“The Connection” Community Consultants Program

SOURCE

The Community Engagement and Service-Learning Center
Serving the Johns Hopkins University
Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine
Overview of “The Connection”

• In 2005, the Connection Community Consultants Program, also known as “The Connection,” was launched in response to student requests for more *short-term* service opportunities in Baltimore.
Overview of “The Connection”

• The program **connects**:
  • Students to the community
  • Learning with experience
  • JHU with Baltimore
Why Join “The Connection”?

- Gain experience/a chance to put your skills to work in the real world.
- Get involved with the community through short-term projects.
- Form *mutually beneficial partnerships* with community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Support CBOs that need help/advice when applying for funding or conducting short-term research.
Time Commitment

• Working in teams of 3-5 students, the consultants partner with a Baltimore CBO to carry out finite projects that usually last 6-8 weeks.
• Consultants typically volunteer 3-4 hours/week.
An Award-Winning Program

- Program of the Year: ACPA College Student Educator International, Commission for Student Involvement, April 2008
- “Best In Class” award for humanitarianism and community service: Jenzabar Foundation, 2009
Types of Projects and Topics

• The consulting projects consist of:
  • Strategic consulting
  • Fundraising strategy and grants
  • Performance measurement
  • Communications consulting
• Topics vary year to year based on CBO needs and requests. Previous projects focused on environmental health, intimate partner violence, nutrition, neighborhood development, and more.
Previous Connection Projects

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

*Goal: Explore whether GHHI could become a reimbursed Medicaid provider in Maryland*

The consultants researched Medicaid provider reimbursement and eligibility policies in Maryland to see if current GHHI services could be reimbursed by Medicaid. The team delivered a feasibility analysis on becoming a Medicaid provider to GHHI leadership.
Previous Connection Projects

Health Care for the Homeless (HCH)

Goal: Research the impact of child life programs or on-site child care in outpatient settings

The consultants completed a literature review on the effectiveness of child life/child care programs in decreasing stress during medical visits. In addition, the consultants researched whether other HCH clinics across the country provide child life/child care programs at their centers.
Previous Connection Projects

KidzTable


The consultants completed an update of the Next Course Program Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect current operations and structure of the program at KidzTable.
Previous Connection Projects

MERIT Health Leadership Academy

Goal: Gather research on evidence-based best and promising practices for MERIT’s health career pipeline program.

The consultants delivered a concise, comprehensive report summarizing research findings, including successes, challenges, and recommendations, for MERIT to use in their strategic planning process.
Previous Connection Projects

Bmore4Kidz

Goal: Explore expanding their afterschool program to include a shared-space community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins Elementary School.

The consultants delivered a strategic planning report on best practices and sustainability of a community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins. The team also developed several surveys to assess the demand for services of various community stakeholders.
Previous Connection Projects

House of Ruth Maryland

Goal: Edit a newly-created curriculum for grammar, consistency, and clarity to create a finalized professional curriculum using literacy and adult learning best practices.

The consultants delivered a completed professional curriculum for the Gateway Project intervention program that is ready to distribute nationally.

Want to see more? Check out our year-end reports at SOURCE.jhu.edu/Connection
How To Get Involved

• Fill out a consultant profile form to indicate interest *(does not commit you to a project)*.
• Include your resume/CV with your form.
• Once your profile and resume/CV are on file, you will receive project announcements for the three rounds: Fall, Winter, and Spring.
• If you are interested in a project, follow the instructions in the email.
• Teams will be matched and the work begins!
Contact SOURCE

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