Teaching Design and Communication through Project-Based Service Learning: Past, Present and Future

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**PAST:**

**Technical Writing**

From 2001-2008, students in the technical writing course helped to solve community problems by preparing reports and manuals for our partners in the local non-profit community.

**PRESENT:**

**Feinstein Center for Technology and Design, School of Technology Community Service Learning Courses**

Since 2004, students in the Web Solutions and Graphics Solutions practicum courses have worked in a state-of-the-art design studio—generously donated by our local philanthropist—to produce web sites and graphic designs for our local non-profit community partners.

For volunteers at Our Lady of the Rosary Food Pantry in Providence, a training and operations manual was developed.

For environmental science experts at the environmental education facility Save the Bay on the Narragansett Bay in Providence, students designed a tour for environmental education.

**FUTURE:**

**Future: Project 1. Collaboration between the School of Technology and the English Department**

This year, we have formalized the interdisciplinary connection between career fields and communication by developing an new English Department course.

The new Advanced Business Communication course may be linked in a collaborative teaching agreement with an internship or practicum course in any of our major fields in Technology, Business, Hospitality or Culinary Arts.

**Future: Project 2. Survey study of impact on local non-profit community**

Since the impact of student service contributions on community well-being has become an important focus of research in service-learning, we propose to study the impact our students’ projects have on the success of our community clients’ organizations in accomplishing their missions.