



A Better You.
A Greater Us.

Democracy through Service: Integrating a Year of Service into Civic Action Plans

Presentation for
Campus Compact Civic Action Planning Institutes

Dr. Jenna Dell

What is a service year?

- Sustained, substantial service with a set term, supported with a modest living allowance and other benefits that brings talent to hard-to-fill positions
- Organized to have an important community impact while making a lasting difference in the lives of those who serve



Why am I here?

- *“We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in the pursuit of public good.”*
- Why are you here? What do you hope to get out of this session?

Role for Higher Ed

- What service years need:
 - students interested in serving
 - unmet societal need
 - organizations to host
 - funding
- Service years can:
 - Help a fragmented society - work across differences
 - Provides human capital to address unmet societal needs
 - help students pay for college
 - provide opportunities to “test-drive” careers through credit-bearing experiential education

Our Origin Story



Relationship to Civic Action Plans

- 82% of alumni agreeing that they felt a strong personal attachment to their community, were aware of community needs, felt an obligation to contribute to their community, planned or were actively involved in community issues, and voted in elections.

- AmeriCorps alumni reported high levels of civic engagement and civic self-efficacy and indicated that their AmeriCorps experience influenced their civic engagement. Almost 80% of alumni indicated that they definitely or probably had civic self-efficacy,

Impact of a Service Year

- Service years fundamentally can change the life trajectories of corps members of all backgrounds, opening doors to careers and educational advancement.
- Serving becomes a way to make college more affordable, and for some students, to go to college debt free or pay back their student loans.
- For some corps members, it becomes equivalent to a year of post-secondary education.

Engagement Opportunities for Colleges & Universities

Opportunities for Prospective Students

- Match the education award/provide special scholarships
- Offer a formal deferral process for students admitted to your institution and a service year
- Give preference in the admissions process

Opportunities for Enrolled Students

- Encourage service year participation through career services offices
- Host a service year program
 - Can be connected to academic credit

A Better You. A Greater Us.

A service year is a full-time, paid position where you can develop your skills and build change from the ground up.

What are you interested in?

Where do you want to go?

Choose Your Focus Area

- Any Location

Find your opportunity

The Service Year Exchange

Find Opportunities



Earn an AmeriCorps Education Award

Are you interested in a scholarship for college, or help with your student loans? Explore opportunities that come with the benefit of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that



Serve with FEMA Corps and NCCC

Want to travel the country with a team for 10 months, tackling a variety of intense, multi-week projects? Check out the highly adventurous positions with AmeriCorps NCCC (National



Teach or Help Out in Schools

Do you want to do a service year helping in schools? There are many opportunities that focus on education and youth across the country.

Models of Credit



Tufts University

Tufts University 1+ 4 Bridge Year Program provides accepted students the opportunity to learn from a year of full-time community service before beginning their academic studies. During their service students are enrolled in a Tufts University blended writing course designed to integrate their service with academics, and facilitate reflection upon their experiences.



University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth

The Community Health Worker service year program at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth assists students with the transition from high school to college through a first year experience. This eight month, 30 hour/week service year is connected to 12 academic credits in experiential learning and nursing prerequisites. Students also earn 1000 practicum hours in nursing and a minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement.



Miami Dade College

Miami-Dade College's (MDC) Changemaker Corps is a peer-to-peer mentoring and support program for former foster care youth to mentor incoming foster care students. Participants in the program spend 20 hours per week for nine months and earn 3 leadership credits.

Opportunities for Faculty and Staff

- Conduct research on the impact of a service year
- Provide training to local corps members
- Join Employers of National Service

Resources: Toolkit



SERVICE YEAR +
HIGHER EDUCATION
ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

now available on

about.serviceyear.org/higher_education

Resources: Higher Ed Learning Community

- Connect
 - Find other higher ed champions of service years across the country or in your own backyard.
- Communicate
 - Ask questions, provide answers, and discuss the challenges you face with other colleagues.
- Collaborate
 - Identify opportunities to join forces in advancing service years in your school.

Higher Ed Learning Community

- Share and Find Resources
 - Post and find articles, research, and documentation on effective ways to support service years on campus
- Learn
 - Stay up-to-date on the latest news in the service year field and across other higher ed institutions

The screenshot shows the 'Home' page of the Higher Ed Learning Community. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Groups, SYA Team Page, Public Resources, and Photos. Below the navigation bar is a large 'Home' header. Underneath is an 'Activity' section. The first activity is a post by Rachael Weiker replying to Jenna Dell's discussion 'Introduce Yourself in Higher Ed Learning Community'. The post text reads: "Very cool! Next Steps looks like a great program! How long has it been going? Will students receive credit for their service, or will they potentially receive credit in the future? ". It was posted 17 hours ago. Below this is a post titled 'Service Year via Facebook' featuring a 'SERVICE YEAR' logo and a video thumbnail showing Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. The text of the post says: "Want to hear Donald J. Trump & Hillary Clinton discuss their plans to expand #serviceyear opportunities at the next presidential debate in front of a Super Bowl-sized audience? We sure do! Join us & cast your vote:...". There is a 'VOTE NOW' button in the video thumbnail. Below the video is a 'See More' link. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a partial view of another post by Hillary Kane replying to Jenna Dell's discussion. The footer of the page shows 'cua-team' on the left and 'PHENND checking in. We run a few programs of interest to this' on the right.



Thank You.

For more information, please contact:

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