

CSLP as an Institutionalized Project for Student Learning



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Flow of Presentation

- What is CSLP?
- How it went institutional?
- What are the formats?
- What are our achievements?
- Sharing of students' reflections
- Our next steps





PolyU

Motto:

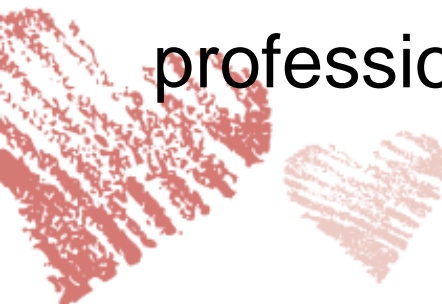
To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind.

Vision:

To produce “preferred graduates”.

Strategic Objective 1.1:

To develop “all-round students beyond the professional context.”

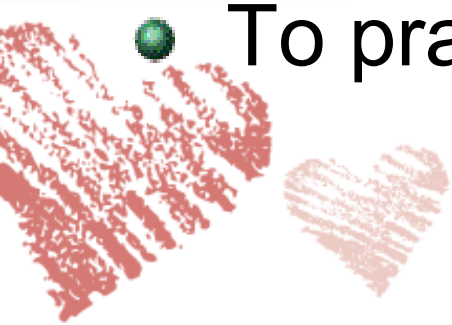




CSLP?

= **Community Service Learning Programme**

- Discipline-based community services since 2003
- To actualize our Motto: “for the benefits of mankind”
- To practise “social responsibility”



Where were we before CSLP

- Both staff and students were actively involved in community services
- Responsive to calls for services
- A lot of on-going / episodic projects
- Very rich learning opportunities



How CSLP started

- Inspired by Student Athlete Trainers
- Physiotherapy Service to PolyU Sports Teams
- Headed by a faculty member + alumni
- Each group of volunteers had students from different years

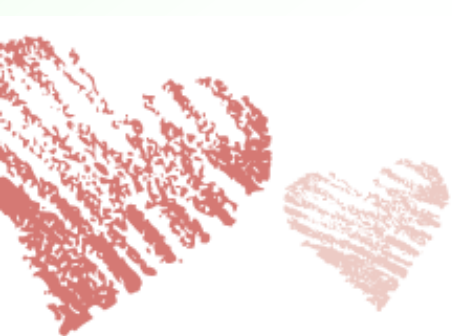


Discipline-based service



CSLP Going Institutional

- Curriculum Review in 2004
- Mandatory “Work-Integrated-Education”
- For all undergraduate admitted from 2005/06
- With training credits



Opportunity for CSLP to go institutional

Service-Integrated Education

- Extends learning beyond the classroom
- Promotes application of skills and knowledge in real-life situations
- Course informs service ; service experience informs course
- Structured and measurable
- Fosters positive social responsibility.

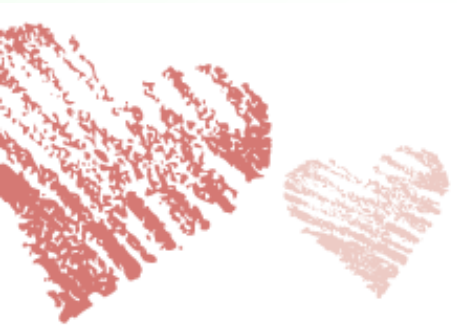
Skepticisms about Service + Learning

- Will this “contaminate” the altruistic motive?
- Will the academic vigour be diluted?



Community Service Learning An Opportunity

- Create application opportunities that are community-based and discipline-related
- Make experiential learning intentional
- Structured and measurable



How will Students Benefit?

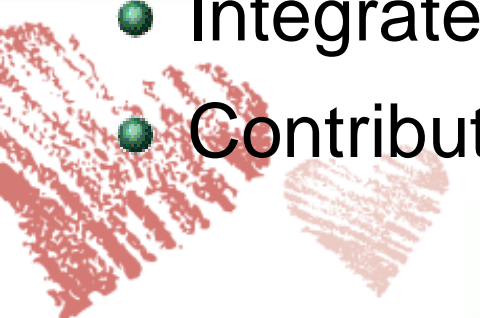
An opportunity to facilitate student learning and a way to positively affect students' ...

- academic performance
- generic skills development
- values
- self-efficacy
- leadership
- choice of a service career
- plans to participate in service activities following graduation

(Eyler et al., 1996, Fischer and Bidell, 1997, Perry, 1970 and Stanton et al., 1990)



Other Value Added

- Not necessarily something already there
 - Identify the need of the constituency served
 - Design for the service according to what they have learned in the curriculum
 - Educate the constituency to accept the service
 - Entrepreneurship with a heart
 - Integrate cognitive and affective learning
 - Contribute positively to the community
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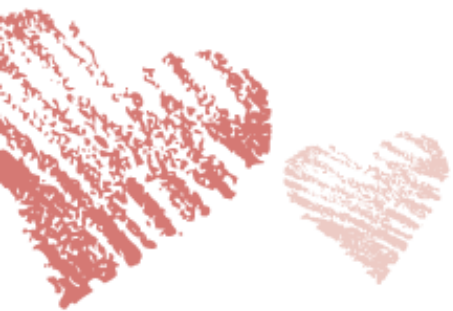
Institutional Initiative

- Finally formally recognized as an option for WIE and/or final-year project in 2005
- Now a campus-wide project involving
 - over 20 academic departments,
 - Student Affairs Office
 - Student bodies



Formats of Community Service Learning

- Academic Service-Learning
 - Integrated with final-year projects
 - With an academic supervisor
 - Structured + outcome assessment
 - Credit bearing



Formats of Community Service Learning

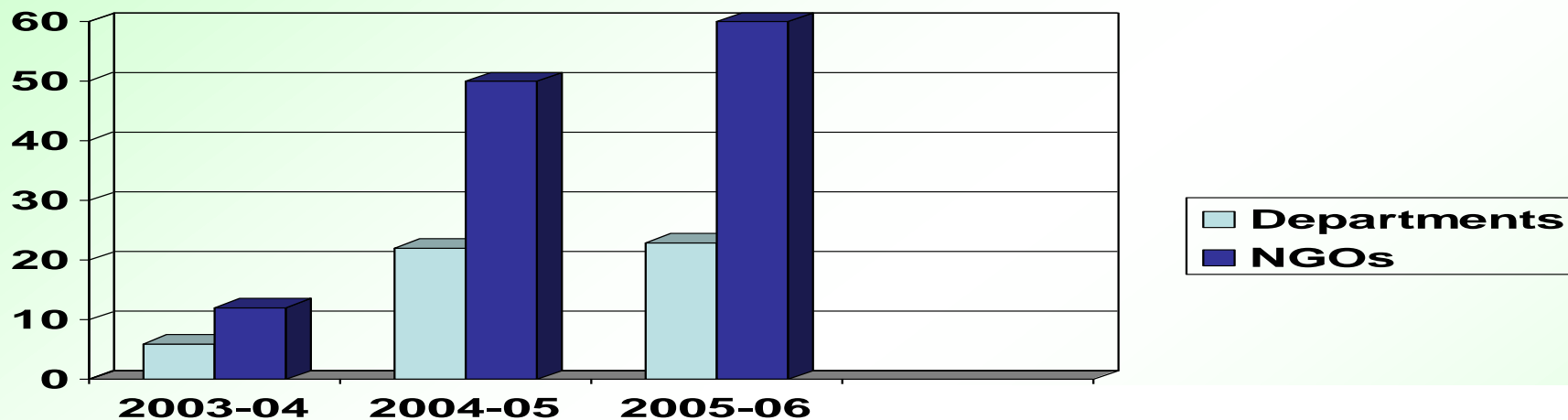
- Service-Learning Internship
 - Recognized as Work-Integrated-Education
 - Prior approval is required
 - Structured
 - Supervised by faculty member/agency staff
 - Outcome assessed
 - Training credit will be granted



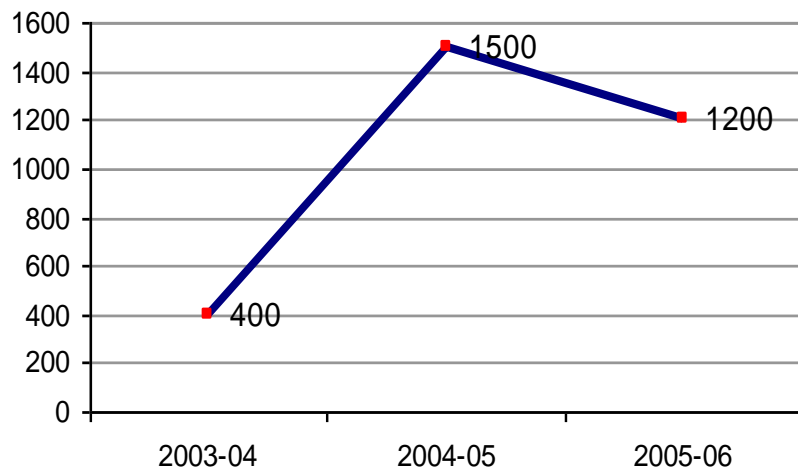
Formats of Community Service Learning

- Co-curricular Service Learning
 - Not a formal part of curriculum
 - Initiated by students, sometimes cross-disciplinary
 - Structured
 - Reflective journal though not formally assessed
 - May be supervised by faculty or PolyU/agency staff
- Recognized in Co-curricular Achievement Transcript

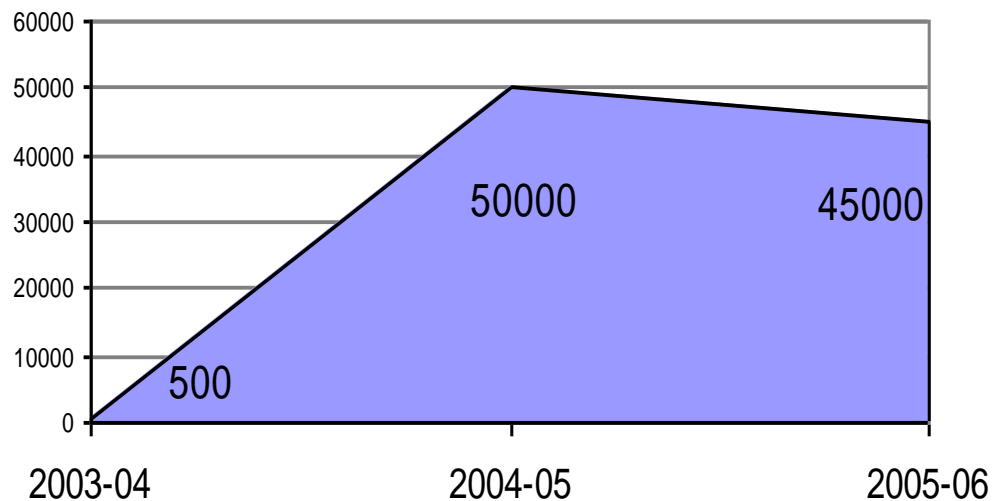
Our Achievement



Students + Staff



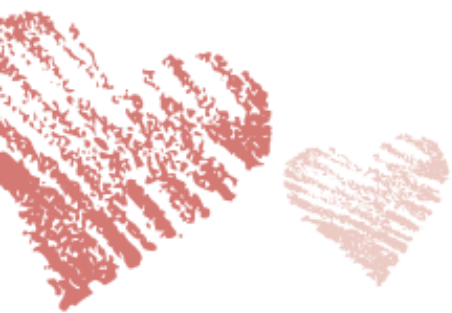
Clients



Examples of Our Projects

In Chinese mainland:

- Health promotions and health assessments
- Teaching high school students IT skills
- Hygiene courses for leprosy sufferers



Examples of Our Projects

In Hong Kong

- Land survey service for Dragon Boat Race, setting out lanes, start & finish lines
- Health promotion and assessment, e.g. eye screening, fall prevention
- Design of assistive devices for needy people



Examples of Assistive Devices

- Assistive computer devices for special school students
- Cuff-holding device for elderly people
- Teleporter for transferring and lifting wheelchair users



Student Learning Reflections

Applying Knowledge Learnt

“We were very happy to be able to **apply our acquired knowledge** directly in **helping the special school students**. Our assistive devices could facilitate their learning and provide them with **equal opportunity to access knowledge**”

Students from
Department of Electronic and Information Engineering



Student Learning Reflections

Understanding Community Needs

“A good product design is not necessarily associated with the application of hi-tech. What is more important is to **suit the needs of the target users**. Our cuff-holding device serves this purpose.”



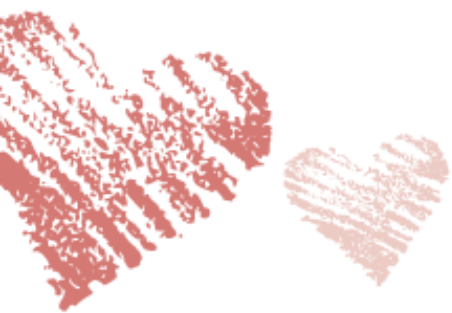
Students from
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Student Learning Reflections

Increasing Empathy

“Besides applying our professional knowledge in helping those needy people in the Chinese mainland, we have also **learnt to become a caring optometrists**, with a heart to serve others.”

Students from
School of Optometry

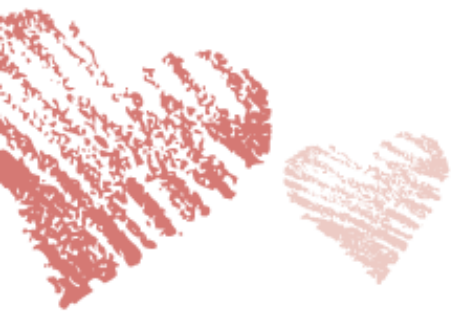


Student Learning Reflections

Being a Leader

“As a team leader, I have **stayed open-minded to listen to others’ views and developed mutual trust** with committee members.”

A student from ‘I Can Fly’ Programme

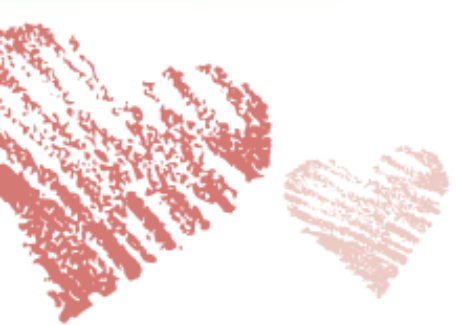


Student Learning Reflections

Developing Team Work

“We have gained better understanding of teamwork. It was my honour to work in a team which was **willing to work together selflessly to achieve the goal.**”

Student from Department of Computing





Student Learning Reflections

Developing Social Responsibility

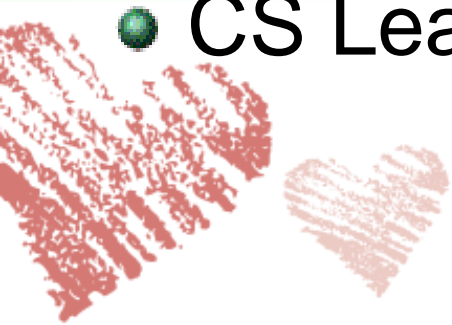
“I think that we do **have the responsibility to serve our community**. We can help to make a difference in the lives of the needy people”

A student from
School of Hotel and Tourism Management





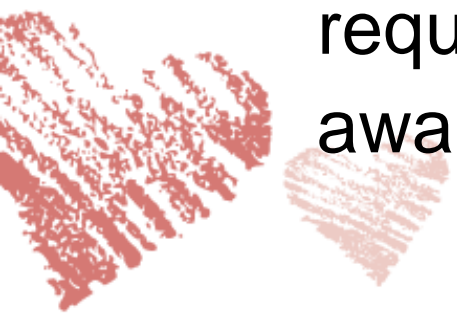
Other Supports

- In 2006, \$780,000 Teaching Development Grant for researches on Community Service Learning
 - Starting from March, 6 seminars for academic staff to share staff experience in helping students learn from such projects
 - CS Learning Grant for students
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How We Celebrate Students' Efforts?

Community Service Awards

- To encourage students to learn and develop through serving the community
- To recognise students' outstanding achievements
- Up to 2006, a total of 117 projects, course-required and self-initiated, competed for the awards



How We Celebrate Students' Efforts?

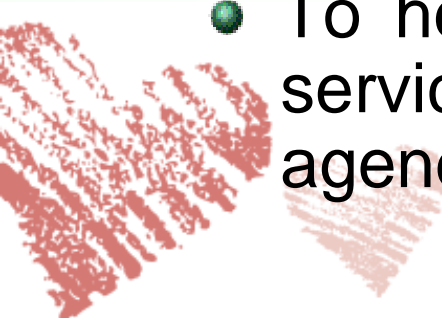
Showcase on Community Service Learning Projects

- Exemplary projects on display
- A chance for students to directly serve the people from the community through health screenings, booths games, exhibition, etc





Our Next Steps

- To gauge and sustain students' learning outcomes
 - To encourage more discipline-based projects and collaborations
 - among PolyU departments
 - with outside organisations
 - Going international
 - To help students think further than provision of services, and reflect on the wider issues and agenda
- 



Thank you!

