



2016-2017

Vision

Transforming the world by empowering students and others to lead with a lifelong commitment to service.

Mission

Through a widely-recognized community and university collaboration, the Columbus State University Servant Leadership Program provides students with learning experiences that create growing, self-aware, well-balanced, and insightful servant leaders, enriching the community and the world, while serving as a model for others to follow.

Impacts

Students will develop:

- A comprehensive understanding of servant leadership through theory and practice and use of servant leadership in all dimensions of life, including work, family, religious, community, school, volunteer work, etc.
- A strong sense of self-awareness, including individual preferences and how those fit in with an organization, local and global communities and daily life in general.
- Enhanced life skills (time management, money management, interpersonal skills, communication skills, networking skills, self-confidence, etc.).
- A network of peers, sense of community on campus and lifelong friendships.
- A connection to the Columbus community, including a sense of community needs and how they can contribute to filling those needs.
- A sense of how individuals really can “make a difference.”

The Servant Leadership Program will provide:

- Services that meet community needs. Each student has the opportunity to choose a volunteer agency with which they will work. Some of these impacts would be tutoring, mentoring, building a house, cleaning up the river, caring for those who cannot care for themselves, etc.
- Equipped leaders for roles on the CSU campus.
- Future employees who are committed to the principles of servant leadership.

Accomplishments and Highlights from the 2016-2017 Academic Year

During the 2016-2017 academic year, 93 students participated in the following activities:

7,265	hours working in local non-profit agencies and schools
506	hours mentoring at-risk children
151	hours meeting with their mentor
482	times participating in Reflections and/or retreats
31	hours of extra mile service **
975	hours of service at CSU
980	hours working on senior project
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10,390	Total Hours

Note: Program students have completed 175,077 hours since the program began in 1999.

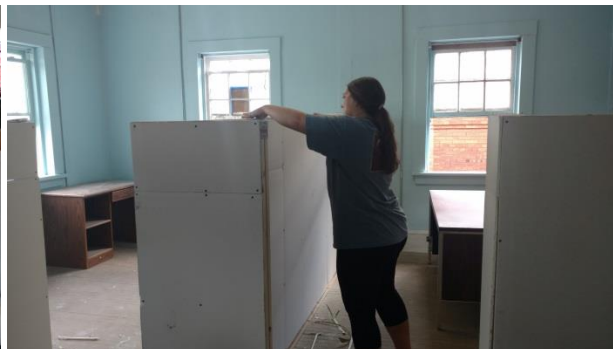
** Extra mile service hours represent things the students have done that are service-oriented but do not necessarily count toward program requirements. Examples might include teaching a Sunday school class or volunteering at a camp in another state during the summer.

Senior Project

The 2017 senior class selected SafeHouse Ministries to partner with for their senior project. SafeHouse Ministries exists to serve and equip people in transition from homelessness, substance abuse, or incarceration. The Servant Leadership Program seniors gave back to SafeHouse Ministries by serving meals and building relationships, providing helping hands in various programs within the agency, assisting with renovations at their different facilities, and fundraising for resource needs.

They continued and grew a very successful fundraiser called the Uptown Tree Trail. The Uptown Tree Trail provided a wonderful winter activity for friends and families to enjoy. Guests walked the trail, enjoyed the decorations and attended special Uptown Tree Trail events throughout December. Uptown Tree Trail is also a unique opportunity for Columbus businesses, organizations, and groups to market themselves in a high-traffic area over a four-week period.

This senior class was awarded a proclamation by the City of Columbus proclaiming May 2, 2017 as Senior Class Servant Leadership Day for all their work with SafeHouse.



Reflections

Reflections give students the opportunity to engage in and foster relationships with one another.

Reflections Fall 2016:

- Freshman Retreat- August
- Kick Off Lunch- August
- CSU Day of Service- August
- Freshman Convocation- September
- Blanchard Leadership Forum- September
- Breakfast with Dr. Mary Sue Polleys- September
- Relaxation Night- October
- Callaway Retreat- November
- WinterFest- November
- Uptown Tree Trail Lighting- December

Reflections Spring 2017:

- Welcome Back Meeting- January
- Winter Formal with Honors College- January
- CSU Theater Production- January
- Interview Day- February
- Midterm Mingle- March
- SafeHouse Work Day- April
- Friday Night Spring Concert- April
- Celebration Luncheon- May



Freshman Retreat

On August 10-12, the Servant Leadership Program took 22 freshmen and their six senior mentors to Callaway Gardens for a three-day retreat to integrate them into the program. They received an overview of the program and information regarding their community involvement. Students participated in icebreaker and team building activities the first day and a low ropes course on the second day. In addition, students learned about the three agencies with which they could volunteer and toured an agency of their choice. On the afternoon of August 12, the freshmen and upperclassmen gathered for a luncheon to kick-off the new academic year.



Callaway Retreat

On November 4-5, the Servant Leadership Program hosted the Annual Fall Retreat for all students participating in the program. We traveled to Callaway Gardens on Friday afternoon and students had time to hang out and prepare for the Cottage Cook-off, an annual competition where students are responsible for cooking their own meal for the night and compete for the best meal and dessert. The award is the coveted Silver Spoon, which our freshman guys took with their perfectly grilled burgers. However, our senior class guys did not disappoint again this year. They provided a unique dining experience that earned the Fantastic Fork for experience. We enjoyed our Saturday full of ropes course, team building games, and some healthy competition!



Self-Awareness

During the 2016-2017 academic year, 26 freshman servant leadership students took assessments and received feedback on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Emergenetics, and Strengthsquest assessment. Following each assessment, students receive feedback to aid in understanding their results.

In addition to these assessments, freshmen students participated in interviews to receive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. Students wrote a 90th birthday speech in which they imagined what their friends, family and colleagues would say about them at that juncture in life. Students then fused all this feedback to identify their core values, life vision, strengths and growing edges.

Their culminating project was to write a Personal Leadership Development Plan (PLDP) that will guide their activities for the next three years in the program. We got a good response from students after incorporating Emergenetics and Strengthsquest activities and assignments into the sophomore and junior academic classes. We will continue to focus and build on these three main assessments.

Internship/Case Study

For the fall semester of the junior year, we added an opportunity for our students to choose between a case study and an internship. A case study would give students the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at the culture in a company of interest, specifically if servant leadership is included in their vision, mission, purpose, values, etc. The internship does the same except in a hands on learning environment.

- Savannah exceeded our expectations so much so that she eventually became more a member of the Lighthouse Brigade family rather than just an intern. She immersed herself in all aspects of our JROTC program, curriculum and several high-visibility events. She was actually called upon to lead certain critical tasks in major events such as the JROTC cadet supervision during the renowned 2016 Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony on 5 November 2016.

Savannah is mature and competent beyond her years, and possesses a positive, charismatic personality that engages everyone she meets. She has left a legacy of professionalism, comradery and competence that makes us in the Lighthouse Brigade extremely glad that we participated in Servant Leadership's Intern Program. All the JROTC cadets that have met her absolutely adore her, and she became a mentor to our female cadet Brigade Commander. We were particularly pleased to hear that Savannah has been selected to be the CSU SROTC Cadet Battalion Commander next year. It is most deserving!

Study Abroad Program – Costa Rica

Over Spring Break, students participated in the inaugural CSU in Costa Rica Intercultural Leadership Service Learning Program. The Center for International Education, Servant Leadership and the Office of Diversity lead by Professor Kory Saunders, Dr. Wendi Jenkins and Professor Johniqua Williams partnered with Global Visions International to offer a service learning program based on leadership, diversity and culture.

Students participated in activities such as painting the community center, designing a sign for the community, and building beach shelters for locals to enjoy. The students shared servant leadership characteristics with the people of El Cocal and each other.

- Unconditional love was something that was truly shown on this trip for me. I know that I don't really talk to many people and I keep to myself. I am not the only one on this trip who is that way. I really admire us all because although we may not have known one another so well we were constantly checking up on one another. We would see if someone needed to get water, to make sure everyone was in good conditions to work, and every have more communication with one another on the trip than we have done in the classroom all semester. – Kalia, Senior
- The best thing about the trip was just the teamwork that was put into play. We really showed that we can work as a team and that we want to get things accomplished. I

thought this was one of the greatest parts. If one of us started to slack, someone would pick up our slack or they would check to make sure we were okay. Costa Rica was a great experience and I am so glad that I was able to experience it. It is one for the books. I am glad that I can say I studied abroad my college experience on the best study abroad trip there is.



Evaluation Data

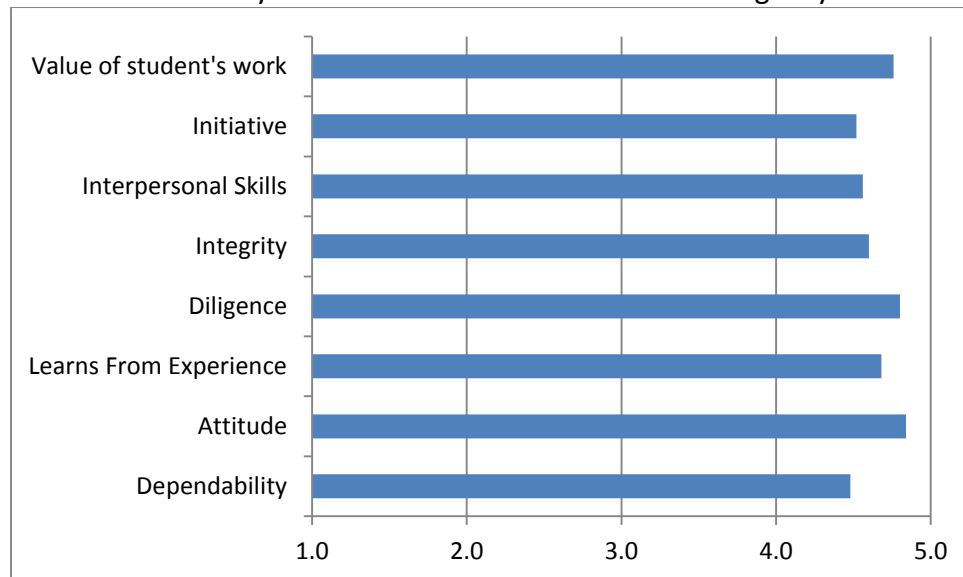
Agency Evaluations

The partnership between the Servant Leadership Program and community agencies continues to flourish. Students in the program are being introduced to community needs while engaging hands on servant leadership practice. Agencies rated students an average of 4.8 out of 5 for Value of Student’s Work.

Students worked in the following agencies during the 2016-2017 Academic Year:

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| American Cancer Society | House of Heroes |
| Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System | Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps |
| Columbus Parks and Recreation | Mercy Med |
| Columbus Regional Healthcare System | Muscogee County School District |
| Columbus State University | Oxbow Meadows |
| East Alabama Humane Society | Paws Humane |
| Easter Seals | Ronald McDonald House |
| Gentian Elementary | Senior Project |
| Girls, Inc. | Teen Advisors |
| Habitat for Humanity | United Way |
| | Young Life |

Below is a summary of evaluations and comments from agency directors:



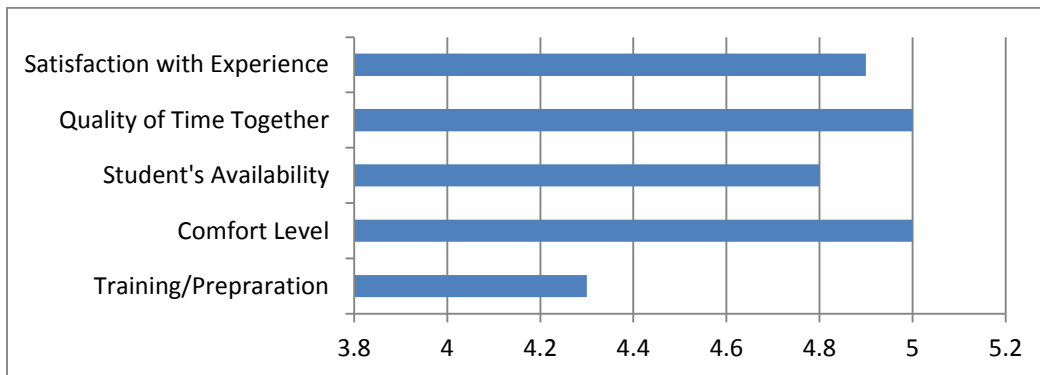
- Mary Katherine is without a doubt one of the most wonderful young people we have ever had the pleasure to work with. She is an outstanding volunteer in every respect. She works very diligently, wastes no time in getting the job done, seeks out additional duties, and has a lovely and pleasant demeanor.
- I believe that Ms. Gallagher was one of the most diligent, hardworking and dedicated volunteers that we have had since I have been the volunteer coordinator. I very much value her dedication to the tasks assigned, she always had a positive attitude and I never heard her complain. I saw her as a clear leader in the group as she was encouraging to many of the other volunteers and did a wonderful job of explaining tasks to volunteers who may have been running late. I could not have asked for a better experience with her, her communication with me throughout her volunteer time was impeccable and her ability to complete tasks accurately and effectively in a timely manner without much supervision was something I valued greatly.
- Valencia has been an active volunteer since joining our volunteer team in September 2015. She signs up for volunteer opportunities by using our online volunteer portal, she arrives on time for each of her volunteer shifts and stays until all of the work has been finished. She is friendly, easy to get along with and follows instructions well. During the fall of 2016, Valencia donated her time helping in multiple areas to include, Teen Services, Marketing and the Children's Outreach department. Valencia has also volunteered during the Friends of Libraries book sale, the Columbus Children's Book Festival and assisted staff at our North Columbus Public Library.

Adult Mentoring/Dialogue Partners

Amelia Barton, Timothy Thompson, Lenin Machado, Nathan Wingate, Meagan Corcoran, and Chelsey Reid were the senior mentors for our incoming freshman. This relationship is very valuable for our incoming freshmen as they transition into college life.

For the spring semester, sophomores participated in structured dialogue about how servant leadership is put into practice with a community partner. Our intention is to find a community partner with which the student has a similar career interest. Juniors identified university faculty or staff mentors to participate in structured dialogue about how servant leadership is put into practice. It is a partnership that is mutually beneficial. The partners rated the students an average of 4.9 out of 5 for Satisfaction with the Experience.

Below are scores and comments from the adult dialogue partners and mentors:



- It's always reinvigorating to hear someone new and excited about the industry. With games especially, I feel like you get more jaded the longer you stay in the industry. It's nice to talk to people just coming up and remind yourself why you went into the field to begin with.
- I enjoyed this greatly so I tried to look at perspectives from that of a student audience and how I might help this be a learning experience for her.
- I am always energized by being with college students. I had mentors when I was in college that really helped springboard my career. I enjoy paying this forward to other students. I seem to always learn as much or more than the students in these relationships.
- The partnership provides me with encouragement for the future by enabling me to meet and work with students who share a passion for service and servanthood. It is a blessing to see the eagerness of the students to give back and to learn to be better leaders in their own rights. It also makes me to evaluate my own leadership skills, to ensure that I am living out what I aspire to be – a better servant leader.

“Coke-side Chats with Bill Turner”

In addition to the formal mentoring/dialogue partner component of the Servant Leadership Program, students continue to have the unique opportunity for mentoring from Mr. Turner, as well as others at the W.C. Bradley Company. The relationship opportunities afforded to our students are invaluable. Mr. Turner still enjoys hearing about some of their special projects, ideas they have and how their experiences in college and in the program are growing and shaping the people they are becoming.



At-Risk Child Mentoring

The Servant Leadership Program partnered with Gentian Elementary in the 2016-2017 academic year. Students outside of the freshman class were encouraged to continue their mentor/mentee relationship; however, it was not a requirement. For the fall and spring semesters, Gentian Elementary matched 20 servant leadership students to students who are considered “at-risk.” Some of our students were matched with a class as a whole. For example, we have a freshman proficient in sign language, and she was able to use her skills with an entire class. The principal of Gentian, Jessica Burnett, continues to be supportive of this partnership. She is a graduate of the Servant Leadership Program, and her familiarity with the program has been helpful. Unfortunately, the time frame between our students finishing hours and teachers leaving for summer was too small to receive full input.