Service-learning course examples

**The College of Arts and Sciences**

**PADM 4000- Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership with Professor Jan Maatman**

This class is an advanced seminar in Nonprofit Leadership. The overarching themes addressed in this course include nonprofit management, human resource development, nonprofit board development and relations, and professional financial literacy. Skills practiced include consensus decision-making, grant-making decisions, and research and performance of best practices in key areas (e.g., community impact measures). Students taking this seminar have an opportunity to study community-identified needs in Kalamazoo County and to feel the impact of their work.

The process is as follows: students solicit grant proposals from appropriate nonprofit agencies; each student completes at least 15 hours learning about an agency that submitted a proposal. As a class, students review proposals and determine which agencies will receive funds. Students then plan a community event at which applicants learn who has been awarded grant funds. This culminating event is a celebration with, and sharing of, gratitude among all the stakeholders that participated.

**The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, Department of Anthropology with Dr. Michael Nassaney**

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was initiated at the request of local citizens to identify, investigate, and interpret the physical remains of Fort St. Joseph, one of the most important Colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes. WMU conducts its annual archaeological field school at the site, in partnership with the city of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Museum, and Support the Fort, a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the fort's history. The project has netted more than 100,000 artifacts and animal bones associated with the French and English occupation of the fort from the 1680s to the early eighteenth century.

This project gives students an opportunity to receive instruction in the classroom and gain hands-on experience at the dig site, and to work with the Fort St. Joseph Museum to create a wide range of programs to teach the public about the post's history. Each field season, WMU field school students host three summer camps- one for young adults, another for continuing education adults, and one for elementary and high school teachers. Student-led public education and outreach programs also allow the public to view ongoing excavations and to interact with the student archaeologists. At the close of the field season, students host “Community Days”, a two-day public open house to interpret and share the archaeology and history of the fort. This event attracts approximately 2,000 visitors annually and includes lectures, an outdoor museum, site tours, historical reenactments and demonstrations, period music, and food.

**PSY 3570- Early Childhood Development Delays with Dr. Richard Malott**

This basic practicum helps college students get experience using behavior analysis to teach children diagnosed with autism. Students utilize discrete-trial training and incidental teaching methods on-site at the WoodsEdge Learning Center in Portage,
Michigan. The practicum also fulfills the requirements for practicum experience for the Psychology Department undergraduate curriculum (Practicum with Special Populations).

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

ENGR 1001- Introduction to Engineering Design, Safe Routes to School

First-year students in Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), who are enrolled in Engineering 1001, have an opportunity to work on a service-learning project called “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS). SRTS is a federal program intended to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle or walk to school, and to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. This initiative also helps ease traffic jams and air pollution, unites neighborhoods, and contributes to students’ readiness to learn in school.

The SRTS project is a collaboration among the WMU College of Engineering, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and local public schools. Each fall a partner school is identified, and WMU students learn and apply transportation engineering principles as they identify barriers to safe travel. WMU students complete a walking tour of the surrounding neighborhood and survey children and their families, as well as school teachers and administrators. Upon completion of the assessment, WMU students present a remediation plan to city engineers and other city and county officials, as well as to school administrators, members of the school board, and to the general public.