



## EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SERVICE: THE MARYMOUNT QEP (2018)



*Empowering Students for Service*, Marymount University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), is developing and strengthening a learning environment that encourages, values, and supports student awareness of and participation in meaningful service. Our environmental QEP empowers students to participate in service and become engaged citizens prepared to work effectively with their communities in order to fulfill the needs of society. Meaningful service is cultivated in partnership with our varied community networks

including on-campus clubs and organizations from Arlington, Northern Virginia, and the Washington metropolitan area. In addition we partner with several communities around the world to align with our focus on promoting a global perspective in students.

Goals for our QEP were based on an extensive review of the relevant literature, an assessment of current service activities and initiatives at Marymount, and the current service environment. They are to:

- Increase students' awareness and participation in service opportunities that provide them with a meaningful learning experience.
- Effectively prepare students to be engaged members in their communities.

The major initiatives and activities of *Empowering Students for Service* include:

1. Establishing the Saints' Center for Service headed by a full-time director in fall 2018;
2. Developing and coordinating an infrastructure to support increased student service including faculty/staff/student training;
3. Expanding on- and off-campus service opportunities for students;
4. Celebrating and recognizing service including an annual service fair and awards;
5. Assessing student learning outcomes resulting from meaningful service experiences; and
6. Fostering relationships with select community partners.

**ASSESSMENT:** The assessment of *Empowering Students for Service* monitors meaningful service opportunities; examines the impact of student awareness and participation; and analyzes the effect of service engagement on student attitudinal outcomes. It uses a wide variety of direct and indirect measures which include student reflections; nationally normed survey results from the *Multi-Institution Study of Leadership* and the *National Survey of Student Engagement*; and administrative data of student participation and subsequent outcomes measures.

**ABOUT MARYMOUNT:** Marymount University is an independent Catholic university with approximately 3,400 students that emphasizes academic excellence at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Intellectual curiosity, service to others, and a global perspective are hallmarks of a Marymount education and articulated in our mission. An emphasis on service is a natural fit for Marymount University, given our mission, vision, core values, our Catholic identity, and the charism of our founding order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

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