Principles

FOR ETHICAL & EFFECTIVE SERVICE

In an effort to raise awareness about the University's responsibility to communities, the Haas Center developed the **Principles for Ethical and Effective Service** in 2002. These principles emerged from a process of consultation with over 75 community participants, faculty, students, and staff.

We have adopted these principles for Beyond the Farm and consider them to be an important tool for project leaders as they establish a partnership with a community organization. Consideration of these principles will ensure that alumni create mutually beneficial relationships with partner organizations that both enhance the alumni experience and contribute to the mission of their community partner.

Principles:

1. **Reciprocity through Partnership**
   - Develop collaborative relationships with community partners and recognize their role as educators of alumni participants.
   - Involve potential community partners in the design of service projects to ensure the value and relevance of the work.

2. **Humility**
   - Encourage alumni participants to serve with a listening and learning attitude as part of the process of getting things done in a service-learning situation.
   - Prepare alumni participants to view any service work they are asked to do as a valuable learning opportunity that complements and challenges their knowledge.

3. **Respect for Diversity**
   - Create an atmosphere that models respect for diversity, broadly and inclusively defined.
   - Train alumni participants in issues of diversity.

4. **Commitment**
   - Model and emphasize to alumni participants the importance of keeping commitments, tacit as well as explicit, made to community partners.
   - Provide feedback mechanisms for accountability to community partners
   - Clarify the expectations and time frame of the service project to both alumni participants and partners.

5. **Ongoing Communication and Clear Expectations**
    - Provide a structured experience that encourages safe, comfortable channels of communication and sets clear expectations between alumni participants and community organization representatives.
    - Clarify community organization's preferences for service projects.

6. **Preparation**
    - Prepare alumni participants for service projects with the attitudes, skills, and knowledge they will need to serve ethically and effectively.
    - Involve community partners in preparing or training alumni participants whenever possible.
    - Guide alumni participants to seek current and historical information about their partner organizations and communities before beginning the service project, and include time for alumni participants to ask questions.

7. **Context**
    - Assist alumni participants in connecting service experiences with the larger contemporary and historical political, economic, and social context in which the service experience is embedded.
    - Involve knowledgeable community members and utilize other available materials to present key issues specific to the community and organization in which the service project is taking place.

8. **Participatory Pedagogy**
    - Engage all participants (alumni and community participants) as teachers and learners.
    - Provide alumni participants with opportunities to share new knowledge obtained from their service experience.

9. **Safety**
    - Anticipate and take precautionary steps to ensure the safety of all people involved in service activities.
    - Comply with special safety or liability requirements of community partner