

# Work Worth Doing: Incorporating Service Learning Into the Collegiate Percussion Curriculum

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*Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.*  
- Theodore Roosevelt

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND BIG QUESTIONS

- What are our responsibilities as artists and/or educators to help our students engage with larger issues in society?
- What messages (explicit or implied) do we send our students with our daily actions and the things that we prioritize?
- Our events are a bridge between our institution and the community. What responsibilities come out of that relationship?
- How can we use our concerts, events, and even our daily activities as opportunities to effect positive change in our communities?

## WHERE TO START

- What are you passionate about?
- What are your students passionate about?
- What are the needs in your community?
- What connections do you have?
- What are the logical places to integrate service learning into your existing curriculum?

## SERVICE LEARNING

*“a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development”*

*(Jacoby, 1996).*

## BENEFITS OF SERVICE LEARNING

*Research shows that students who participate in service learning integrate theory with practice, report academic gains, develop a deeper understanding of course material, demonstrate critical reflection skills, develop a sense of social responsibility, and demonstrate a greater ability to work collaboratively*

*(Astin, Sax, & Avalos, 1999; Eyler & Giles, 1999; Gorgol, 2010; Kahne & Sport, 2008; Keen & Hall, 2009; Steinberg, Hatcher, & Bringle, 2011).*

## QUICK TIPS

- Avoid overly political issues or organizations.
- Incorporate “hands on” service projects with fundraising or other endeavors.
- Promote events and initiatives early and often.
- Think creatively about who you can partner with, both on and off campus.
- Engage students in the process to get more “buy in.”
- Focus on local organizations/issues first.
- Make it easy for people to get involved and think about any barriers that may be present.

