

Catawba College Impact: Service

VISION, MISSION, DEFINITIONS

VISION: Catawba College Impact - Service Program strives to provide all students with a *transformative* learning experience promoting lifelong servanthood that flows from an idea of servant leadership.

MISSION: We believe service is an integral component of education, personal enrichment, professional development, and community betterment which leads to fully experiencing life. Therefore, we seek to develop within our community this understanding and promote service as a compelling responsibility of all human beings. The service program views and supports faculty/staff mentors as an integral facilitator of student development.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective 1:** To support departments in providing students access to on- and off-campus service opportunities.
- **Objective 2:** To provide an avenue for students to apply for resources that support their engagement in non-profit and humanitarian service endeavors.
- **Objective 3:** To provide the faculty and staff members support in their attempts to engage and encourage Catawba students to serve others which results in the student experiencing the joy of giving.
- **Objective 4:** To work with departments, organizations, and students to track, measure, and report student participation in service.

GOALS:

- **Goal 1:** To provide appropriate resources to all interested students who desire to engage in well-defined service initiatives.
- **Goal 2:** To provide clear and consistent policies and best practices that improve Catawba community's engagement in the Service portion of the Catawba College Impact Program.

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DEFINITIONS: The following definitions will be used to guide all the service related Catawba College Impact policies and practices. These definitions will be maintained to ensure consistency across all student engagement. These definitions have been created to be inclusive, ensure consistency across all programs, and account for the diversity across each student's experience.

- **Service Initiative:** A planned event, program, or service of an individual and/or group that identify and addresses certain individual needs within a community.
- **Service-Learning:** a course-based, credit bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility (Bringle and Hatcher 1999, 113).
- **Community Betterment:** The outcome of humanitarian programs, events, or initiatives whose intent is to reduce human suffering and an individual's quality of life within a certain community by equipping, teaching, and/or empowering said individuals in tangible ways.
- **Non-profit Organization:** A collective group or organization with similar interests purely motivated for the betterment of others without the benefit of earning profit.
- **Community Partner:** A local non-profit or community group who is committed to supporting the initiatives of another entity or person.

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Attributes we look for in service-impact scholarships:

- Clearly stated goals the service initiative will achieve which address specific communal needs. If a student is seeking the funding for an expansion of an existing service initiative please state clearly and succinctly how this funding will further increase the effectiveness and/or the scope of the original service project.
- Reasonable financial and operational structures for the service initiative
- A compelling narrative of how the student will serve and what their motivation is to serve within the context of the service initiative for which they are applying for funding.
- Applicants already have created or seeks to create in the future a strong partnership with an identified community partner, peer(s), and/or non-profit for which the student can find communal support for their service initiative.

Questions to ask yourself before applying for a service-impact scholarship:

- What needs exist in the community you are attempting to serve with your initiative and which specific needs does your service initiative aim to mitigate specifically?
 - Example: A food insecurity program – helps feed persons who would otherwise go without food.
- How do you anticipate to quantifiably measure the benefit your project has had on the community you intend to serve?
 - Example: Track how many pounds of food through your service initiative which was given to those who are considered “food insecure”. According to the USDA food insecurity is “A lack of consistent access to enough food for an active healthy life”.
- How will you maintain community support for your service initiative?
 - Example: Create partnerships with local churches or civic organizations to help maintain the community support and volunteer base for the ongoing of the service initiative. Create partnerships with local schools to help identify persons considered to be food insecure.