

## 2016-2017 Community-Based Learning Assessment Summary

### Community Partner Responses

(n=56)

The statements below are based upon the following scale:

Strongly Agree = 4

Agree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

Statement	Mean	% Agreement
By hosting CBL students, my agency was better able to meet community needs.	3.80	98.2
I received adequate communication and support from the Donelan Office.	3.84	98.2
Students attended regularly and on time.	3.60	96.3
Students provided advanced notice when they could not attend.	3.60	92.8
Students seemed engaged and enthusiastic.	3.85	100
Students were adequately prepared for their work.	3.84	100
Students possessed the knowledge and sensitivity they needed to serve my agency's population.	3.85	100
Hosting students was worth the time and energy required from my agency's staff.	3.96	100

Selected 2016-2017 Community Partner Comments:

*They are integral to the success of [our]system... and we owe a debt of gratitude to HC for providing us with such exceptional tutors! Thank you!*

*I truly appreciate the ongoing relationship that we have built over the past few years. I believe your students, my students and staff benefit from the relationships made and experiences that may positively impact them for years to come.*

*I continue to be grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, care and commitment that the Holy Cross students bring to our program. Isabelle is an excellent communicator and it's a pleasure to work with her and all at the Donelan Office. Thank you for another wonderful semester!*

*Can't wait for the next opportunity to work with your students!! This group raised the bar pretty high... but I haven't been disappointed yet!*

*The CBL partnership with Holy Cross is valued and greatly appreciated!*

*Our relationship with CBL only enhances our ability to serve the community. Students are very willing to jump in with our seniors and connect with them. Those connections are ideal because that is what our participants are looking for. Thank you.*

### Faculty Responses

(n=13)

The statements below are based upon the following scale:

Strongly Agree = 4

Agree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

Statement	Mean	% Agreement
Including community-based learning (CBL) in this course enabled my students to learn more deeply than they otherwise would have.	3.69	100

CBL increased student interest in the subject matter.	3.54	92.3
CBL increased student engagement in the course.	3.46	100
The benefits of including CBL in this course were worth the extra efforts it took to include CBL.	3.77	100
It was valuable to include CBL in this course.	3.85	100
I will likely incorporate CBL into a future course.	3.92	100
I felt adequately supported by the Donelan Office.	3.91	100

Approximately how much extra time did it take you to include a CBL component in your class?

46% (n=6) responded less than 10 hours

39% (n=5) responded 10-19 hours

15% (n=2) responded more than 20 hours

### **Student Responses**

(n=440)

The statements below are based upon the following scale:

Strongly Agree = 4

Agree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>% Agreement</b>
1. Including community-based learning (CBL) in this course enabled me to learn more deeply than I otherwise would have.	3.33	88.2
2. CBL enabled me to more clearly see how the content of this course connects to the real world.	3.43	91.2
3. CBL increased my interest in the subject matter.	3.19	80.0
4. It was clear to me how the CBL component of this course related to course learning objectives.	3.34	88.2
5. I learn better when I apply classroom material to real experience.	3.47	93.1
6. Through CBL, I gained a deeper understanding of problems facing society.	3.46	90.4
7. Through CBL, I gained greater appreciation for cultural diversity.	3.34	86.3
8. This course increased my interest in community service/engagement.	3.26	83.6
9. CBL impacted my future career or academic plans.	2.53	49.8
10. CBL was valuable for my intellectual growth.	3.22	85.1
11. CBL was valuable for my personal growth.	3.32	88.1
12. I felt the work I was doing with the community met a real community need.	3.19	83.0
13. I received an adequate orientation to the CBL project/site.	3.14	81.2
14. I received adequate supervision/guidance on my CBL project or at my CBL placement.	3.14	79.6
15. I could have benefitted from additional opportunities to discuss my CBL experience with peers outside of class.	2.43	39.7
16. I could have benefitted from additional opportunities to discuss my CBL experience in class.	2.48	44.0
17. CBL enabled me to better understand the mission of Jesuit Higher Education.	2.99	75.8
18. CBL impacted my faith/spiritual development.	2.37	40.7
19. The benefits of including CBL in this course were worth the time it took to fulfill the CBL requirements.	3.19	83.9
20. It was valuable to include CBL in this course.	3.32	88.5

Selected 2016-2017 student comments:

What was the most meaningful aspect of your community-based learning experience in this course?

*“Being needed and valued. Knowing that people...actually appreciate you and look forward to seeing you every week, and forming relationships with those people.”*

*“I was able to leave the gates of HC and see what life was like outside of our perfect community on campus. I really liked getting in touch with my new home of Worcester and being an active member to make a difference.”*

*“...watching the change in myself as I grew from being unsure of my role and very nervous to being confident in my position.”*

*“... tying my experiences to what I learned in the classroom and adding a social justice understanding to my overall education.”*

*“...hearing the personal stories of a few of the men at [my CBL site]. I think that when we study things from the academic side we tend to lose touch with reality a bit and people's stories and experiences just become statistics, and so we almost become insensitive to it. I think my CBL really helped ground me and everything I was learning.”*

*“...engaging in the community and being able to be a part of something much greater than myself.”*

*“What was most meaningful for me was not only learning from my CBL, but hearing the experiences of my classmates. Learning about all the different sites really opened my eyes to things I never realized before. This includes stigmas, prejudices, scarce resources.”*

*“It was really meaningful to me to be able to apply and observe what we read about and discuss in class in the real world. It made me have a deeper appreciation and understanding of the class material.”*

*“My CBL course allowed me to increase my desire to work in social justice and think more about careers that would benefit the wider world. CBL forced me to step outside my comfort zone which allowed me to become more comfortable in Worcester.”*

*“...seeing and listening to personal & individual experiences and how it related to much of the historical, political and economic context of the time.”*

*“I had multiple and saying just one would fail to capture the beauty of my experience.”*

*“Learning not to look from the top-down but from the ground-up when it comes to engaging with community issues and best tackling those issues from a different perspective.”*

*“More experience with regard to public speaking and more exposure concerning collaborative group work, two areas that I found difficult to overcome at first.”*

What have you learned through doing CBL that you might not have otherwise learned?

Many, many students commented on specific skills or knowledge they gained that related to class material. Additionally, the following quotes illustrate broader learnings that occurred.

*“I definitely have a greater appreciation for cultural diversity after doing CBL and talking to the ESL students about where they have come from and how they are adjusting.”*

*“Everyone's story is important and if we do not become a part of the community, we cannot fully understand the lived experiences of those around us... “*

*“I learned about all of the ‘hidden gems’ Worcester has. [My CBL site] is an amazing place that works very hard to give young girls a bright future. I have never been exposed to a place like this.”*

*“Being able to connect what I have learned in the classroom with what I was able to do at the soup kitchen helped me to not only apply what I've learned in real life circumstances, but also bridge the gap from a Holy Cross college student to an individual living out the Holy Cross mission.”*

*“I learned of struggles firsthand that some students have to face. It is one thing to read of hardships or struggles that kids and adolescence have to face but when you actually have to see it and be hands on when kids say they don't have the supplies at home or their parents aren't there to help, it truly affects the students.”*

*“I learned how an organization can be directly impacted by political policies in a very short period of time...”*

*“I gained a deeper understanding of what service should be like. It's a mutually beneficial experience, and I learned this lesson from all of the kids.”*

*“I have become more aware of the privilege that accompanies the opportunities that I have been provided, such as an education....I have also learned the detrimental outcomes of the income inequality in the U.S.”*

*“...I have learned the true meaning of community.”*

*“That I have potential to make a difference and impact a community.”*

*“I learned how to be vulnerable and tackle an unfamiliar situation that I was not comfortable in doing at first.”*