



# HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

## Service Learning Program

To: Dr. Dennis Carroll, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs  
 Dr. Carol Stoneking, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

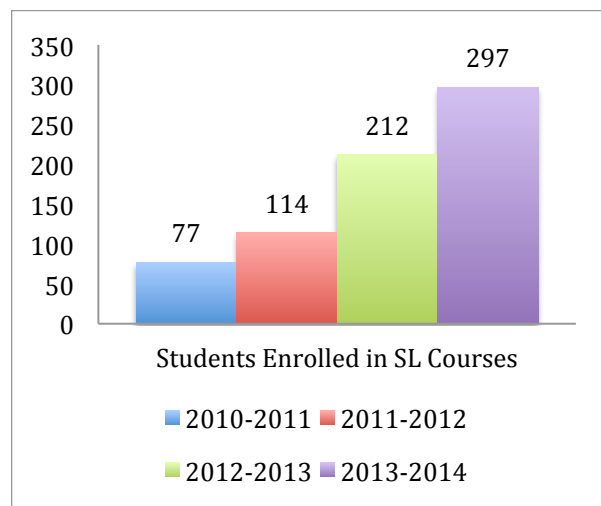
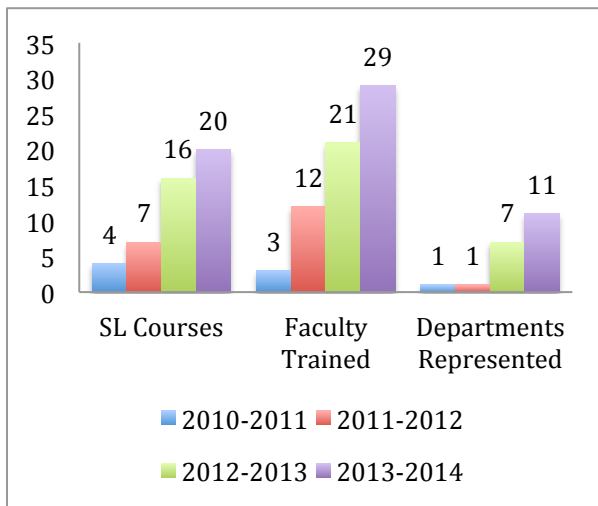
From: Dr. Joe Blosser, Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning  
 Dr. Cara Kozma, Assistant Director of Service Learning  
 Ms. Anna Mahathey, AmeriCorps VISTA and Civic Leadership Coordinator

Subject: Executive Summary AY 2013-2014

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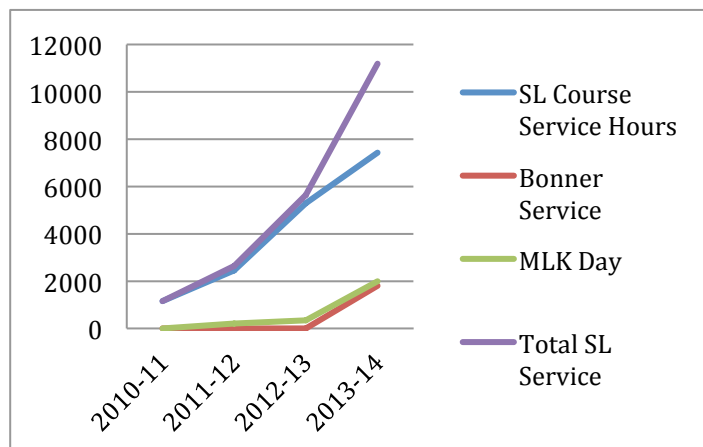
### Program Size

The SL Program is continuing its rapid growth and expansion across campus. With an additional \$20,000 grant from the Silvershein/Gutenstein Foundation (for a total award so far of \$54,000), the program trained 8 more faculty this fall.



### Service to the Community

The Service Learning Program has helped boost the University's reported service hours from 30,000 per year to over 100,000 per year by adding hours through SL courses and the Bonner Program, and by bringing the University's accounting methods more into line with peer institutions.



**Major Accomplishments**

- The five Bonner Scholars have received high marks for service at their three community partners. We will add 10-12 new Bonners next year.
- The MLK Day of Service provided over 400 volunteers (students and faculty) a chance to serve together, worship together, and share a community meal together.
- The new HPU Community Writing Center was renovated by HPU Interior Design students, and the four classes of SL students who worked at the Center made a big impact in the lives of the 30 elementary school children who used it.
- The Second Annual Service Showcase had 67 posters, representing nearly 50,000 hours of service. We gave away \$2,000 in awards to faculty, students, and community partners.
- The AmeriCorps VISTA has forged strong relationships with West End Ministries and increased the University’s presence and good will in that community.
- Two additional VISTAs will be added next year to work with Patrick Harmon on the Washington St. Project, focusing on education and healthy living.
- Three SL-related faculty articles were published this year.

**Assessing Challenges and Adaptive Changes**

Drs. Blosser and Kozma personally visited every fall SL course and most spring courses, and we assessed essays or final presentations for all SL students. We focused on how well students met the program’s ethics objective. Using a VALUE-style rubric on a four point scale, with 4 being competent, 3 and 2 being proficient, and 1 being developing, we had the following overall results:

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1.70</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.94</b>

- The average shows we have a ways to go, but it is important to note that VALUE rubrics are intended to show development. Many of the SL courses were sophomore-level and many students in them had not fulfilled their ethics requirement. We should expect seniors to be 3s and 4s, but a preponderance of 1s and 2s is not surprising for courses that are largely filled by first and second year students.
- Based on this data, a new “How to teach Ethics” page has already been added to the SL website to help faculty better teach ethics in their courses. We have also expanded the ethics section of the SL training workshop from one hour to three hours of training. And we are doing more continuing education around how to teach ethics in SL classes.
- The Fall Faculty Focus Group assessment resulted in the following concrete changes:
  - Faculty expressed some frustrations getting students on-board with understanding the value of service learning, so on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in Phillips 120, we hosted our first ever SL orientation. All students in all SL courses are invited to attend (some faculty are requiring it – others are not). The event conveyed the value, importance, and pedagogy behind service learning, and showed students how many other people at the University are working alongside them. This event was well received.

- For several semesters faculty have complained that students get into their SL classes without knowing they are in SL. We mitigated this problem by designating courses SL, educating advisors, and emailing all SL students during open enrollment to inform them they are in an SL course. But during Add/Drop students continued to unknowingly sign-up for SL courses – and these students also missed the orientations days. To remedy this problem, the registrar has made all SL courses “By Permission of the Professor Only,” starting on the first day of class.
- The Spring Faculty Focus Group assessment resulted in the following changes:
  - Faculty expressed concern that students were being told during Freshman Orientation that High Point isn’t a safe city, and they should never walk outside the gates. We are working to change the message at orientation, and we want to educate faculty on the real crime data in the city.
  - Faculty said that the all SL student orientation was really successful and helpful, but they wanted more. In fall 2014 we are going to add a bus tour of the city to the orientation, including many of the sites where SL classes will be serving. We hope this is immediately get students off campus and more comfortable in the city where they will be serving.
  - The assessments this year were a bit cumbersome. We are moving away from a model where faculty submit products to be assessed to a model where we use a Qualtrics survey that includes common quantitative and quantitative questions for students in all SL courses. This will streamline the process, reduce the burden on faculty, and make reporting back to individual faculty easier.

**Courses Taught**

This year the SL program 20 courses and 13 of them were new SL courses. We also expanded to include a number of new community partners.

<i>Fall:</i>		
ART 3081 SL Documenting the Community through Photography	VanWinkle	Furniture Industry
COM 3385 SL Applied Research in Strategic Communication	McDermott	High Point Arts Council
CRJ 3650 SL Life Skills for Inmates	Ahn-Redding	High Point Jail
ECO 2050 SL Intro. to Microeconomics	Hall	Civitan & Open Door Ministries
ENG 2230 SL Literature & Community	Kozma	Community Writing Center
INT 3280 SL Contract Design I	Nichols	Community Writing Center
PYS 2400 SL Social Psychology	Leder	SA Boys and Girls Club & Reading Connections
PHL 2043 SL Business Ethics	Blosser	HP Chamber of Commerce
REL 2015 SL Faith and Ethics	Ostrowski	Ward Street Mission
<i>Spring:</i>		
EDU 2230 SL Reading Assessment and Instruction	Cavendish	Community Writing Center
ENG 1103 SL College Writing	Summers	Macedonia FRC & Learning Tog.

ENG 2230 SL Lit and Community	Kozma	Community Writing Center
ENG 2230 SL Lit and Community	Walker	Pennybyrn & Culler Senior Center
ENG 4111 SL Adv Techniques in Fiction	Paul	Southwest High School
ENG 4140 SL Community Writing	Cadeau	Community Writing Center
PHL 2013 SL Phil & Ethics of Education	Blosser	Oak Hill Elementary School
PHL/WGS 2016 SL Family Ethics	Lee	Salvation Army B&G Club & YWCA
PHL 2043 SL Honors Business Ethics	Brophy	Piedmont Business Ethics Awards
REL 2015 SL Faith and Ethics	Ostrowski	Ward Street
WGS 3100 SL Feminist Theory/Praxis	Brandt	West End Ministries

**Student Evaluations**

The student evaluations this year were roughly similar to the HPU average. I do expect these numbers to improve as faculty get comfortable teaching SL. A number of the courses with lower student evaluation numbers were taught by faculty who were teaching SL for the first time. SL is a VERY different pedagogical approach, and it does take faculty a while to adjust. Drs. Blosser and Kozma work carefully with faculty throughout the semester to help them as they encounter challenges, but we especially work with faculty in-between their first and second SL course to adjust the syllabus and instructional method to ensure better results. Also note that 13 of the 20 SL courses fulfilled General Education requirements. National data suggests that once the program is up and running the overall rating of the course, instructor, and student learning should exceed university averages.

	<b>SL Courses Average:</b>	<b>HPU Average</b>
<b>FALL 2013</b>		
Overall Rating of Course	4.10	4.03
Overall Rating of Instructor	3.88	4.20
Overall Rating of Student Learning	4.21	4.10
Educational Quality Index	4.17	4.11
<b>SPRING 2014</b>		
Overall Rating of Course	4.05	4.00
Overall Rating of Instructor	4.19	4.17
Overall Rating of Student Learning	3.96	4.07
Educational Quality Index	4.07	4.08

**A Look to 2014-2015**

- We currently have 12 courses in 10 departments planned for Fall 2014.
- The following faculty have been selected for Service Learning grants, and they will be trained in the fall 2014 semester (we may be adding a few more faculty soon):
  - Dr. Brad Barlow (Physics)
  - Cathy Nowicki (Interior Design)
  - Brian Heagney (Communication)
  - Dr. Sojung Kim (Communication)
  - Dr. Chris Franks (Religion/Philosophy)