



### Programs of the Center

In addition to providing the opportunity to volunteer at local organizations, the Center offers specific programs, including:

**Students Talk About Race**—Diversity program that trains and places students in local schools to facilitate a discussion on racism, sexism, homophobia, and prejudice.

**Latino Leadership Program**—Offers Latino students the opportunity to interact with GCC staff and administration in order to better navigate their college experience.

**GEAR UP/Tutoring**—A variety of paid tutoring positions are available at local middle and high schools.

**LeadershipPlenty**—Trains student and community members in aspects of leadership and assists each group to implement a project of their choosing.

### How can I participate?

Students who wish to take advantage of any of these programs should stop by the Center. Most programs require an application. Trainings are offered for specific programs generally in the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

### For more information

Call the Service Learning Center at 818-240-1000 x5789 or come visit us in Sierra Madre, Room 267.



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# Service Learning Center

The goal of the Service Learning Center (SLC) is to help connect the GCC campus to the community through service learning, community service, and volunteerism through a variety of programs and services offered through the Center.

## What is Service Learning?

Service Learning is the connection between service in the community and classroom instruction with a focus on civic responsibility and reflection. For example, students in a math class volunteer at local elementary, middle, and high schools to tutor children in math. Service learning is offered in more than 30 courses each semester. The Center also operates specific programs dealing with diversity and leadership.

## What resources are available?

The SLC maintains a list of approximately 200 non-profit organizations that are looking for student volunteers. These non-profits range from schools and hospitals

to mental health clinics, arts organizations, and environmental, legal, and advocacy groups. The list is updated each semester. New agencies are added on an on-going basis.

In addition, Volunteer Fairs are held each fall and spring semester on campus. Approximately 25–30 agencies come to campus each semester to meet students and recruit volunteers face to face.

Students who complete their service projects receive a certificate of completion.

## Benefits to Students

- Explore a possible career field
- Gain valuable hands-on experience
- Use the experience on resumes and college applications
- Network with those in your chosen career field
- Gain a competitive edge for university admission

## Service Learning vs. Internship

While many people think of service learning as similar to volunteering, there are distinct differences between service learning, volunteerism, and internships. Service learning and internships are both considered forms of "experiential learning," which is simply "learning by doing." Generally, internships are designed to provide students with practical, hands-on experience in relation to their academic field of study. Internships are mostly career or job-related and can be intense (20 hours a week or more).

Service learning focuses on non-profit and/or public (governmental or educational) organizations that meet significant community needs—that focus on public service rather than on profit. Service learning is generally around 20-30 hours per semester. In addition, service learning is integrated into a regular academic course.