“Texas Tech University is committed to ethical leadership practices at all levels and to our tradition of community service, both within the university community and in our relationships with the greater community. We strive for exemplary professional and community service through research, creative works, and service programs that extend beyond the university environment. We strive to provide excellent service in a caring and friendly environment and encourage such involvement in the community by all faculty, students, staff, and administration.”

Texas Tech University
Statement of Ethical Principles
This Module Examines

Community Service and Leadership

TTU’s Statement of Ethical Principles

What are Community Service & Service Learning?

Benefits of Community Service & Service Learning

Leadership

P4 Model

Leadership qualities & behaviors

Ethics

Civic Responsibility
Community Service is the application of one’s gifts, skills, and resources to provide value and enhance the quality of life for people who need or desire service.

(Introduction to Service-Learning Toolkit, 2003)
Astin and Sax (1998) examined the impact of community service on undergraduates’ development. According to the study, students participated in service

1. to help other people
2. for personal satisfaction
3. to improve their community and society as a whole
Community Service

“The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose.”

Mahatma Gandhi
Community Service

For college students, participating in community service is also associated with specific behaviors:

- earning higher grades
- attending graduate school
- donating money to one’s alma mater
- socializing with persons from different racial/ethnic groups
- participating in volunteer/community service work after college

(Astin et al., “Long-term Effects of Volunteerism during the Undergraduate Years,” 1999)
Informal learning through volunteering or community service seems easier than classroom learning, not because the content is simpler, but because it is embedded in familiar activity. This enables us to make sense of new information (Ehrlich, 2000).

Community Service allows the students to learn more about a cause and which actions will ensure that the issue is effectively addressed.
Community Service

- An important part of what makes people successful and productive is their ability to integrate their work with their social life (Ehrlich, 2000).

- Volunteering inspires students to become more socially responsible, committed to serving their communities, empowered, and committed to education (Astin et al., 1999).
Service Learning experiences are reciprocally beneficial for both the community and the students.  

(Astin & Sax, 1998)

Service Learning is “pedagogy that links academic study and civic engagement through thoughtfully organized service that meets the needs of the community.”  

(Irene Arellano, “Importance of Service,” 2009)
Service Learning has a positive effect on sense of social responsibility and citizenship skills.

(Astin & Sax, 1998)

Service and learning are connected equally. “The outcome is a win-win situation for all stakeholders involved.”

(Arellano, 2009)
TTU faculty members from several academic disciplines state that “service-learning enhances their teaching and students’ interest in course material, and connects both faculty and students to the community.”

Benefits of Service Learning

- Learn new skills in an interesting, engaged, hands-on way
- Explore career opportunities
- Apply academic knowledge & skills in the outside world
- Improve one’s leadership skills & sense of personal satisfaction
Benefits of Service Learning

- Develop a sense of community and civic responsibility
- Make a difference in one’s home community
- Meet and develop relationships with people of diverse cultures & lifestyles
Benefits of Service Learning – Ethics

Service Learning & Ethics

- Service learning offers an effective way for students to engage the complexity of ethical issues and ambiguity of actual situations (Colby et al, 2003).

- Service programs affect how students think about ethical problems and how aware and concerned they are about those less fortunate than themselves (Bok, 2006).

- Exposure to a diversity of views, both in and out of the classroom, challenges students to abandon dogmatism and rethink previous ethical positions (Bok, 2006).
Benefits of Service Learning - Civic Responsibility

Service learning & Civic Responsibility

- Service learning allows individuals to gain civic skills and experience.

- Service learning helps students to focus on critical and reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility.

- Service learning gives students the opportunity to address local needs while developing their academic skills and their commitment to their community and society.

(Introduction to Service-Learning Toolkit, 2003)
Mary Kirlin explored the relationship of service learning and gaining civic skills:

“Democratic society inherently demands collective decision making ... young adults must practice the skills necessary for civic engagement.”

**CIVIC SKILLS**

**MONITORING PUBLIC EVENTS AND ISSUES**

- Understand distinctions between 3 sectors of society (public, private & nonprofit)
- Understand context for events and issues (what happened & why)
- Capacity to acquire and thoughtfully review news (read the local newspaper)

Benefits of Service Learning - Civic Responsibility

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIVIC SKILLS</th>
<th>UNDERLYING SKILLS necessary for civic skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deliberating about public policy issues</td>
<td>• Think critically about issues</td>
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<td>• Understand &amp; respect perspectives on issues</td>
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<td>Interacting with others to promote personal and common interests</td>
<td>• Understand democratic societies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Capacity to articulate individual perspective &amp; interests</td>
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<td>• Work with others to define common objectives</td>
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<td>• Create &amp; follow a work plan to accomplish goals</td>
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<td>Influencing policy decisions on public issues</td>
<td>• Identify decision makers and institutions</td>
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<td>• Lobby for change</td>
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<td>• Understand appropriate vehicles for influencing decisions</td>
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“The world is full of strong leaders; however, leadership is a neutral term. It can be good or bad.”


The organization’s leadership “has a code of conduct and ethical expectations,” and the leaders “that exhibit ethical behavior powerfully influence the actions of others.”

Leadership

P₄: A modern model for leadership

Purpose

People

Planet

Probity

Character of an ethical organization & leader

*Probity harmonizes the other potentially conflicting aims so that the mix of purpose, people, planet, and probity is sustainable, ethical, and successful.

The aim of this model is “to reconcile the organisational purpose (ex: cost-effective services delivery) with the needs and feelings of people (staff, local communities, stakeholders, etc) with proper consideration for the planet - the world we live in (in terms of sustainability, environment, wildlife, natural resources, our heritage, 'fair trade', other cultures, etc) and at all times acting with probity - encompassing love, integrity, compassion, honesty, and truth.”

Leadership

Examples of ethical leadership qualities & behaviors

Compassion
Accountability
Confidence
Commitment
Honesty
Integrity
Collaboration

Love

Trust
Service
Quality
Cultural diversity
Leadership and Service

Leadership is “more about serving than leading”

Good leadership requires attitudes and behaviors that characterize and relate to humanity in a healthy way.

*Ineffective leaders* believe that “the leader must be served by the people”

*Faulty attitude:* Leadership is “an opportunity to take: to acquire personal status, advantage, gain, etc., at the expense of others”

Leadership is “an opportunity to give; to serve your organization, and crucially, the people too.”

“If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, Or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin Up to his nest again, I shall not live in vain.”

*Emily Dickinson*
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References

Arellano, Irene. “Importance of Service.” 2009
Community Service and Leadership

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Statement of Ethical Principles