Professional Learning Community Syllabus

Week 1: Expectations, attendance, overview, definition, individual motivations for doing or wanting to do service-learning, definition of a project, goals of reflection, field notes, and assign readings.

Assignment: For next week, begin to imagine a course (objectives/goals, project/activity ideas, reflection, etc.). You will present your completed project plan at the end of the semester, so keep it in mind as we progress through the steps in the weeks ahead.

Reminder: Next weeks’ service project may go longer than our usual sessions. Wear comfortable clothing that may get dirty.

Readings: To Hell with Good Intentions; Four Myths of Service-Learning

Week 2: Opening circle. Complete service project, Building Bikes, Building Community (be prepared to write field notes; this is particularly important because we will use this experience throughout the semester, and having good notes will help keep experiences fresh.

Readings: From Experience to Knowledge, Mo Lotif; The FACE (Facts, Assumptions, Challenges, Expectations) Assessment: To Prepare Oneself to Enter a New Service-Learning Community; and "Critical” Incident Journal

Week 3: Opening circle. Reflect on last weeks’ project: Describe your interaction with clients—both your reaction to them and theirs to you. Individually, generate reflection questions: What do you want your students’ responses to be? How do you write a reflection question to elicit reflection and learning? Pair participants to test their questions to see if they elicit the response you are seeking.

Assignment: Write learning objectives. Keep this in mind for the course you will be designing for presentation.
Week 4: Opening circle. “Reverse of last week”; in pairs, share reflections and have one another guess the learning objective based upon the reflection content; get feedback for improvement.

Assignment: Determine what type(s) of reflection activities you would like to use. Be prepared to pilot them during next session. Keep this in mind for the course you will be designing for presentation. Keep this in mind for the course you will be designing for presentation.

Week 5: Opening circle. Divide into two groups; each person in each group will take a turn facilitating group reflection. Discussion of how successful each was and how to make improvements.

Assignment: Complete your course plan and be prepared to present next session.

Week 6: Opening circle. Discussion of each potential course. What were the major challenges? What would make it less difficult?

Week 7: Final reflection on semester and evaluation.