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I was born and raised in Minnesota, which is in the northern tier of the United States.
Summertime: Gorgeous!

- Minnesota is known as the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.”
Winter: A Different Story...

- But Minnesota is also known for its spectacular winter weather.
I live and work in Minneapolis, Minnesota’s largest city, with a total regional population of about 4 million people. We are part of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.
Augsburg was founded in 1869 by pious Norwegian Lutheran immigrants.

Our motto: "Education for Service."
Overview: Why Service-Learning Now?

- New Threats: Unprecedented digital tracking and manipulation of our citizens
- S-L may suffer from a perceived lack of *efficiency* in our testing-obsessed schools
- Research on learning strategies supports the effectiveness of S-L
- We need to be even more committed to hands-on, person-to-person pedagogies
The New Digital World

- The new digital world is changing societal roles.
- How?
"Societies have always been shaped more by the nature of the media by which men communicate than by the content of the communication."

Marshall McLuhan in *Understanding Media*
Watching Our Every Move

“If you don't pay for it, then you are the product.”

Examples:

- Google, Facebook and “reality” TV
- Alibaba, Baidu, Tencent, Weibo, Meituan, Dianping, and Meilishuo
Digital Anonymity

- Anonymous messaging systems such as Yik-Yak? (Soon photos, too?) has led to widespread bullying.
- How does digital anonymity impact the way in which children learn to relate to one another?
Narrowing Perspectives

The “Filter Bubble”

▪ What is it?
▪ How does this impact civic awareness and critical thinking?
The New Digital Reality

It appears to me that we have two major issues to examine:

● How does the technology itself impact our youth?
● How is the information that is gathered used to influence youth?
We Don't Understand The Impact

The problems are not well understood because by the time we develop a new research protocol to investigate the impact of these new technologies, the technology has evolved.

*What little we do know at this point suggests poor outcomes for our ourselves and our youth.*
The New Digital World

- “Big data” is changing our society
- Whom do we want to be determining our choices?
- How do we want that influence to be conducted?
Why Service-Learning Now?

● *What we do know is that service-learning works.*

● We service-learning practitioners have a unique perspective on how young people learn and become productive citizens.

● Personal relationships are key.
What Are Schools For?

- Educators must take the lead in the discussion, “what are our schools for”?
  - To accumulate knowledge?
  - To train how to use technology?
Making a Life

- More than reading and computing.
- Where do we learn how to relate, conflict, reconcile, judge, decide, and reflect?
- Education enables our children to do more than make a living; it enables them to make a life.
The “Cult” of Efficiency

- Policymakers may confuse pragmatic efficiency with authentic effectiveness.
- We must avoid the “cult of efficiency.”
A Pedagogy for Citizenship

- S-L has the potential to impact the entire spectrum of cognitive and behavioral skills
- Service-learning is “a pedagogy for citizenship.”
A “High Impact” Strategy

- Research reinforces this claim.
- Using a large scale national sample, investigators sought to identify pedagogies that promote learning that gets to the “deeper meaning of the information.”

What Are These Approaches?

Here are just a few of the "high impact" strategies:

- Integrating ideas or information from various sources
- Included diverse perspectives in class discussions/writing
- Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory
- Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences
- Making judgments about the value of information
- Applying theories to practical problems or in new situations
- Examine the strengths and weaknesses of your own views
- Tried to better understand someone else's view

What are the Effects of Participating in High-Impact Activities on Deep/Integrative Learning and Gains? (Laird, Shoup and Kuh, 2005)

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What are the Effects of Participating in High-Impact Activities on Student Engagement? (Laird, Shoup and Kuh, 2005)

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<th>Active and Collab. Learning</th>
<th>Student-Faculty Interaction</th>
<th>Supportive Campus Env.</th>
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A New (Old) Solution

Given these issues and challenges, and supported by years of research, we need to be even more committed to hands-on, person-to-person pedagogies such as service-learning now more than ever.
The Promise of Service-Learning

Service-learning takes students out of the four walls of the classroom and into the community (and perhaps for a while, off of their mobile screens) seeking to understand the world as it is—messy, complicated, and real!
We must remember that the most effective teachers are not narrowly focused in any one specialty or technique, but instead employ different strategies for different learning situations and therefore possess the power to reach more students.
...But A Powerful and Effective Approach to Learning

- Service-learning has the power to transform the learning process.
- Our commitment must be to continue to fight for hands-on, person-to-person pedagogies such as S-L that have the potential to really impact the lives of our children and the future of our civilization...nothing less!