



Center for Community Engagement and Service

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Tacoma, Washington
98447-0003

Academic Service-Learning

Federal Work Study —America Reads and ASEP Mentors

Volunteer Center (VC)

What Does the Center for Community Engagement and Service Do?

The Center for Community Engagement and Service (formerly known as Center for Public Service) is an academic support office established by Pacific Lutheran University in 1993.

The Center focuses on service-learning, community partnerships, resources and training for faculty, staff, students, and our community partners. These inform the full range of its activities as well as each of its primary programs:

Academic Service-Learning, the **Volunteer Center**, and **Federal Community Service Work Study**. The Center connects PLU students, faculty and staff in partnership with the community to serve the community's needs, encouraging critical reflection on all service, from the challenging inquiry of academic service-learning to thoughtful discussion and creative expression around volunteer and community outreach projects.



"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Academic Service-Learning

Academic Service-Learning at PLU

Academic service-learning brings together students, faculty, and community partners for a course in which students' service experience and academic theory inform each other through carefully guided reflection.

Through this integrative inquiry process, students become increasingly aware of the intersection between their scholarship, their actions, public issues, and social justice.

At PLU more than thirty-four academic courses with service-

"If I have been of service, if I have glimpsed more of the nature and essence of ultimate good, if I am inspired to reach wider horizons of thought and action, if I am at peace with myself, it has been a successful day."
-Alex Noble

learning components are taught in a variety of disciplines, and the number is growing. The Center for Community Engagement and Service offers information, connections, professional development, resources, and logistical support to faculty, students, and community partners engaged in these courses.

Visit us on the Web @ www.plu.edu/service

For more information about service-learning at PLU, please contact the Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service at 253-535-7652 or service@plu.edu.

America Reads Literacy Program

America Reads is one of the programs through which PLU uses its federal community service work study (FCWS) monies to serve the community. The tutors are hired and trained by the Center and paid through FCWS funds. The community service work study programs are administered by the Center for Community Engagement and Service at PLU.

PLU America Reads tutors serve in six schools located near the PLU campus: **Spanaway Elementary, Thompson Elementary, Brookdale Elementary, Harvard Elementary, Fern Hill Elementary, and James Sales Elementary.**

Programs vary from school to school, but all tutors work under the supervision of either a classroom teacher or reading or learning specialist. Activities may include, but are not limited to: reading aloud to children, listening to children read, rudimentary assessment of children's reading skills and needs, and assisting children with practice in phonics, identification of sight

Big Buddies After-School Program

Mentors work one-on-one with elementary school children at **James Sales Elementary** as part of the After School Enrichment Program (ASEP), also known as *Big Buddies*. This partnership between PLU and James Sales has been established for over thirty years.

Mentors help children with assigned homework, facilitate games, coordinate arts & craft projects, supervise group activities, and assist other mentors with the day-to-day organization of the program.

Mentors are given training and ongoing support, provided by the Center for Community Engagement and Service. The program runs from 3-6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation to and from the school site is provided by the program.

For more information about *Big Buddies* or *America Reads*, please contact Tiffany Lemmon, Program Specialist for the Center for Community Engagement and Service at 253-535-7173 or e-mail lemmontm@plu.edu.

What is the Volunteer Center?

The Volunteer Center's (VC) purpose is to provide PLU with opportunities to become involved both on and off campus and to connect local non-profit agencies, advocacy groups, and public service organizations with the PLU student body. The VC also sponsors campus wide events throughout the year such as Volunteer Fairs, Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, National Volunteer Week, and many others.

With hundreds of agencies on file, the VC provides information

about specific volunteer opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. Our community contacts repeatedly seek PLU volunteers through the VC, as it is an integral part of the Center for Community Engagement and Service.

The Volunteer Center is run by two student Co-Directors and is located in Ramstad 116.



volunteer center
Pacific Lutheran University

Why volunteer?

- To meet new people
- To be a good citizen
- To have fun
- To gain new skills
- To get to know your community better
- To gain experience
- To explore new topics, ideas, etc.
- To acquire self-confidence
- To fulfill a community need
- To test leadership skills

For more information about the Volunteer Center, please call 253-535-8318 or email volunteer@plu.edu



Visit us on the Web @ www.plu.edu/volunteer