

Community Based Learning Initiative

Final Report to Class of 1977 Funding Committee on Activities Fall 2009 – Spring 2011

I. Overview

The Community Based Learning (CBL) initiative of Dwight Hall at Yale has provided 125 students over the past two academic years with the opportunity to apply theory from the classroom to critical issues in the community. Both the number of Yale College courses offering a CBL component and the number of students participating in CBL projects doubled during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years in comparison to the previous two academic years. Goals for the CBL initiative in the next academic year include the development of an evaluative framework for the impact of CBL on the undergraduate curricular experience and a feasibility study for the implementation of University supports that could sustain a more significant expansion of CBL.

II. 2009 – 2011 Activities

Dwight Hall at Yale has implemented CBL in 10 courses over the past two academic years by supporting the work of a student CBL coordinator whose primary role is to match proposals for research, analysis, or evaluation in community and governmental agencies with the curricular content of Yale College courses. Dwight Hall extends its access to a diverse range of community-based organizations and municipal entities to facilitate the solicitation of proposals. The implementation of CBL varies depending on the syllabus of a course and the number of enrolled students. For example, Professor Gordon Geballe's freshman seminar on Urban Ecology in New Haven offers a CBL placement to all 15-18 students, while lecture courses allow students to opt for a CBL project that results in a final paper for the course. Certain large lectures such as New Haven and the American City may offer an entire discussion section led by a graduate teaching assistant to support students who select CBL projects.

Fall 2009 Community Based Learning Courses

1. Architecture 344a: Urban Life and Landscape (E. Rubin).
2. Forestry & Environmental Sciences 012a / Environmental Studies 012a: Urban Ecology in New Haven (G. Geballe).
3. History 112a / American Studies 190a: The Formation of Modern American Culture, 1876–1919 (J. Agnew).

Spring 2010 Community Based Learning Courses

1. Anthropology 010b: Urban Culture, Space, and Power (E. Harms).
2. Political Science 203: Inequality and American Democracy (J. Hacker).
3. Political Science 277: Politics and the New Media (C. Farrar).
4. Architecture 345: Civic Art: Introduction to Urban Design (E. Rubin).

Fall 2010 Community Based Learning Courses

1. Ethnicity, Race, and Migration 200a: Introduction to Ethnicity, Race, and Migration (A. Schmidt Camacho).
2. Forestry & Environmental Sciences 012a: Urban Ecology in New Haven (G. Geballe).
3. Political Science 279a / History 152a / Ethics, Politics, and Economics 285a / Archaeology 385a / Sociology 149a: New Haven and the American City (A. Plattus, E. Rubin).

During the 2009-2010 academic year, 65 students completed CBL projects through 7 course offerings. A greater proportion of students opting for CBL in 3 courses offered during the 2010-2011 academic year yielded 60 completed projects. The relevance of projects to the syllabus of a course improved with increased representation of CBL students. However, this greater proportion also produced challenges in CBL's capacity to adequately support a high volume of student participants in a single semester. This challenge was partially mitigated by the work of the student coordinator in soliciting proposals, procuring placements, and delineating expectations of sites during summer 2010 as a Dwight Hall Summer Fellow. Activity during the Spring 2011 semester has focused on qualitative evaluation of the CBL experience for stakeholders to inform structural improvements.

A reception recognizing a few faculty members, community-based project supervisors, and a student leader was held on March 31, 2011 to recognize key contributors to the CBL initiative. An audience of 50 learned about specific projects and sustained commitments over several years to the program and the event served a dual purpose of building awareness for the initiative among various constituencies. A strategic co-sponsorship of the event with the Dwight Hall Urban Fellows Program introduced CBL to new audiences.

III. Financial Report

Dwight Hall has fully expended the first grant of \$6,500 from the Yale Class of 1977. The majority of costs (70% of budget) provided stipends for student leaders who staffed the CBL initiative during the academic year, with an average 8-hour weekly commitment, and worked full-time on the project during the summer of 2010. The remaining resources were spent to provide direct support to CBL students and faculty in the form of transportation, photocopying, materials, and a forum for a student/faculty/community colloquium on CBL activities that recognized various individuals for significant contributions to the initiative. Dwight Hall provided significant in-kind resources such as staff support and advisement, use of vehicle fleet for various students who required transportation, use of Dwight Hall rooms for project purposes,

and use of a professional survey tool account (surveymonkey.com) for various projects. An administrative fee of 6% was assessed for administration of the grant.

A detailed accounting of expenditures by category follows.

Undergraduate Student Coordinator Stipends:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Spring 2010 Coordinator Stipends	\$950
June 2010 - July 2010 Dwight Hall Community Based Learning Summer Fellow	\$3,000
Fall 2010 Coordinator Stipend	\$300
Spring 2011 Coordinator Stipend	\$300
Subtotal	\$4,550

Coordinator Support:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Materials, Meals, Transportation support for 2010 Summer Fellow	\$600
Subtotal	\$600

Meals:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
3/31/2011 Community Based Learning Reception	\$71.70
Subtotal	\$71.70

Materials:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Photocopies	\$360
Recognition for Professors and Community/Governmental Agency	\$45
Subtotal	\$405

Transportation:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Travel to regional Service Learning workshops (UCONN Hartford)	\$64.50
70 bus passes (10-ride) for CBL students	\$420
Subtotal	\$484.50

Dwight Hall Administrative Assessment:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
6% of \$6,500 grant award	\$390
Subtotal	\$390

Total Expenditures: \$6,501.20

IV. Future Directions

Continued support from the Class of 1977 will enable Dwight Hall at Yale to continue expansion of Community Based Learning, with a target of 100 student CBL projects in the 2011-2012 academic year. Considerable effort will also be directed towards building support amongst University administrators towards a sustained expansion of CBL at Yale College. Current evaluation of the program's impact on students and faculty coupled with shared knowledge of best practices with other higher education institutions will inform proposals that seek to incentivize faculty for implementation of CBL, train graduate student teaching assistants to effectively advise and mentor students engaged in CBL projects, and align Yale College curricular goals with CBL coursework.