

## **Service Learning Program Abstract**

**Raritan Valley Community College**  
P.O. Box 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876

Service learning at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) involves students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility, and commitment to the community. Students perform community service as part of their coursework and receive academic credit. Students reflect on their experiences through journals, essays, research papers, group discussions and in-class presentations. Service learning is offered as either a requirement or an option in courses from all academic departments.

Annual program participation includes the following:

- 1,000 students participate in service learning
- 65 faculty members offer service learning
- 250 community organizations provide service placements
- 30,000 + hours of service are provided to the community

RVCC received the prestigious Service-Learning Collaboration Award from the Community College National Center for Community Engagement in 1998. It also has received many other national and local honors and recognitions in subsequent years.

Through a Learn and Serve SAFE grant, RVCC has created a Service Learning Homeland Security project, bringing together students, faculty, and community members to address the problems of domestic and emergency preparedness. Additionally, collaboration with the Somerset Police Academy has involved police recruits in SAFE projects.

### **Disciplines:**

Business, Computer Science and Technology, Engineering, Communication, English, Human Services, Humanities, Social Sciences, Math, Science, Nursing, Visual and Performing Arts, Criminal Justice, Paralegal Studies.

### **Community Partners:**

K-12 schools, day-care centers, pre-school programs, church groups, youth organizations, nursing homes, police stations, law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities, government agencies, food banks, hospitals, homeless and animal shelters.

### **Service Provided:**

Tutoring, mentoring, companionship, recreation, fund-raising, art design, general business, advocacy, economic development, database management, web page development, video production, marketing, accounting, computer programming, environmental clean-ups, substance abuse education, nutrition education, and physical therapy assistance.

**Program Web Address:** [www.raritanval.edu/servicelearning](http://www.raritanval.edu/servicelearning)

**For more information on this program, please contact:**

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