

Creating Collaboration to Overcome Service-Learning Project Planning Obstacles

Facilitator Notes

Materials:

White board or flipchart with markers
Handouts (Community Resources, Collaboration Web, and Tips for Collaborating)
Pen/pencil for students

Timeframe: 45 minutes to an hour

Instructions:

As a group ask the students to look at what are their current challenges in planning their project (example fundraising, finding a community partners, finding a service project, finding volunteers to help with your project). List the problems on the board/flipchart. With the students help categorize the problems to shorten the list. Then ask the students to select one problem to focus on.

Then pose the following questions and provide the answer (optional: you can ask the students to answer and if they miss this solution then provide this answer)...

How do we solve this problem? SOLUTION- engaging community partners and finding resources.

Who would be a community partner? (you can let the students try to answer) Community partners are people who will benefit from the project or who are involved in the project (from planning to completion) and people with resources to support the project.

What are resources to support your project? Ask the students to read out loud the community resource handout. As they read them you can write them up on the board...

- Material
- Individual
- Group

Now ask the students to identify examples of each of the 3 types of resources that would help solve the problem they selected.

How to you get community partners involved? Let's try an exercise to see.

Draw on the board a circle to match the Collaboration Web Handout, listing the project and the community issue this project addresses:

- On the board around the outside of the circle (in one color marker) outline individuals or groups who you currently partner with that could help with the identified problem. Then with a different color marker ask the students to identify groups or individuals they would like to partner with. Look to the partners you already have and write down other people and groups that could help that they would know. (see end of this document for a sample circle)
- Handout the Collaboration Web and ask each student to write down at least 10 people or organizations that they know or that the people they know would know. Hint: remind them to think of their family and friends and places where they work or volunteer with.
- After each student has at least 10 on their web, have them start on the second page to see if there are any other partners (and maybe even some they thought of) and list what they could do to help solve the problem on the line given. Hint: remind them that this is people they know personally or the groups and people their friend and family know.

- Finally ask the student to each share at least one partner and how they could help. Write these new partners on the board around the circle in a third color. If it is people they know indirectly through someone, then put the original person next to the circle and then draw a line from that person to the indirect person (creating a spider web of partners).
- In conclusion we have all the people and resources we need to solve our problem.
 - The people/groups in the first color we already have helping us and we just need to ask them to help with this problem and bring their resources.
 - The people/groups in the second color are ones we as a group identified and can assign different people in our groups to ask for help.
 - The people/groups in the last color are one all you as individuals can go on your own and ask for help.

Then to look at tips for collaborating as helpful hints when thinking about whom to ask for help and how to ask for help (see handout). Ask students to read the different parts of the handout.

Hint: make sure everyone has assigned tasks for contacting partners. Make sure they feel comfortable asking and clear on what to say is the need and the request for help.

