Measuring the Perceived Long-Term Impact of Community-Based Learning.

KRISTIN MORETTO, PH.D.
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
CBL Research Team
Grand Valley State University

Danielle Lake
Director,
Design Thinking
Associate Professor
Elon University
Dlake@elon.edu

Aaron Lowen
Professor,
Economics
Finance Department
Chair,
College of Business
lowena@gvsu.edu

Kristin Moretto
Director,
Office for
Community Partnerships &
Student Professional Development
morettok@gvsu.edu

Brandon Youker
Associate Professor,
School of Social Work
youkerb@gvsu.edu
What we know

- Retention & engagement
- Future engagement
- Cultural competence
- Academic development
- Personal development
- Future engagement
Research Questions

What do students perceive to be the long-term impact of their community-based learning courses?

In what concrete ways have students found lessons learned or skills developed to be of value to them in their civic, professional, and/or personal lives?

What are their suggestions for improving the impact of CBL courses?
Study Design
Fall 2013—Fall 2017
300 Former Students
18 CBL courses
4 programs

Online Survey
☑️ 10 min Likert + open
☑️ 76 complete (26%)

Phone interviews
☑️ Semi-structured
☑️ 20-30 min
☑️ 13
Survey

ATTITUDES & SKILLS

Challenge beliefs
Apply course content
Understand social complexities
Improve skills & confidence

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Engage across differences
Contribute to social issue
Identify & develop plan
Clarify values and goals

Most important elements
Most needed revisions

Kirstin Moretto, Ph.D.
Economics
Accelerate Leadership
Social Work
Wicked; Dialogue; Design

Site visits
Guest lectures
Reflective Writing
Presentation
Final Report

Major-specific
Gen. Ed.
Survey Results

Perspective
Confidence
Ability
Skills
Understanding
Student Capacity

Civic Engagement

Academic Understanding

Professional Development
  ◦ Leadership Skills
  ◦ Teamwork
  ◦ Communication
Challenge & Reward

Team-based project work
  ◦ Group Conflict
  ◦ Skill development

Getting out into the community
Addressing real-world challenges
Faculty Capacity

Faculty Experience Over Time

- Students reported:
  - Contribution to the community beyond the campus (45.8 → 72.5%)
  - Understanding of course content (76.0 → 90.7%)
  - Improved skills and competencies (66.8 → 99.9 %)
  - Identify source or root of problem (66.8 → 93.5%)
Improve

Time

Interaction

Preparation

KRISTIN MORETTO, PH.D.
Implications for CBL Design

Connections across courses and curriculum
Partnership Development
Student Preparation
Communicate Impact
Implications for Future Research

Expand current study

Impact of team and project-based CBL
  ◦ Compared to Individual outcomes

Community Partner Perspectives

Student Feedback vs. Instructor Feedback
Limitations

Size and Scope
Reaching Alumni
Lack of control group
Stakeholder perspectives
Questions?

Kristin N. Moretto, Ph.D.
Director, Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Grand Valley State University
morettok@gvsu.edu
http://www.gvsu.edu/partnerships