ABSTRACT

Title: Creating a Service-Learning Living-Learning Community

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The purpose of this creative project was to develop the structure and initial year of operating plans for a service-learning living-learning community to be used at traditional four-year universities or colleges in the United States. The program targets students in all class standings and from five specific academic majors. Expected outcomes from this program include, but are not limited to the following: increased relationships between the community and school; increased levels of civic engagement; increased levels of student retention; higher degree of career confidence; higher levels of career preparation; increased worldview and understanding of the connection between academic majors and local, state, national, and world issues; increased understanding of how students can make a difference through their areas of study; and local, state, and national recognition for the college or university.

This program will be significant as colleges and universities increasingly recognize the importance of preparing their students to be leaders in a world that experiences more challenges each day. Students need to understand the power they have within their chosen career path to make a difference. This is a level of awareness more employers are looking for as they continue to grow their community relations.
departments. Additionally, as graduation rates become more important, colleges and universities are looking for powerful retention tools and this program creates one. Not only does this program positively impact society and the school, but it also helps individual students develop a stronger worldview and an understanding and respect for their place in it.