FOCUS – First-year Opportunities for Community & University Service
FYE Service and Learning --- Citizenship & Civility

Purpose:
1. Engage students in service learning and civic engagement experiences during their first weeks of college and to continue to build on the foundation through meaningful service to their campus community as well as to the local community.
2. Facilitate the work of faculty and staff in their efforts to engage first-year students in community and service by removing some of the logistical barriers and challenges such as transportation, etc.

Student Learning Goal:
Be Involved -------- [QEP: *Practice civic engagement*]
Students will identify their roles and responsibilities as engaged citizens by considering the public policies that affect their choices and actions; by recognizing commonalities and interdependence of diverse views/values; and by acting responsibly to positively affect public policy.
- **Outcome 1**: Students will practice the Community Creed.
  - **Creed**: *a system of beliefs, principles, and aspirations*
    - I will practice personal and academic integrity.
    - I will respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
    - I will demonstrate concern for others and live up to my community responsibilities.
    - I will engage myself in the arts, culture and intellectual life of my University.
    - I will celebrate and take pride in Western Carolina University.

Strategies:
- Develop campus partnerships to foster opportunities for service.
- Launch the year-long campaign during the *Week of Welcome* in and out of the classroom.
- Sponsor a *FYE Day of Service: Citizenship & Civility*: Saturday, August 25th
- Provide resources, maps, organization, and tactical support.
- Track participation via OrgSync and assess outcomes.

Instructors
- Help your students develop the relationships and networks that will help them persist in their transition to college life.
- Help your students Discover College.
- Show them the way – join the campaign as a class – adopt a project and spin it to meet your course learning goals.

**FOCUS is sponsored by:**
The Center for Service Learning, -- The Office of First Year Experience
The Office of Facilities Management -- The Office for Leadership & Student Involvement
Service & Learning in the first year of college

On or near campus

- Campus Pride: adopt a project for the year!
  - Streets – Sidewalks - Walking trails
  - Building grounds entry-ways
  - Creek clean-up
- Trail Blazers: work on the WCU Trail
- Green thumbs:
  - Campus beautification & landscaping
  - Work in the Campus garden
- Messaging:
  - Write cards to the elderly
  - Write letters to veterans
- Civic Responsibility:
  - Pass out information about elections
  - Help with voter registration
- Freedom of expression wall
- Game days: help prepare for and clean-up after home games
- Mountain Heritage Day
- College days
- CURVE
- Neighborhood watch: look out for each other!
- Arts street team: help publicize campus arts and culture events
- Recycling: make a difference for the next thousand years….
- So many more options….

Community Projects

- School Tutoring
- Community Table
- Rest Home visits
- Animal Shelters
- Cullowhee Valley Garden
- Day of Service projects in the community beyond campus
- And so many more – the limit is defined only with your imagination and commitment.

To sign up, students may:

- Go to OrgSync at https://orgsync.com/home to make an account, it is easy to set up!
- Contact Deryld Dryman in the Center for Service Learning to register.
- Sign up for the FYE Day of Service on August 25th in their transition class.

If you have questions or suggestions, please let us know!
Contact Glenda Hensley, FYE or Deryld Dryman, Service Learning