



# Service & Learning

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WINTER 2014

## TechWizards at Gateway and Beyond

During the 2011-2012 school year, Gateway AITP students began collaborating with a UW-Extension and 4-H program that works with at risk youth. Hosted at Lincoln Middle School, these students utilized Lego Mindstorm NXT technology to host an after school robotics club with sixth through eighth grade students. This first year, the team led by IT students Donovan Groves and Annie Fahy took home first place at the tri-county 4-H TechWizards Robotics Rally at the CNH corporate training facility in Sturtevant.

The following school year, 2012-2013, Donovan Groves carried on with a new colleague, Mary O'Sullivan, and have expanded from just Lincoln Middle School to the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha for summer robotics activities.

Now in their third and second years, respectively, Groves and O'Sullivan have built curriculum around the Lego Mindstorm NXT robotic program while

incorporating important features such as vocabulary lessons, individual and group activities, and other aspects of STEM-related skill building activities and games. Mary and Donovan focus on activities and games that teach the importance of delayed gratification, teamwork, exploration, collaboration, and self-motivation.

STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—is a nationwide focus for educators and administrators in all areas of education. Robotics, IT basics, and the career opportunities in STEM disciplines are main focuses of the TechWizards program.

Beginning this school year (2013-2014), TechWizards is proud to announce their expansion into Washington Middle School. Although this program only runs during the school year, through the innovations and tenacity of Mary and Donovan, students enrolled in programming at the Boys and Girls Club in Kenosha are able to participate throughout the summer months.

When asked how they view their experience, both Mary and Donovan said it was something of a mixture of volunteering, service learning and mentoring, and “so worth it,” Mary says. “I learn just as much from them [the students] as they do from me.”



Mary O'Sullivan and  
Donovan Groves

“If we can inspire them with the basic knowledge [of technology and robotics], they can build upon it in the future,” Donovan adds.

TechWizards is looking for motivated individuals to work with and mentor students at Lincoln Middle School or Washington Middle School.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact UW-Extension or Alessandra Ruffalo: [alessandra.ruffalo@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:alessandra.ruffalo@ces.uwex.edu) or [aruffalo1@carthage.edu](mailto:aruffalo1@carthage.edu)

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Visit us @  
[www.gtc.edu/  
service-learning](http://www.gtc.edu/service-learning)





## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Racine and Kenosha Counties—With tax season in full swing, there are volunteer opportunities in the VITA program. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs provide tax preparation services for low to moderate income individuals and families. Training, while available, is not required to greet clients, provide interpreter services, review returns, or

to organize the tax sites.

Hosted by United Way of Kenosha County and Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, these free tax sessions run from February 1st until April 8th, 2014.

This is a great opportunity for students in the accounting, business management, human services, general studies, ELL, language learners, or other departments with a focus on communication

skills, interpersonal relationships, or mathematics.

Interested parties in **Kenosha** should contact Laurie McDonald at 262-658-4104 or by email:

[lmcdonald@kenoshaunitedway.org](mailto:lmcdonald@kenoshaunitedway.org)

Interested parties in **Racine** should contact Janice Jordan at 262-637-8377 ext. 117 or [jjordan@rkcaa.org](mailto:jjordan@rkcaa.org)

*Always render more and better service than is expected of you, no matter what your task may be—  
Og Mandino*

## You Better Belize It!

In partnership with the non-profit organization, Peacework, Gateway has made a long term commitment to assist the community of Orange Walk in Belize in its sustainable community building efforts. This service learning program is currently open to students in the Horticulture, Information Technology, and Nursing programs.

Applications for January 2015 are now available online.

January 2014—Eighteen stu-

dents joined three instructors on a ten day adventure to Orange Walk Town, Belize. Throughout their 10-day stay in Belize, the students broke into departmental groups aimed at tackling projects from their area of expertise.

Information Technology students worked at upgrading the technology infrastructure at local schools. They repaired hardware, updated software, and instructed staff at the schools how to maintain their devices.

Horticulture students collaborated with schools and community members to put in keyhole gardens, educate on sustainable practices, and brainstormed ways to integrate agriculture education into other areas of curriculum.



Nursing students spent time at local hospitals, rural clinics, and schools. They worked closely with the Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force on an initiative to educate and advise against marijuana use. This sparked BAM—Belize against Marijuana—a project to be continued throughout the upcoming years.

Their final presentation will be on February 21st at 6:00pm at the Madrigrano Auditorium.

For more information on Global Opportunities at Gateway, please visit: [www.gtc.edu/international-education](http://www.gtc.edu/international-education)



# Get Involved: Spring Workshop Series



Wish you could have more experience in your field? Wish you had a stronger professional network? Wish you understood just what is Service Learning? No need for dandelion wishes

this spring! The FREE Spring Workshop Series is here!

In February and March, the Service Learning Center will be holding informational sessions on the basics of Service Learning and how Service Learning can benefit you after graduation.

**Introduction to Service Learning** explains how service learning can expand your understanding of your chosen field, advance your skills, and assist the community at the same time.

The Introduction to Service Learning workshop will be held in Kenosha on February 18th from 10am—11am, in Racine on February 19th from 10am—11am, and in Elkhorn on February 20th from 10am—11am.

**Service Learning after Graduation** covers how service learning can expand your skills and professional network after graduation.

Service Learning after Graduation will be held in Kenosha on March 18th, from 1pm—2pm, in Racine on March 19th, from 11am—12pm, and in Elkhorn on March 27th, from 10am—11am.

## Winter Wonders in Chicago

December 2013—Shortly before the semester ended, a group of students from Ann Vagnoni’s suggested doing a project to expand their learning into the holiday season. Five students took it upon themselves to plan a supply drive of toiletries, snacks, gloves, clothes, and blankets for homeless individuals in Chicago.

These students collected enough materials for 35 bags that were distributed on December 18th around Chicago. Each person who received a bag also received a bottle of water and sandwich. Any leftover items were then distributed to homeless shelters.

“I am very proud of these students,” Ann Vagnoni said. “They suggested this project and took



time out of their busy holiday season to help the less fortunate.”

Ann is looking at expanding this project throughout the regional area next holiday season.

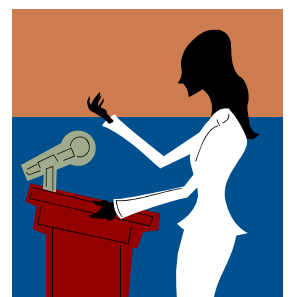
## Reflection Activity: Ethical Case Study

Faculty can require students to create a case study based on their experiences at their service site and use these case studies in the middle or at the end of the course. The case study should include a description of the context, the individuals involved, and the contro-

very or event that created an ethical dilemma. Students present their case study to the class and the class discusses the situation, giving reasons for their responses. Ethical case studies allow students to analyze a situation, practice ethical decision making as they choose

a course of action, and explore and clarify values.

By having students present and discuss their situations and ethical dilemmas also encourages constructive problem solving, cognitive reflection, and collaborative communication skills.



**Focusing on ethical dilemmas shares similar experiences in differing situations.**





## Gateway Technical College

Available on all Campuses.  
Kenosha Campus  
3520 30th Avenue  
Academic Building 232

Phone: 262-564-3138 | Fax: 262-564-2063  
E-mail: [carreram@gtc.edu](mailto:carreram@gtc.edu)  
Office hours: MTWRF 8am—4pm or by appointment

## Opportunities in the Community

Service learning can be done in or outside of a class. Non-profits usually have opportunities if you look for them. Ongoing opportunities are available in each county:

Kenosha County: <http://getconnected.kenoshaunitedway.org/>

Racine County: [http://www.volunteercenterofracine.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.volunteercenterofracine.org/index.php/Main_Page)

Walworth County: <http://www.volunteerwalworth.org/>



**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.

# Deadlines! Upcoming Service Learning Activities



### Costa Rica & Nicaragua

Applications for the Global Scholars Service Learning experience in Costa Rica and Nicaragua are now available. Tentative dates are July 31—August 11, 2014.

This experience is open to medical/healthcare and dental students.

**Application deadline is February 28, 2014.**

More information can be found online: [www.gtc.edu/international-education/global-scholars](http://www.gtc.edu/international-education/global-scholars)

### Annual Report

Individuals, groups, or faculty interested in having their service

learning project, event, or experience noted in our 2013-2014 Annual Report are to contact Madeline Carrera **before March 28th, 2014**. The project, event, or experience must have taken place during the 2013-2014 school year.

Contact Madeline at: 262-564-3138 or [carreram@gtc.edu](mailto:carreram@gtc.edu)

### Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit

Collaboration between Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa Campus Compacts brings this great opportunity to UW-Stout June 13-14, 2014. This event is open to staff, students, and faculty interested and involved in ser-

vice learning.

To register or for more information, please visit: [www.midwestengagementsummit.org/](http://www.midwestengagementsummit.org/)

### Service Learning—Summer 2014

The summer is approaching faster than you think! Local non-profits are interested in hosting service learning students. Instructors interested in incorporating service learning into their summer classes are encouraged to contact Madeline Carrera for Community Partner Contacts.

