

2008 Service Learning Works-in-Progress Seminar

June 15-17, 2008

Call for Emerging Scholars in K-12 Service-Learning

Overview

In an effort to expand the body of research on K-12 service-learning and to enhance its dissemination and use, Brandeis University's [Center for Youth and Communities](#) (CYC), The [Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement](#) (CIRCLE) at the University of Maryland, and the [International Center for the Study of Public Engagement and Service-Learning](#) (ICS-PESL) at the University of Minnesota are inviting applications to participate in the second annual ***Emerging Scholars in Service-Learning Works-in-Progress Seminar***.

The Seminar is funded through a Catalyst Collective Action grant from the Service-Learning Leaders Circle, using funds generously provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Leaders Circle is administered by the National Service-Learning Partnership at the Academy for Educational Development.

This year's Seminar will be held on June 15-17, 2008 at Brandeis University. It is the second of three annual Seminars (the first was held in June 2007 at the University of Maryland). Each year the Seminar convenes a small group of diverse new and experienced K-12 service-learning researchers; researchers from allied fields; and users of research in the policy and practice arenas for 2-3 days of intensive discussions of research being planned and undertaken in the field by the emerging scholars participating in the seminar. The goals of the seminar are to provide support and encouragement for a new generation of service-learning researchers and to promote improved quality and dissemination of service-learning research.

Focus of the Seminar

We seek to provide opportunities for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior faculty whose academic research focuses on service-learning for school-aged youth. Participation is open to emerging scholars interested in service-learning from a wide variety of related fields, including (but not restricted to) education, youth development, developmental psychology, political science, anthropology, and sociology. We also hope to encompass a wide range of research methodologies, including large scale quantitative research, qualitative studies, evaluation research and participatory action research.

There exist many frameworks, concepts and definitions of service-learning. One example:

Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.
(National Commission on Service-Learning)

Broadly speaking, we seek applications from emerging scholars who are interested in programs and strategies that link youth volunteer service/civic engagement to structured learning opportunities in K-12 school and community-based settings and who are interested in any of the many possible areas of service-learning-related research, including the academic, civic, and developmental impacts of these opportunities; institutional and community outcomes; as well as questions concerning program implementation, effective practices, theoretical or conceptual issues in service-learning, and/or methodological research issues, among others.

Purpose of the Event

The goals of the Seminar are to provide support and encouragement for a new generation of diverse service-learning researchers; improve the quality of research; promote increased publication, dissemination, and utilization of research; and in doing so, build links between service-learning and research in related fields.

The seminar teams emerging scholars with experienced researchers in small group presentations and discussions of the emerging scholars' work so that the draft papers reviewed at the Seminar can be presented and fully disseminated at relevant research conferences. Following the seminar, all emerging scholars will be expected to submit their final research papers for presentations at appropriate conferences and for publication.

Call for Emerging Scholars in Service-Learning

We are currently seeking applications from emerging scholars in the K-12 service-learning field who wish to participate in the **2008 Emerging Scholars in Service-Learning Works in Progress Seminar**, to be held June 15-17, 2008 at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Eligibility

- Individuals who are either masters degree students, doctoral students, or post-doctoral researchers and junior faculty within 7 years of receiving their doctoral degrees may apply.
- Applicants must currently have in progress a formal research paper or project that advances the study of service-learning in **K-12** education. The research may be at any stage (e.g., building of the conceptual framework, creating or testing measures, data collection, etc.), but the work must already be underway.
- Regardless of the stage of research being conducted, all applications must be prepared to submit a written paper by May 30, 2008 that explains in detail the nature and focus of the research being conducted. This paper should consistent with the type of paper presentations that would be given at research-focused conferences. *(For example, an applicant may wish to present a paper on the application of particular theories to an investigation s/he is planning to conduct. Another applicant may wish to present a paper on study findings).*
- Preference will be given to applicants who have already submitted paper presentation proposals to the International Service-Learning Research Conference or another research-related gathering.
- Emerging Scholars who participated in the 2007 Works in Progress Seminar are invited to apply to the 2008 Seminar, but must be prepared to discuss a new/different paper than the one presented last year.
- Applications must be accompanied by an official endorsement letter as follows:
 - o *Graduate Students:* Faculty Advisor endorsement
 - o *Junior Faculty:* Dean or Department Chair endorsement
 - o *Other Researchers:* Appropriate organizational official endorsement

The endorsement letter will verify your status as an emerging scholar and endorse your participation in the seminar. Endorsements will be submitted via e-mail to the selection committee. (See *Submitting Application* section below)

Requirements

All participating emerging scholars must be available to attend the seminar for its full duration. The seminar begins on Sunday, June 15 at 6:30 PM and ends Tuesday, June 16 no later than 4:00 PM.

The seminar will engage each emerging scholar in a presentation of his/her work for the purpose of receiving feedback from senior service-learning scholars, experienced researchers in affiliated fields, and service-learning practitioner/policy experts.

All participating emerging scholars are required to commit themselves to presenting their work at a minimum of one research-focused conference before September 1, 2009.

Each emerging scholar will be paired with a senior service-learning researcher who will serve as a mentor following the seminar. Each emerging scholar is expected to work closely with her/his mentor, and connect with her/him at least twice (either through phone, email, or in-person) prior to presenting his/her work at a research conference.

A total of 12 Emerging Scholars will be selected for the 2008 Seminar.

Travel Support

The *Service-Learning Works in Progress Seminar* will provide travel support for each *Emerging Scholar*, up to \$750 per person, including airfare, ground transportation, parking, etc. In addition, each *Scholar* will receive two nights lodging at the conference hotel arranged by Brandeis. All meals during the seminar are included at no cost to the participants.

Travel arrangements will be coordinated directly through the Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University.

Application Submission

To apply to serve as an *Emerging Scholar*, please submit via e-mail the following:

- 1) A Recent Curriculum Vitae: Please make sure it includes your contact information.
- 2) A Narrative (not to exceed 1000 words) that addresses the following issues:
 - a) Personal Background: *What is your current position and areas of interest in k-12 service-learning research? What work have you done in the field or affiliated field? What are your goals as a researcher in k-12 service learning? What strengths do you bring to the seminar? What are the areas on which you would like to improve or advance?*
 - b) Description of Work in Progress: *Describe the nature of the research project on which you are working. At what stage of development is the project? At what stage will the project be in June? When will it be completed or otherwise ready for presentation at a research conference?*
 - c) Significance of the Research: *In what ways does the work you are conducting contribute to the field of k-12 service-learning research? What are the implications of your research for k-12 service-learning policy and practice?*
 - d) Goals for the Seminar : *What would you like to gain and learn from the seminar? In what ways do you believe the seminar will enhance your work?*
- 3) Sample of Work in Progress: Provide one sample piece (instrument, conceptual framework pictorial, bibliography, etc.) that provides information about the nature and focus of your research study.

4) A Letter of Endorsement (under separate e-mail or hard copy letter) that states:

- Your name
- Approval and endorsement for your participation in the seminar as a Service-Learning Emerging Scholar, with reasons why you should be included
- The endorser's name, title, and affiliation

Submit all information via email to April Chang at changa@brandeis.edu by Wednesday, April 30, 2008. (Hard copies of endorsement letters can be sent, in lieu of emails, to: Alan Melchior, Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, 415 South Street – MS035, Waltham, MA 02454.) All applicants will be notified of their selection by Friday, May 9, 2008. Please address all inquiries about the program or application process to April Chang (changa@brandeis.edu) or Alan Melchior (melchior@brandeis.edu) at Brandeis University.