



Student-Led Best Practices

Submitted by Bonner Congress Representatives

Name of Best Practice:

Campus-wide Organizational Partnerships/Coalitions

College/University Name and Contact Information:

West Virginia Wesleyan College

59 College Ave

Buckhannon, WV 26201

Bonner Office: 304-473-8161

Name of Congress Representative(s) Preparing Report:

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Background:

Many Bonner students are involved in an array of activities and organizations besides service. Bonner students have the unique knowledge to connect student organizations interested that are interested in service (like fraternities and clubs) with established service sites. This practice has allowed organizations across Wesleyan's campus to join together to effectively serve others in the community, enhancing campus-wide involvement in service.

What Makes This Unique:

This program is unique because it unites a diverse group of students around one common goal of service. This partnership concept gives students the resources to see a project they are passionate about come alive.

How it Works: Tips to a successful partnership across campus

- 1. JUST ASK!** After you find a service project invite student organizations to serve. Organizations should be notified several weeks in advance in order to give members enough time to relay the information to others who may be interested.
 - **Email:** Wesleyan sends a weekly posting of service needs via e-mail to all students.
 - **Web:** Wesleyan has also created a website where information can be accessed and posted. Contact information is also given to ensure the potential volunteers are able to respond to the request.
 - **The Word:** Often word of mouth is the best way to ask for someone's assistance. Have a Bonner representative address a

student organization.

2. Follow up! Have specific and accurate information ready (dates, times, materials needed, meals). Be clear in your instructions.

3. Be available for any questions the organization may have about the project. Remember: You are their link. If any changes are made, immediately notify the contact for the organization.

4. Have Fun: Make the project an enjoyable experience to further encourage service on your campus. If possible, provide snacks and time for conversing and reflection.

5. Express Gratitude: After project is complete, be sure to thank those who have helped you! A simple card to the student organization is appropriate. Expressions of gratitude help pave the way for future collaboration.

Recommendations:

- If you receive little or no support at your first attempt, keep trying! It may take time to gain support. Use your best asset—the people in the Bonner program to relay the importance of the service being performed.
- Take a look at the coalition-building documents on the Bonner web.

Supplementary Documents:

<http://www.wvwc.edu/commsservice>

http://www.bonner.org/resources/modules/modules_pdf/BonCurBldgCoalitions.pdf