What is **Service-Learning**?

**MCC’s Service-Learning Program** is a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized activity that meets identified community needs and then reflect on their service. Combining service with learning allows students to gain further understanding of the course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

Service-Learning’s unique collaboration between students, faculty, staff and community partners also connects the college with community priorities, and MCC students with career exploration.

“**Service-Learning** helps our students learn to be better citizens. Twenty years ago, we started it with a $2,500 grant and no staff, and now it is integrated throughout the college. It’s a wonderful program.”

— Carole A. Cowan
President, Middlesex Community College
# Service-Learning Models

All models integrate thoughtful and intentional reflection, and upon completion receive Service-Learning transcript designation.

## Individual Service-Learning
- 22 hours per semester (2-3 hours a week) associated with a specific course
- Optional or required component of a course
- Students register themselves using an online database

## Project-Based Service-Learning
- Some or all members of a class work together on an identified community project
- Service project designed to meet a course outcome

## One-Credit Service-Learning Course
- Curriculum designed as part of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s Vision Project to empower students to learn about general community issues or a specific theme-based topic
- Either an individual (22-hour) placement or project-based Service-Learning

## Global Service-Learning
- Project-based Service-Learning integrated into MCC International Education Fellowships
- Service projects allow MCC students to serve local communities abroad
- Curriculum designed to expose students to community issues facing their host countries, and broaden understanding of their roles as global citizens
The Benefits of Service-Learning

Service-Learning enhances community partnerships and provides powerful learning experiences for students, faculty and staff members at MCC. Our many Service-Learning partnerships address a wide and diverse range of community needs, including literacy, developmental disabilities, health, homelessness, hunger, senior services, diversity, refugee programs, democracy, empowerment of girls, workforce development, community arts and culture, STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) programming, and the environment.

**Benefits for the Community**
- Provides more “people power” in the community
- Increases the likelihood that students will volunteer after graduation
- Broadens the pool of students who make community-focused career choices
- Provides educational resources for problem solving
- Strengthens connections between the community and the college

**Benefits for the Student**
- Builds confidence through providing needed services
- Explores potential careers and builds professional networks
- Learns to face and define broader community issues
- Develops 21st Century workplace skills
- Gains exposure to cultural and socio-economic differences
- Deepens class discussions and increases critical thinking
- Learns civic and social responsibility

**Benefits for the College & Faculty**
- Enables college to serve the community as partners
- Provides a hands-on learning setting in the community
- Applies course content to solving real-world problems
- Supports school-to-work function of the college
- Improves college and community relations
Service-Learning Testimonials

“Service-Learning provides students with the chance to understand that criminal justice professions are essentially human-services professions. It allows my students to see how different community needs are met through a variety of institutions – and helps them learn to work with others from different backgrounds.”

~ Peyton Paxson
MCC Professor of Criminal Justice

“The contributions Service-Learning students have made through their projects at Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP) have been invaluable. This partnership has engaged the park with a diverse community of students, and has opened doors for those students to explore different career options.”

~ Becky Warren
Assistant Director of Operations
Tsongas Industrial History Center
Lowell National Historical Park

“Service-Learning has my students understanding chemistry in greater depth, while they guide elementary and middle-school children through the fun of science. It is a win-win situation and my students love it!”

~ Sally Quast
MCC Professor of Chemistry

“Being a Service-Learning student abroad, and working with disabled veterans here at home, has allowed me to develop a deeper understanding of the need for psychiatric professionalism. I experienced a high level of satisfaction when helping others and providing needed services.”

~ Amanda Ortiz
2012 MCC Graduate

“Middlesex Service-Learning students become role models for our members – and the kids hear first-hand the importance of a college education. A number of Service-Learning students have become Boys & Girls Club employees and we are so glad to have this opportunity to collaborate.”

~ Patty Mahoney
Director of Program Development
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica

“My Service-Learning experience at Middlesex is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I am proud to say I have continued my service-learning at Bentley University, as I know it allows me to develop lifelong professional skills from the community partner, while the community partner benefits from my successful project.”

~ Dara Sok
2011 MCC Graduate
Middlesex Service-Learning By the Numbers

- **80+ Courses offered**
- **900+ Students participating**
- **18,000+ Service hours completed**
- **60+ Faculty members participating** (each semester)
- **45+ Communities served**
- **350+ Active community partners**

Middlesex Service-Learning Offices

**Bedford campus:**
Bedford House (Building 5), Room 209
591 Springs Road • Bedford, MA 01730

**Lowell campus:**
City Building, Fifth Floor, Office 21
33 Kearney Square • Lowell, MA 01852

For more information on Service-Learning at Middlesex Community College, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu