



Office of Service-Learning  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**2017-2018 Service-Learning Fellows (SLF) Program  
Call for Applications**

**Applications due Monday March 20, 2017**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Service-Learning Fellows Program is a year-long faculty development program that provides an opportunity for selected faculty members to integrate service-learning into their teaching, research, and public service work, while becoming recognized campus leaders in service-learning pedagogy and community engagement. The Fellowship includes a \$2500 faculty development award. Up to 8 Fellows will be selected for 2017-18 in a competitive review process. **Fellowship applications for 2017-18 are due Monday, March 20, 2017.**

**ELIGIBILITY**

The Service-Learning Fellows Program is supported by the Office of Service-Learning and is **open to all permanent, full-time UGA faculty members** including academic tenure track, academic professionals, public service faculty, lecturers, and clinical faculty members with an interest in service-learning. *Previous experience with or knowledge of service-learning pedagogy is not required.*

**PROGRAM GOALS**

Established in 2006, the Service-Learning Fellows program is committed to supporting participants in the following endeavors:

- Developing and implementing a service-learning course or project (see below);
- Becoming part of a core group of faculty leaders engaged in service-learning pedagogy;
- Increasing familiarity and exposure to service-learning theory and current research;
- Applying best practices of service-learning research and pedagogy;
- Considering ways to integrate service-learning throughout the curriculum or programs of study;
- Connecting to public service and outreach initiatives and existing community-university partnerships; and
- Developing interdisciplinary service-learning projects through conversation and collaboration with faculty from other disciplines.

**WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?**

Commitment to public service is part of the University of Georgia's institutional culture, extending beyond our historic land- and sea-grant mission to student engagement in volunteerism, community service, philanthropy, and, increasingly, academic service-learning. Often called "learning by doing," service-learning is an experiential learning method that goes beyond volunteerism by creating course-based opportunities for students to apply and more fully understand academic knowledge through projects that address genuine community needs.

Academic service-learning is further defined as "a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students: a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs, and b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility" (Bringle & Hatcher, 1995).



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### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Commitment to **full participation** in the program activities is essential and is required for consideration as a Service-Learning Fellow. Applicants must commit to the following activities in order to be considered for selection:

- Participation in monthly Fellows meetings. Meetings are scheduled at the group's convenience and are generally about 2 hours in length.
- A *mandatory* daylong retreat is held during the summer before the program year. **The 2017-18 retreat is Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the Gardenside Room of the State Botanical Garden.** This retreat provides an introduction to service-learning pedagogy and the goals of the Fellows Program, a sustained opportunity to engage with service-learning topics, and an opportunity to build collaborative relationships with other faculty in the program.
- Fellows are required to develop a service-learning project throughout the fellowship period. See below for project guidelines.
- A culminating Service-Learning Fellows Showcase is held in April of the fellowship year. This event provides a venue for participants to present their final projects and be recognized by the larger campus community.

### FELLOWSHIP AWARD

A **\$2,500 fellowship award** is provided for discretionary use for activities such as professional development, course development, research, and implementation costs that could include curriculum materials, shared materials for community partners, and course- or project-related travel. Funds must be spent during FY18 and cannot be used for summer salary.

### PROJECT GUIDELINES

The Service-Learning Fellows program is first and foremost a faculty development program, not a grant or project funding source. Each Fellow will undertake a service-learning project during the year. Generally, projects are developed and implemented during the Fellowship year, but in some instances, the implementation of projects has extended past the Fellowship year. The Service-Learning Fellowship award of \$2,500 may be used to help implement this project or provide additional professional development support for participants. Possible project ideas include the following:

- Development of a new service-learning course in Athens, on extended campuses, or in study-abroad programs;
- Integration of service-learning pedagogy and partnerships into an existing course;
- Projects that connect to existing community-university partnerships such as Experience UGA, Campus Kitchen, Archway Partnership, or the Professional Development Schools;
- Development of interdisciplinary service-learning collaborations, as well as connections between instruction, Public Service and Outreach, and Cooperative Extension.

Support for project development will be discussed during monthly meetings and through meetings with former Service-Learning Fellows serving as faculty mentors. Final projects will be highlighted formally at the end of the program during the April Showcase. *Projects may be adapted or changed during the year as participants develop in their understanding of service-learning.* For more information on previous projects, contact Dr. Shannon Wilder, Director, Office of Service-Learning at [swilder@uga.edu](mailto:swilder@uga.edu) or 706-542-0535.



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**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

To be considered for the 2017-2018 Service-Learning Fellows program, please submit the following four items to the Office of Service-Learning by **Monday, March 20, 2017**:

1. Application Form Cover Sheet (enclosed)
2. Letter of Support from Department Chair or Dean (please limit to two pages). This letter should:
  - confirm support for the faculty member's application, project, and attendance at all required meetings and events, including the May 11 retreat;
  - describe how the department/unit would benefit from the applicant's participation in the program; and
  - detail any departmental/unit contributions to the proposed project
3. Current short *Curriculum Vitae* (please limit to 5 pages)
4. Letter of Intent and Project Proposal (please limit to three pages). This should describe the following:
  - Your previous experiences with service-learning, if any.
  - Your interest in the program and how you would benefit from the Fellowship.
  - How your department/unit would benefit from your participation.
  - Description of the proposed service-learning project with the following information:
    - a. Summary of proposed service-learning project
    - b. Potential impact on student engagement
    - c. Connection to community issues/needs
    - d. If your project links to an existing academic course, please include the name of the course
    - e. Expected project timeline

**Mail, email, or fax application materials to:**

Dr. Shannon O. Wilder  
Office of Service-Learning  
1242 ½ S. Lumpkin St.  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602  
[osl@uga.edu](mailto:osl@uga.edu)  
706-583-8124 (fax)

**NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION**

Applicants will be notified of selection by April 7, 2017.



**2017-2018 Service-Learning Fellows (SLF) Program  
APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**Applications due Monday, March 20, 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

College/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Career Track Type (select one):

I certify that I:

- Am a full-time faculty member at the University of Georgia
- Will attend the Fellows Retreat (May 11, 2017), monthly meetings (dates to be determined based on group schedules), and final Spring showcase
- Will carry out an approved service-learning project as a Fellow
- Have read and understand the Fellows program goals, obligations, and expectations

My application includes this cover sheet and:

- Letter of Support from Department/Unit Head or Dean
- Short Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Intent and Project Proposal

**Please submit all materials by the stated deadline to:**

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Email: [osl@uga.edu](mailto:osl@uga.edu)  
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