Some Benefits of Service-learning

Overall Benefits

- Mechanisms for connecting students to their local and regional communities.
- Opportunities to raise both student and community awareness about various issues.
- Opportunities to identify diversity in both the student and wider communities.
- Varieties of learning opportunities for different types of learners.

Benefits to the Community

- **Recognition**: The community will find recognition in local and, occasionally, school newspapers/media during specific events.
- **Access**: The community will have access to potential employees and possibly keep trained individuals within the community.
- **Networking**: The community will have opportunities to network with students (as potential employees) and with other agencies and businesses as students work together on specific projects.
- **Action**: The community will be able to take action to initiate change for future consumers.
- **Responsibility**: The community will have the responsibility of providing support to the community via their student liaisons, thus possibly raising community awareness of the program.

Additional Benefits to the Community*

- Provides new ideas, energy, and enthusiasm.
- Gives the community access to university resources.
- Increases public awareness of the agency's impact, programs, and services.
- Increases the available volunteer pool.
- Provides meaningful contributions for social action.
- Assists students in becoming active citizens, contributors, problem-solvers, and partners.
- Creates positive relationships with university staff, faculty, and students.

Benefits to the Students

- **Recognition:** Students will find recognition in school and, occasionally, local newspapers/media during specific events.
- **Access:** Students will have access to hands-on learning experiences.
- **Networking**: Students will have opportunities to network with other students to share their learning experiences in order to enhance each other's overall educational goals.
- **Action**: Students will be able to take action and provide a voice for change in both their student and local communities.
- **Responsibility**: Students will have the responsibility of learning the significance of being socially responsible within their communities.

Benefits to the University

- **Recognition**: The university will find recognition by bringing students and the broader community together.
- **Access**: The university will have access to community groups and businesses that might schedule employee trainings.
- **Networking**: The university will have opportunities to network with students and community agencies and businesses in an effort to enhance course content.
- **Action**: The university will be able to take action to assist in necessary educational opportunities that come with change.
- **Responsibility**: The university will have the responsibility of providing students with the necessary tools they will need to act as socially responsible citizens, thus enhancing the school's retention rate.

Source: Genesee Community College CARE Committee for Service-Learning, 2006
www.genesee.edu/resources/CARE/benefits.cfm

*Hibbing Community College Service-Learning Community Benefits, 23 Sept. 2004
www.hcc.mnscu.edu/futureStudents/index.php?pgID=91