

## **How to be a good service-learning partner!**

1. Have concrete projects for students to work on and clearly communicate your goals and expectations to the student.
2. Find out what the student wants to get out of working with you. They picked you from a list of many nonprofits for a reason.
3. Student's lives are busy and so are yours. Make sure you have clearly communicated the time commitments needed from the student and when they need to start and end their work.
4. Understand the student's value and what they are doing in the class. This assignment is supposed to further their learning as well as provide you with assistance. Make sure they aren't doing clerical work, but that they are involved in something that pertains to what they are learning in a Public Relations course and would like to know more about.
5. Trust your students. They can probably do more than you think they can. Regularly talking to them about their service experience can help them enhance the learning they get out of the service, and maximize what you and your agency gets out of their time with you.
6. Give your students feedback and, where appropriate, recognize their contributions. They are with you to learn from experts in the field like you. Also, their commitment to future service will hinge largely on how they feel about their service experience with your agency. If they feel that their service is valued, they will be much more likely to volunteer with you and/or other agencies in the future.
7. Be sure to contact the instructor of the course if there are significant issues with the student's service. Communicating with the instructor on a regular basis can help to ensure the best learning and service outcomes possible, and lay the groundwork for students who serve in future semesters.