

The Benefits of Service Learning

For **students**, service learning

- enhances their understanding of course content;
- sharpens their critical thinking skills;
- stretches the value of the subject matter beyond their college years to lifelong understanding and learning;
- encourages them to become actively engaged in their learning and the community;
- helps them develop an active concern about social problems and their possible solutions; and
- broadens their life experiences.

For **faculty**, service learning

- energizes teaching;
- helps them learn from the experiences of their students;
- engages them with their communities in new and exciting ways; and
- broadens the scope of faculty scholarship.

For the **community**, service learning

- renders higher education relevant to the understanding and solution of local and global social problems;
- enhances the University's positive presence and visibility in the state; and
- enables community partners to tap into the skills and energies of participating University students and faculty members.

For **The University of Iowa**, service learning can

- demonstrate commitment to the community and state;
- enhance resources through alumni and community partner involvement;
- develop and carry out institutional goals of teaching and service; and
- help satisfy evaluation criteria for accreditation.