

October 10, 2011

Dr. Belle Wheelan, President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

Thank you for your interest in the Tennessee Campus Compact (TNCC) and your consideration of service-learning and civic engagement efforts in our region. I regret I cannot attend your meeting with Dr. Mani Hull, but I want to show my support for service-learning as critical, formative experiences for our college students.

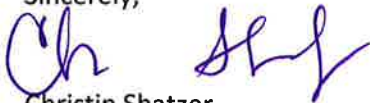
Lipscomb University adopted service-learning as the focus of our institution's Quality Enhancement Plan in 2007. Since its inception, we have seen the program contribute to amazing impacts in our university and surrounding community. Over the years of program development, faculty report that service-learning pedagogy enhances classroom learning and student outcomes in their courses. Our 171 community partners benefit from partnership with Lipscomb students and faculty. Currently, we are offering 41 service-learning classes, with more than 1,200 students contributing over 12,000 hours of service at a value of \$267,000* to our partner organizations.

Our students report that service-learning helps them see the application of their discipline in everyday life, helps them better understand class concepts and ideas, and helps in personal and professional development.

Without the support of Tennessee Campus Compact, we would not have the professional development network and services needed to offer an effective service-learning program that supports student academic development. We are grateful for the TNCC, and ask that SACS continue to support programs and policies that advance service-learning and civic engagement. At this time, it is especially critical for university tenure and promotion guidelines to consider service-learning as a vital strategy for teaching and learning.

Dr. Wheelan, thank you for your support and consideration of service-learning and for offering your leadership in institutional policies so they will reflect the importance of this work.

Sincerely,



Christin Shatzer
Director of Service-Learning
Lipscomb University

* Based on the dollar value of volunteer labor from www.independentsector.org

