

Getting Started with Experiential Learning

Deliberate interaction with community organizations can be significant to student learning and development. **As you think about experiential learning for a course or non-course based activity, please consider:**

- ✓ **What you want your students to learn:** Your desires to have students learn a practical skill, develop critical thinking, or apply concepts, will influence the objectives for a course or activity.
- ✓ **The goals, expectations, and responsibilities relevant to the course, faculty, students, and community partners:** Be mindful of your students' level of academic development and experience. Refer to the categories of engaged experiential learning for guidance (see "**Strategies for Integrating Experiential Education**"). To ensure mutual understanding, explore learning activities that meet the goals and objectives of each stakeholder (faculty, student, community partner).
- ✓ **Strategies for helping students connect course content to learning experiences:**
 - Explore course objectives to engage students in a manner that is relevant to the course. Use the **OEECE** website (www.kent.edu/experiential) as a resource to explore course activities and identify potential partnerships.
 - Announce experiential learning opportunities to the class and include the following:
 - A syllabus containing a clear description of the engaged learning activity and expectations.
 - If course activities include civic engagement, provide students with community/campus partner's contact information.
 - Other requirements such as training, specific skill-sets, or background checks.
- ✓ **Your strategy for assessing student learning and achievement:** Student achievement can be measured in a variety of ways including examinations, surveys, critical reflections, community partner feedback, and presentations to name a few.

(See the FPDC website for information on learning assessments)
- ✓ **How you plan to sustain the faculty-community partnership:** If a course activity includes civic engagement, maintaining partnerships becomes important in establishing continuity of the course or activity. Explore projects that are on-going and periodically review the priorities of community agencies, academic departments, and funding agencies.

