

Integrating Service Learning Into Information Systems Courses

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This workshop seminar will describe and provide examples illustrating how to integrate applied learning and community service into Information Systems courses. The workshop will outline and present strategies for dealing with issues pertaining to:

- Identifying Potential Projects
 - Protecting Clients' Interests
 - Protecting the University's Interests
 - Protecting Students' Interests
- Avoiding 'conflicts-of-interest' and competition with local businesses
- Synchronizing Project Objectives with Course Objectives (selecting relevant projects)
- Selecting student teams
 - Application Process
 - Screening Process
- Managing and evaluating student teams
 - Status Reports
 - Client Contacts/Visits
- Techniques for resolving performance Problems
 - What to Do when Groups Run Out of Time?
 - How to Redirect Problem Groups
 - How to Redirect Problem Clients
 - Redefining Project Parameters Midstream
- Benefits
 - Benefits to Students
 - Benefits to the Community
 - Benefits to the University
- Faculty Considerations

The presenter will draw upon over five years experience in providing students with applied learning experiences while concurrently enhancing the 'town/gown' relationship between the University and its local community. Attendees will learn proven techniques to assist them in implementing service learning opportunities for their students. Actual project descriptions and results selected from an undergraduate telecommunications course, similar to OSRA's Model Curriculum OEIS 5 – Telecommunication & Networking Foundations, will be available for inspection by workshop attendees.