

BASIC TERMS for Service-Learning

On this page are terms and definitions I have developed over the years as a starting point for talking about a form of teaching that I think is less a pedagogical method and more of an expression of values, a philosophical orientation, and even a way of being as an educator.

Experiential learning is an intentionally designed *process of learning through reflection on experience*.

In community-based experiential learning, we are not talking about any and all experiences. Rather, we are referring to experiences whose selection, structure, parameters, etc., are intentionally designed as part of learning from reflection on the experiences of involvement (or service) in community.

Community Service is the application of one's gifts, skills, and resources, to provide value to communities in the context of a reciprocal relationship called partnership.

Service-learning is a form of experiential education and a subset of community-based learning. In service-learning, service is the experiential component of experiential education. Service-learning is an intentionally designed (course, program, activity, etc.), and is a process of learning through reflection on the experience of doing service.

***“Service, combined with learning,
adds value to each
and transforms both.”***

from Jane Kendall & Associates (ed), *Combining Service and Learning*