

Corps Without Borders- A UNM Service Corps Experience

Program Description

The Corps Without Borders is a special initiative by the office of Community Learning and Public Service (CLPS). The long-term outcomes are:

1. Community members and students will enhance their knowledge about social justice in communities on the US-Mexico border.
2. Community members and university students from the Albuquerque and Las Cruces areas will form meaningful alliances that will help each other address community-identified issues.
3. UNM Service Corps members will enhance their leadership and professional development skills.

The 2010 pilot program is a two-component summer experience for UNM Service Corps members and UNM students: 1) 3-credit service-learning course at New Mexico State University; 2) extended immersion work experience in Las Cruces and El Paso-area communities. The summer experience will be done in partnership with:

- Center for Latin American and Border Studies at NMSU- Summer participants will attend the Government 411 service-learning course that taught by the center's director, Dr. Neil Harvey.
- Office of Outreach and Engagement, NMSU- CLPS will share best practices and AmeriCorps systems and procedures with the Office of Outreach and Engagement staff.
- Border Servant Corps, Las Cruces, NM- This community organization will help find community-site placements at which summer-experience participants will work.

Vision

Our vision is to promote social justice, human rights, and collaborative leadership through service with community organizations, community members, and universities to nurture responsible, compassionate, and informed members of society.

Mission

We seek to learn from community partners and leaders to have a better understanding of the underlying socio-political and economic factors that contribute to the conditions of our borderlands. UNM Service Corps will partner with New Mexico State University and community organizations to increase awareness of border area issues and struggles through civic engagement and service learning. Formal and informal leaders will create spaces for young people to learn from the families who are facing the realities and the organizations that are addressing the issues of border politics and policies.

Outcomes

1. Community members and students will enhance their knowledge about social justice in communities on the US-Mexico border.
 - a) Three to five UNM Service Corps members will attend a seven week course at NMSU. They will complete a social media project based on class project themes.
 - b) Each corps member will document their learning and shifts in thinking throughout the course in an online/electronic journal.
 - c) Summer-experience participants will produce a written recommendation for the next experience. This document will be shared with CLPS/UNMSC staff upon return.
 - d) The participants will share their experience through presentations at UNMSC workshops, the UNMSC class, and a community event.
 - e) Las Cruces and Albuquerque community members and/or university students will conduct three workshops that are specific to their region to increase knowledge and awareness about the issues their communities are facing.

2. Community members and university students from the Albuquerque and Las Cruces areas will form meaningful alliances that will help each other address community-identified issues.
 - a) CLPS will formalize an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding between NMSU's Office of Outreach and Engagement to provide technical assistance in the formation of a Service Learning Center at NMSU that will include Las Cruces community organizations and NMSU staff and students.
 - b) CLPS staff will share information about AmeriCorps National systems and procedures with NMSU's Office of Outreach and Engagement, which will include member file maintenance, member enrollment and orientation processes, and recruitment strategies.
 - c) The UNM Service Corps staff and members will demonstrate community/university partnerships and provide Las Cruces community organizations and NMSU staff and students with program overviews and descriptions, student testimonies, and a recruitment handbook.
 - d) UNMSC and NMSU Exchange, academic year 2010-2011- UNM Service Corps staff and members will host community members and students from the Las Cruces area for an exchange in Albuquerque that will allow the group to learn best practices from Albuquerque-area community projects and organizations.
 - e) The UNM Service Corps staff and students will share and exchange social media tools and projects with Las Cruces area community members, students, and staff that will include photos, digital stories, and site and volunteer profiles.

3. UNM Service Corps members will enhance their leadership and professional development skills.
 - a) UNMSC Assistant Director and two Bonner Leaders will meet regularly to design and develop application process and program model during the Spring 2010 semester.
 - b) At least one UNM Service Corps member will be a student facilitator during the seven-week summer experience at NMSU.
 - c) Summer-experience participants will design and implement a UNM Service Corps workshop that will recruit and inform members about border and immigration issues.
 - d) Summer-experience participants at NMSU will help design and implement the next border experience for the UNM Service Corps.

Year One Timeline - Summer 2010

Phase I: Program Design

Target Date: April 23, 2010

- UNMSC Assistant Director and two Bonner Leaders will meet weekly to design and develop application process and program model.
- Create a brochure.
- Revise application to be used for summer experience.
- Create a summer itinerary and program outline that includes specific dates, contact information, transportation, site placement, and housing.
- Identify extra service opportunities for summer-experience participants.
- Create learning session curriculum and schedule for summer-experience participants.
- Inquire about state workstudy as a funding opportunity.
- Inquire about AmeriCorps Summer of Service as a funding opportunity.

Phase II: Implementation

Target Date: May 21, 2010

- Recruit UNMSC members to participate in summer experience by April 13, 2010.
- Review applications and conduct interviews; choose 3-5 UNMSC members and UNM students to participate in summer experience.
- Register for Neil Harvey's class at NMSU- Govt 411/517 Service Learning: Social Justice on the Border that will take place from May 27-July 16, 2010.
- Assist Las Cruces-area community organization in establishing a UNM workstudy contract that will allow participants to get paid for working in the community.
- Assist students with financial aid consortium process that will allow them to use UNM financial aid to pay for tuition and workstudy.
- Facilitate 3-4 learning sessions that will help the group prepare for the summer experience.

Phase III: Summer Experience

Target Date: July 18, 2010

- Attend Neil Harvey's class and summer institute from May 27-July 16.
- Have weekly reflection sessions that will include project documentation.
- Participate in extra service opportunities.
- Plan and implement a Fall (August 2010) retreat for UNMSC members and community members.

Phase IV: Sharing Summer Experience

Target Date: Ongoing during Academic Year 2010-2011

- Have a closing reflection session with CLPS/UNMSC staff by August 31, 2010.
- UNM Service Corps members who participate in the summer experience at NMSU will help to design and implement the next border experience for the UNM Service Corps.
- Summer-experience participants will share their lessons-learned through presentations at UNMSC Fall retreat, UNMSC class, and a community event.

Phase V: Prepare for Year Two

Target Date: End of Academic Year 2010-2011

- Summer-experience participants will help design and implement the next border experience for the UNM Service Corps.
- UNMSC staff and members will meet regularly to design and develop application process and program model for year two border experience.
- Revise and create a new brochure for 2011 experience.
- Revise application forms for 2011 experience.
- Create itinerary and program outline that includes specific dates, contact information, transportation, site placement, and housing.
- Identify extra service opportunities for UNMSC members.
- Create learning session curriculum and schedule.

Program Budget May 2010-May 2011

Line Item	Description	In-Kind	Amount Requested
Salaries			
CLPS/UNMSC Staff	200 hours (May 2009- May 2010) of CLPS/UNMSC staff time at \$18.00/hour. Staff provides technical assistance to NMSU Service Learning committee and Las Cruces-area community organizations to create a university-community partnership that focuses on service-learning experiences.	\$ 3,600.00	
CLPS/UNMSC Staff	Field-based facilitator of 2010 summer experience and social justice course during academic year 2010-2011. This person will assist in the documentation and preparation for next year experience.		\$ 5,000.00
CLPS/UNMSC Staff Support- Graduate Assistant	Facilitator of social justice course during academic year 2010-2011. This person will assist in the documentation and preparation for 2011 experience. .50 FTE appointment for academic year.		\$ 20,000.00
Direct Service Providers, UNM Service Corps Members	Summer stipends/workstudy match for UNMSC members.		\$ 7,500.00
UNM Workstudy	Five students will be paid \$8.50/hour for 25 hours/week, 7 weeks.	\$ 7,437.50	
Partner Support	Local support from community partners: Border Servant Corps UNMSC Community Partners Assistance with site placement, orientation, training, and service-learning project development.		\$ 3,000.00
Room and Board			
Housing	Rent temporary housing at \$450/week plus an \$850 refundable deposit.		\$ 3,150.00
Fall Retreat Housing	Room and board during Fall retreat.		\$ 1,500.00
In-State Travel			
Transportation	Mileage reimbursement for staff travel at \$0.55/mile for approximately 10 trips of 500 miles.		\$ 2,750.00
Travel Stipend	Five \$100 travel stipends for students.		\$ 500.00
Vans for Retreat	Vehicle transportation for up to 30 people participating in Fall retreat Rental and mileage fees for two vans for three days.		\$ 500.00

Supplies and Equipment			
Production Materials- Computer and Camera Equipment	One laptop, 3 digital cameras, memory cards, and production materials to be used for digital storytelling and documentation.		\$ 5,000.00
Training Materials	Materials for 3 exchange visits and presentations.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Office Supplies	Paper, copies, and other miscellaneous costs.		\$ 1,000.00
Student Support			
NMSU Admission Fees	Application and transcript fees for 5 students.		\$ 125.00
NMSU Tuition and Fees	3-credit hour course fees for 5 students.		\$ 3,348.75
Total		\$ 12,037.50	\$ 56,373.75