

# Draft Community Partner Letter

## Dear Potential Community Partner,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I teach a course on \_\_\_\_\_ at Sacramento State. I am reaching out to you to ask that you consider working as a co-educator with me and the students in my class as they participate in Service Learning. This teaching strategy supports students to work with community partners in ways that are educationally beneficial to them and professionally beneficial to you and your organization.

The course I teach provides students with knowledge and skills in \_\_\_\_\_. My goal is to provide students with the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_. I am seeking to build a new partnership with a local agency which might be interested in the kind of support my students and I can provide. Though the students engage in these activities as a way of obtaining course credit, it vastly enhances their learning to be able to connect it to real-world social problems and issues. It offers students a way of “learning by doing,” also known as Service Learning.

## Service Learning helps students to:

- Heighten awareness of the complexities of social problems and social issues
- Think critically and develop problem solving skills
- Improve written and oral communication skills
- Build and strengthen leadership qualities and skills
- Explore careers

You all have told us that the skills listed above are desirable for those seeking potential interns and/or employees.

## Service Learning supports community partners by providing students to assist with:

- Addressing specific needs your organization has
- Providing direct service to clients or service in support of your programming
- Assisting with and/or developing a project for your organization
- Building capacity in your organization
- Developing creative solutions to problems

Our students are still learning and not yet professionals, but are well-trained and interested in this kind of experience. Each student would provide approximately \_\_\_\_ hours of service to your agency. According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time for an individual in California, if paid, would be \$26.34 per hour. Giving students the opportunity to support your agency through Service Learning could be a savings of funds, time and personnel. I hope such a commitment from them would be helpful to you.

If you are interested in this type of collaboration, let’s arrange a time to meet and discuss how we might shape this project to meet your organization’s needs and the learning outcomes for the course. If you do not currently have an Academic Internship/Service Learning Agreement with Sacramento State, we can also work with you to secure one. We hope to begin working with you in \_\_\_\_\_.

Please contact me directly at the \_\_\_\_\_ Department at 916 - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ or at \_\_\_\_\_@csus.edu if you’d like to talk more about this possibility or have any questions. You may also contact Francine Redada, Partnership/Program Coordinator at the Sacramento State Community Engagement Center at 916-278-4610 or at francine.redada@csus.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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