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 (<http://www.kent.edu/oeece>) 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.

For more information or for resources contact the Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement (OEECE)

Lake/Olson Center, Kent State University, Kent. Ohio 44242 330-672-7876 or experiential@kent.edu.

Adapted from: The Service-Learning Initiative at The Ohio State University

Getting Started with Experiential Learning

 Kent State University

Kent State University

Kent State University

Kent State University