Event Recap
Campus & Community Roundtable Partnership to Address Injustice

Due to the generous support of the Institute for Urban Life, The Marquette University Service Learning Program brought together current and potential community partners and Marquette faculty and staff on April 1, 2011 for the Campus & Community Roundtable titled: Partnership to Address Injustice.

Partnering to Address the Pressing Needs of our Community

At the roundtable event, community partners and Marquette faculty were grouped with others who shared their interests in specific community issues. In this way, the event brought together the expertise of the right people to advance the quality of service learning projects, community-based research, and community development efforts. Community partners shared information about their programs and needs, and faculty discussed their teaching and research interests. As one community partner remarked,

“Individuals were grouped together by interest and it was beneficial to talk and network with others in community. We were able to discuss some of the barriers we face and how we went about getting passed them.”

Community partners and faculty discussed ideas such as expanding the teen pregnancy prevention network, developing programs that work to speed up the transition process between being homeless and having a home, and working together to target specific Milwaukee neighborhoods and improve various aspects of the community through an interdisciplinary approach.

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Moving Forward with New Campus/Community Partnerships

This year, the Service Learning Program was able to broaden the scope of the roundtable thanks to the generous support of the Institute for Urban Life. We invited any faculty or community member interested in learning more about potential community and campus partnerships. As one Marquette administrator remarked,

“The diversity of internal and external collaborators, all oriented around the issue of community engagement, was terrific. Seeing the myriad ways in which we all connect via Marquette gave me some renewed vigor in wanting to make sure that the university and its community are even more closely connected.”

The strength of this connection is vital to working for social justice in the community. Attendance at this year’s roundtable was doubled compared to the 2010 event, and faculty and community partners alike expressed interested in further pursuing relationships. As one Marquette faculty member explained,

“I met some people and learned about programs I was unaware existed and could be great Service Learning sites for my classes.”

The potential for Marquette faculty to work with new partner non-profit organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Peace and Learning Center of Milwaukee, and the Cream City Foundation was strengthened by this event.