reed-Bouley
Creighton University	Penny Boykins
Hastings College	Jean Heriot
Metropolitan Community College	Cynthia Gooch
Midland Lutheran College	Jeremy Rehwaldt-Alexander
Nebraska Methodist College	Kristin Mattson
Nebraska Wesleyan University	John Leonard Harris
Peru State College	Stephen Sylvester
South Dakota State University	Allen Branum
University of Nebraska-Kearney	Geraldine Stirtz
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Linda Moody (1/3), Julie Dierberger, Rachel Larson, Nate (UG)
University of Nebraska-Omaha	Nora Bacon
University of South Dakota	Jacque Lonning, Sarah Witmuss, Dawn Jaycox
Wayne State College	Jean Karlen, + 3 students

## I. Introduction

Gary took everyone through the new representative contact sheet. A copy was passed around the room so that all present could edit their institution's information.

Gary led introductions for all present including new representatives from Nebraska Methodist College, Midland Lutheran College and South Dakota State University (our newest member).

## II. Sub-Grants

Gary mentioned that the office has received many proposals for Faculty sub-grants. At last count we had thirteen applicants for Faculty sub-grants alone. Additionally, there have been four Research sub-grants, four Alternative break proposals (already awarded), and five Institutional sub-grants received. We are very happy with the degree of turnout for these sub-grants. The Institutional sub-grants will continue to be awarded on a first come first serve basis until the funding set-aside for this category runs out.

## III. AmeriCorps Vista

The MCSLHE is in the beginning stages of working with Mike Kissler at the Nebraska Department of Education and Jim Pace at the Nebraska AmeriCorps/Vista office to partner on service-learning between all agencies. Sarah Witmuss and Jacque Lonning from USD gave a brief information session on their successes with using the AmeriCorps/Vista program at their institution. They brought along their current Vista, Dawn Jaycox and handed out brochures and information to the attendees.

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### IV. South Omaha Project

Nora Bacon from UNO gave a brief recount of the successful South Omaha project funded in part by the Institutional sub-grant UNO received for 2004-2005. Nora also handed out folders with more specific information about the results of the Project. For more information you can contact Nora at UNO or check out the Academy's website: <http://avalon.unomaha.edu/servicelearning/index.htm>. Additionally, Nora informed the group that they were next planning to follow up their success with a "North" Omaha Project, a Film Series at El Dorado restaurant (Latino Experiences- various Thursdays once a month for the remainder of the semester) and meetings between the attendees of the original South Omaha Project. Nora will be providing copies of the South Omaha Project proposal for any who are interested.

On a side note, Nora also asked the group for their opinions on finding honoraria or some other way of compensating the Community Partners for their involvement in the Projects. The Faculty who attended the South Omaha Project were given incentives yet the Community partners were not. Nora was worried that the hard work the Community Partners had given was not compensated appropriately. The majority of the group agreed that there was not a need to give stipends or anything more than a minimal honoraria as the hard work was given in good faith that the result of the Project would be several hours' (or years') worth of service provided by the faculty and their students later on for the Community partner and their agency.

### IV. Update on Member Activities

Penny Boykins of Creighton University announced that there was going to be a Creighton Symposium on Service-Learning held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 at Creighton campus. Penny also noted that though this was primarily for Creighton faculty, Dr. Scott Chadwick has offered some open spaces for interested Consortium members. Please contact Penny for more information.

Stephen Sylvester of Peru State College announced that there will be two international speakers on Peru's campus this spring. Dr. Mohammed Kenbib, professor of history at the University of Rabat, Morocco, will be at Peru March 17-April 16 (out of town April 2-11). He is coming as part of the CIES program Direct Contact with Islam. Dr. Kenbib will speak April 12, 7:00 in Benford Hall. Dr. Kenbib will also speak at the Brownville Methodist Church on Wednesday, Mar. 23 at 7:00PM.

Dr. Anthony Warner is a longtime World Bank Consultant who now lives in Turkey. He will be at Peru March 15th-27th to talk about issues of poverty, particularly in relation to agriculture. Dr. Warner is speaking March 22 at 7:00 in Benford Hall. There are sessions on poverty with Dr. Warner, 11:00 on Mar. 17 and 19. Dr. Warner's schedule is fairly full, but the weekend may be a possibility for interested parties to call on one or both of these visitors.

Nora from UNO will be hosting a Service-Learning Fair on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Representatives from approximately 20 community agencies will have an opportunity to meet faculty at Omaha-area colleges to share their ideas for service-learning projects. The event will be organized like a job fair, with each agency taking a table to display brochures and information. In addition, agency staff and faculty members will engage in a "speed dating" exercise - chatting for 3-5 minutes, then moving on to a new prospective partner.

The service-learning fair is sponsored Agencies and Communities Together, an association of volunteer coordinators and program directors at community agencies in North Omaha and South Omaha. It will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 in the UNO Alumni House, 67th and Dodge Streets, Omaha. Service-learning directors and faculty at Omaha-area colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Geraldine Stirtz from UNK reminded everyone that there is an upcoming conference on Service-Learning to be held at UNK March 6-8, 2005. Rev. Ed Leahy from the Immigration Office, will be one of the speakers on Monday, March 7. That session will also feature a panel of students with experiences in service learning. If you are interested in attending, please check out their website: <http://www.unk.edu/service>.

### V. Budget

Gary reported that our expenses are below the amount budgeted and that we are utilizing unexpended funds to award additional sub-grants.

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### VI. FURCO

Handouts were given to all attendees on the 2004 and 2005 FURCOs as reported by all members. The handouts included graphic representation of the averages from all categories of the FURCO assessment and then averages of the progress among the members as a group and individually. Individual FURCO report sheets were given to all members so that they could see their progress.

The numbers showed that new members were likely to rank themselves one point higher in most categories and overall than their colleagues who have been members for at least one year more. It was suggested that all members re-visit their individual assessments to see if their institutions were indeed at the levels to which they have been reported in all categories. If any member wishes to re-submit a FURCO the office will be happy to accept their new submission.

### VII. Next Meeting

The next all-Consortium meeting will be held at Wayne State College on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. Remember your attendance is integral not only to the success of this organization, but to your individual institution's eligibility for sub-grants.