



## *A Campus*

## *Engaged... .*

### Service and Community Based Learning Tip Sheet

### *Meeting Genuine Community Needs*

Effective service and community based learning engages students in service that has clear goals, meet genuine needs, recognizes and capitalizes on community assets, and has significant results for the students and others.

A key component is the students' assessment of community needs. Even if an assessment has been done by someone other than the students, engagement increases when *they* determine the needs that they feel are most important.

Any assessment of needs should involve community stakeholders. Doing service "to" a community rarely works; whereas, doing service "with" a community is usually productive.

Students can determine community needs by...

- Conducting a survey
- Reading local newspapers to identify the issues on the public agenda, whether local, regional, national, or global.
- Inviting community agency experts to the class to share their needs
- Conducting a community search, or "walkabout" where students actually walk around the community to observe where the needs exist
- Identify their personal visions for the world, discussing their values, and creating school or community visions
- Identifying their areas of expertise, and the ways these skills and interests could help others
- collaborating