Orange Walk Town, Belize—January 2-12, twenty-three students (10 Nursing, 10 Information Technology, and 3 Horticulture) and 3 faculty traveled to Orange Walk Town, Belize. Located in the north of Belize near Guatemala, these global scholars started a five-year commitment between Gateway and the Orange Walk community. Each group of students participated in tasks related to their field. Nursing students worked with the rural communities around Orange Walk Town in providing vital health screening and check-ups. The IT students worked with the schools in Orange Walk Town to get technology running smoothly. The Horticulture students worked with local teachers in the best ways to farm the community gardens surrounding schools.

The students and faculty spent long hours over the 10 days in Orange Walk Town constantly learning, doing, and moving. “We put so much into the trip before we even headed for the airport . . . that I, for one, didn’t realize just how much I would really get out of just being here,” Lisa Trudeau wrote on January 9th on their blog. “This trip [has] taught me more than I can even process right now.”

For access to students’ blogs, please visit http://gimmebelize.blogspot.com/
To get involved internationally: http://www.gtc.edu/international-education/global-scholars

Kenosha—Chad McGinnis, 2nd Semester Nursing Student, wrote a service learning guide based on his experiences. He defines the difference between a standard clinical and a service learning experience.

“In a clinical, you are in the spotlight with the instructor always within reach,” he said. “But a service learning project takes you out of that light and into your own.” It forces students to be professional on a level that is much more personal than a clinical or classroom setting, he added. This guide was developed after his nursing instructor, Doris Groom, nursing instructor, gave him the idea.

“I didn’t really know what I was getting into,” he said, “but Dori helped me understand exactly what service learning was and how it would help me grow into my own.” (This guide is available on our website: www.gtc.edu/service-learning)

Service Learning in Belize

GTC Instructor Kate Field, conversing with teachers from Orange Walk Town.
“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin

The Service Learning Center was founded in 2009.

During the fall semester of 2012, number of total hours of students participating in service learning projects increased 43% from fall 2011 (top image).

Total number of students who completed service learning projects or experiences increased by a modest 17% (bottom image).

The number of courses offered between fall 2011 and fall 2012 increased 44% from 7 to 11.

Upcoming Event: Health and Wellness

Kenosha—Friday, February 15, 2013, five departments are working together to host a health and wellness event for students from the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha. The Dental Assistant, Surgical Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Nursing, Barber/Cosmetology, and Criminal Justice departments will host a series of different workshops for kids to take part in. All workshops are student-led and facilitated.

Last year, over 120 students spent four hours moving from room to room doing a number of exciting and fun activities. Sixty-one students put in over 740 hours preparing for and participating in this event.

We are excitedly looking forward to seeing what these creative students will come up with this year!

Land Surveying in Caledonia

Caledonia—Jonathan Hardbarger’s Land Surveying Club began to tackle a large project in fall semester of 2012. Four students spent four different two-three hour sessions using the highly advanced tools and skills of their trade. They spent the time mapping exact coordinates of the property lines of the land owned by the Caledonia Conservancy.

The Caledonia Conservancy was started by a group of equestrian enthusiasts who were interested in preserving natural green space. As a very small non-profit, having the Land Surveying Club mark the boundaries is a priceless service. For more information of Caledonia Conservancy: www.caledoniaconservancy.org
Service learning is not always a requirement in classes. Some faculty choose to offer it as an option when requiring class projects and papers. Michael Boticki, Ph.D., has used service learning in his Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Ethics and Abnormal Psychology classes for the past two years. Students have integrated their service learning experience along with research and reflection in order to have a more meaningful experience with the course. “Going out into the community is actually more work,” Boticki says. “The time spent is usually more, but the benefit and the worth to the students is that much more.” In the past, students have worked with organizations observing the types of clients they serve, the needs for serving the population, and the underlying societal causes of the reasons behind the population needing services. Also, the reflective paper they write for the conclusion of their project must include research into the organization, societal issues, and other factors they have observed at their site.

Racine—Soheila Brouk, Ph.D., is leading this semester’s Serving to Learn Locally topic-driven class in Racine. This class is being held on Thursdays and is partnered exclusively with Advancing Family Assets (AFA) in Racine. AFA is a United Way organization that focuses on building the foundations for strong families in the areas of education, finances, and health.

This class is focusing on parenting and family issues, talking with parents at AFA and then creating video workshops that can be utilized in the future. At the end of the semester, the students involved with this class will be hosting a Saturday workshop at AFA presenting their videos and their findings. Students will work with parenting coaches at AFA together with parents on the aspects of parenting and family life that are really necessary. For more information Madeline Carrera at carreram@gtc.edu.

Creating a mural is a more non-traditional approach to student reflection. This technique enables students to express feelings and learning from the service experience and also allows for a creative collective statement about aspects of an issue facing a community. Murals are excellent final projects for the end of a course and can be developed in concept and final product over the entire length of the course. Students can use various sources (magazines, newspapers, other art materials) to build their mural.

Faculty can use class time or out-of-class time for this work. Faculty need to define well the criteria for evaluation of content yet allow freedom for means of expression. Display final projects at a community site or on campus. In addition, students may want to create a community mural that can be permanently displayed at an agency or community site.

[Adapted from the faculty’s reflection toolkit].
Ongoing Service Learning Opportunities

**Mentoring Opportunities:**
Mentor Kenosha Racine
— Mentor opportunity to develop an ongoing relationship with middle school students in either Kenosha or Racine. Sign up online:
http://www.uwp.edu/departments/community.partnerships/mentorkr/

St. John XXIII Educational Center
— Ongoing mentoring opportunities to assist students middle school through high school in any number of areas of study, computers, or mentoring. Please contact Brother Mike for more information: 262.898.7250

**Ongoing Opportunities:**
Kenosha Human Development Services (KHDS)
— Ongoing need for clerical, psychology, and nursing students for projects ranging from updating their publication Information Please to crisis intervention. Please contact Dick Kauffman at rkauffman@khds.org

HOPE Center
— Ongoing need for clerical, marketing, fundraising, or other creative ideas from engaged students. Please contact the HOPE Center at 262.898.2940

When calling to inquire, please state that you are looking for a Service Learning Project. This project must be related to your degree or certificate program and/or curriculum in one of your classes in order to be relevant.

Please contact the Service Learning Center for assistance should you require it.

Other ongoing opportunities can be found on our website:
www.gtc.edu/service-learning

---

**Service Learning Center’s Mission**
Service Learning at Gateway Technical College creates mutually beneficial partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and our community. Through active learning, meaningful service, and reflection, students develop deeper awareness of the diverse communities in which they live and the value of civic engagement among community members.

**Service Learning Center’s Vision**
Through Gateway’s learning programs, individuals internalize the value of civic engagement and actively transform their communities.