The Pellissippi State Service-Learning Program promotes a campus culture of community service and civic engagement through providing education, community service information & placement, and mentoring support for faculty/students doing academic service-learning, tnAchieves scholars, PSCC programs seeking volunteer support, and PSCC students seeking community experiences that support their major.

### Building a College Culture of Service & Community Engagement!

#### SHED HAPPENS!
**Pellissippi State's Alternative Fall Break**

In October, dozens of Pellissippi students, faculty, staff, and administrators gathered to build 18 sheds for Loudon County Habitat for Humanity homes part of the Hope Haven neighborhood. Professor Tara Lynn planned and organized this event for the college in conjunction with Lowes personnel.

#### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WEEK!

In September, all five campuses collaborated with the Service-Learning program, the League of Women Voters, and Gnosis and Phi Theta Kappa volunteers to register over 500 new voters! The week began with a standing room only Gnosis-sponsored lecture on the Electoral College by Professor Keith Norris and ended with packed audiences for Constitution Day presentations by Blount Mansion Association’s lan Hennessey and Rep. Joe Armstrong. All campuses hosted staffed voter registration tables throughout the week.

### Pellissippi Service-Learning Stats!

- 1 year old program
- Supports faculty/students using service-learning, tnAchieves scholars, other PSCC programs, and unaffiliated PSCC volunteers
- 25-30 faculty per semester on 5 campuses use service-learning
- 60+ community partners and counting
- 20% of PSCC students in active community service
Magnolia Avenue Campus:  
A Fruitful Endeavor for Mobile Meals

To benefit elderly clients of Community Action Agency’s (CAC) Mobile Meals, Magnolia Ave. Campus students, faculty, and staff pulled together for a special holiday project. Volunteers collected and sorted hundreds of pieces of fruit into 150 individual bags containing three pieces each and made Thanksgiving cards to accompany their thoughtfully-prepared deliveries.

The Impact of Service-Learning on a Pellissippi State Student

[One of my students] “described watching a homeless veteran give up his coat and a blanket to a young woman who had been attacked on the streets a few hours earlier, offer to go with the young woman to the free medical clinic, and help move her meager belongings to a safer camping location. When my student asked the veteran why he would care about someone he just met, his response was that he was raised to take care of those less fortunate and to protect the weak. My student later learned that this veteran has been on the streets for 4 years and has been rejected for VA medical treatment for his PTSD and combat-related paranoia multiple times. His family could not afford private mental health care, and he cannot keep a job. So, he ended up on the streets, but his nature to serve and protect has not disappeared. My student said that this experience sparked so many thoughts that she had to finally make a list of all of the topics she wanted to write about, ranging from the growing prevalence of rape to the outrage of how we treat our veterans returning from war to the joke that is our mental health system.” (Professor Tara Lynn, Fall 2012).

Division St. Campus:  
Partnerships Expand with C2S & Pond Gap Connections

Division Street’s Call-to-Service (C2S) invited many of our PSCC community partners to campus to make important connections with students/faculty. Pond Gap Elementary School is one of these important partners. PSCC students now volunteer in their impressive University-Assisted After School Program.

Strawberry Plains Campus: “Food for Kids” with Second Harvest Food Bank

Strawberry Plains Campus began its first outreach initiative this fall, partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank to create a packing facility for its “Food for Kids” program. This project provides backpacks of food for hungry Knox County schoolchildren throughout the academic year. Volunteers sorted food pallets into backpacks that were then distributed to children on Friday afternoons for weekend food choices.

COOL ONGOING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!

*NOW!: M-F 9-12 or 1-4: Second Harvest Food Bank Warehouse Work: A great, ongoing community service opportunity! In shifts anytime M-F 9-12 and 1-4, Second Harvest Food Bank needs your help sorting and packaging food for hungry East Tennesseans at their huge warehouse in Maryville! Saturday shifts 9-12 and 1-4 get filled fast, so make sure to call 1-2 weeks in advance! Call or email Greg LaRose, Volunteer Coordinator, to reserve your space! Email: greg@secondharvestetn.org or Call: 865-243-8239

*NOW!: M-F 9-4 p.m.: Beardsley Community Farm: Cities Grow Their Own Food! That’s Beardsley’s goal. They’re here to educate and encourage everyone to take part in the power of locally grown food. There’s so much to see and do at Beardsley Community Farm and they need your help. Become one of hundreds of volunteers who keep the farm running, feeding those in need, and supporting everyone interested in our local food culture. Everyone has a part to play. To sign up, contact Matt Callo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 865-546-8446. Visit Beardsley’s website to find out more: http://beardsleyfarm.org

Blount County Campus:  
Keep Blount Beautiful Pick Up

Blount County Campus students and staff partnered with Keep Blount Beautiful during to keep Blount highways litter-free.

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More Second Harvest Support

PSCC volunteers also staffed Second Harvest’s huge annual East TN Chili Cook-Off in October.
Pellissippi State Service-Learning Stars!

Professor Reed’s Project Management Class

3 Super Projects/1 Class!

Second Harvest Food Bank: A team of students from Professor Denise Reed’s Project Management class raised over $600 for Second Harvest Food Bank by holding a HV Campus Courtyard haunted house, concert, and canned food drive.

Smoky Mountain Service Dogs: This same Project Management class raised $450 for the organization by creating a carrying out a fund raiser.

Professor Schroeder’s Business & Technical Writing Class

Knox County Sherriff’s Department: One of our Business and Technical Writing professors, Heather Schroeder, split her class into two groups which chose to write prison reform proposals for re-hauling the conditions for women in the Knox County jail system. The project involved deep research and a presentation for the community partner—the Knox County Sherriff’s Dept.—service-learning program staff, and our Vice President of Academic Affairs. The outstanding group presentations and the reflection/dialogue which followed resulted in the community partner taking the students’ plans back to the Knox County Sherriff’s Dept. for further consideration and possible implementation.

Professor Ratcliff’s English 1010 Class

ENGL1010/Carter Middle School: The very first service-learning partnership out of our new campus, Strawberry Plains, involved Holly Ratcliff’s English comp class partnering with reading/writing/math challenged middle school students for a semester-long mentoring relationship. The middle school is on board now as a new community partner.

Professor Bogaty’s Advertising Classes

STAR (Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding): Two sections of Advertising (ADV) partnered with STAR to apply what they were learning in class with a real client. Students put together a promotion plan for the Heroes and Minis in Motion Assisted Living programs. Student teams, organized as ad agencies, researched STAR, developed a SWOT analysis, a creative platform, and a promotion plan for the non-profit. They participated in the Veterans Day parade, made signage and posters for the event, did some guerilla marketing by creating flyers and asking businesses along the parade route if they could hang them in their businesses. Students also visited a STAR class in progress and took a trip with the Minis in Motion to an assisted living center. The semester culminated with presentations to their client and five local ad executives. A great learning experience for all!

Professor Sills’ Spanish Class

HOLA Festival: First year Spanish students enjoyed a full dose of Latino culture through Professor Sills’ service-learning project staffing a Knoxville favorite, the annual HOLA Festival, which celebrates Latino culture in this area.

Professor Oswald’s Women’s Studies Class

YWCA: Women recovering at the YWCA transitional housing program were treated to holiday craft-making and a lovely meal prepared by Elaine Oswald’s Women’s Studies class, which partnered with them in an ongoing way all semester.

Pellissippi State Support Staff: A Service Focus

Pellissippi Support Staff personnel have taken on a Service focus this academic year as a pledge of support for the college’s growing commitment to community service and civic engagement. In fall, Support Staff held successful drives benefiting, among others, YWCA and Toys for Tots.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others.”
—Mahatma Gandhi

Please contact service-learning@pstcc.edu for details.