



Case Study 4

■ A Traveling Exhibition to Celebrate Individual Commitments to Service

Title: *Campus Museum of Service*

Organizer: Georgia Southern University

Location & Dates: Georgia Southern University's Statesboro and Savannah campuses and the University's City Campus located in downtown Statesboro, Georgia, April–September annually and continually online via the University's Division of Student Affairs Leadership and Community Engagement website

Total Budget: \$500–1,000 annually

Project Team and Partners: Office of Leadership and Community Engagement, including the assistant director for service–learning; Serve 912 coordinator; leadership and community engagement coordinator; and graduate assistants

The Spark

Campus Compact and the National Museum and Center for Service's summer 2022 announcement focused on Campus Museums of Service on college and university campuses inspired this exhibition. At the time, the project team was already looking for creative ways to recognize individual commitments of service.

Community Context

Service has been a thread in the University culture for years. The Georgia Southern mission statement begins with "...our learner-centered culture prepares us to think, lead, teach, **and serve**" and ends with "Our success is measured by the **global impact** of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni." The Campus Museum of Service was a natural way to recognize those who contribute within and beyond the classroom walls.

Exhibition Purpose

The purpose of this exhibition is to recognize and celebrate service. This form of recognition allows us to elevate the simultaneous impact of our various communities while advancing our commitments to service. Those recognized in this manner must be affiliated with Georgia Southern as either a student, faculty/staff member, alumni, or community partner. This aligns with our University pillar of community engagement.

Exhibition Content

In April 2023, the University recognized 10 individuals in conjunction with a National Volunteer Month event. The Project Team determined that recognizing 10 individuals each year would help to preserve the longevity of this initiative. In addition to recognition at a reception, individuals receive a custom plate created by a local artist acknowledging them as a Campus Museum of Service honoree that features their name and the year. Posters recognizing each honoree are hung in public spaces and posted on the University's Division of Student Affairs Leadership and Community Engagement website.

Budget Details

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Honoree posters 18"x24"	10	\$25.00	\$250.00
Acknowledgement gifts	10	\$36.00	\$360.00
Honoree Stickers	500		\$5.00
Honoree congratulations cards			In-Kind
Reception (contribution to larger budget)			\$100.00
Total			\$715.00

Marketing

Seeking nominations:

A call for nominations is distributed via listservs and newsletters. The branded communication encourages self nominations and nominations of others.

Announcement of honorees:

Honorees are recognized on the Division of Student Affairs Leadership and Community Engagement website and social media; shared with University Marketing and Communications for inclusion in the University-wide newsletter; and submitted to local newspapers.

Impact

We enjoy reading how the various nominees are serving their community and its impact on the University. We feel fortunate to be able to share many of these untold stories, at least untold on a larger scale. The larger impact remains to be seen; however, the interest in this initiative from the first to the second year is a great indication that others are also interested in how we are advancing our respective communities.

The honorees are always grateful to be included in this exhibition and are pleasantly surprised when they see their posters and receive their honoree plate. Watching honorees take pictures of themselves and/or with their support system while standing next to their poster never gets old.

Lessons Learned

There is currently discussion as to whether or not we should have the option to honor community partner organizations as opposed to one member of that organization.

There was some hesitation from individuals during the first year of the initiative. That has since changed. Acknowledging each recipient with a one of a kind University-themed plate has helped draw attention to the Campus Museum of Service as the honorees display this recognition with pride both on campus and in their respective communities.

