
SOUTHWEST

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Dr. Wheelan,

I wish I could be there to help promote the mission of Dr. Hull to keep the doors of service-learning open. Here at Southwest TN Community College, we are devoted to service-learning, as we believe in its value to our students.

Through service-learning activities our students commit themselves to helping a community while applying what they learn in their classes. This is a way for them to connect the dots between what they learn in the classroom to real-world experiences. Often we educators hear students say, "How am I going to apply what I'm learning in my class to my real life?" Well, service-learning provides them with a wide-eyed answer, along with a lesson in civic responsibility.

Students leave a service-learning course with a greater sense of self, a greater knowledge of how they can help their community, connections to organizations and or businesses that they might not have had otherwise, and a practical and applicable knowledge of a subject area.

Personally, I think service-learning is so important that I am writing a grant proposal where I, with the help of Tennessee Campus Compact, create an international service-learning App. This will be a database of service-learning activities that could yield statistical information that we all want to know about service learning in Tennessee. We would begin by collecting data from institutions state-wide that are participating in service-learning activities. With this data, we would connect educational institutions, businesses, non-profits, and other organizations to the world of service-learning. The intention is to share where all in the world Tennessee service-learning schools have gone and share what they have contributed to communities here in Tennessee, nationally, as well as internationally. I would call this a Global Service Learning App, because, although we would start with schools in Tennessee, the vision for this App is much greater. Tennessee schools would be the visible catalyst for growth in learning and civic responsibility. The App would eventually allow for input from schools anywhere; and, it would provide educators and students fresh ideas for service-learning activities.

An engaged student is one who is likely to finish a degree program and become a productive member of society. Service-learning gives students a stake in what they are learning. I am asking that you support Tennessee students by supporting service-learning.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter of support of Dr. Hull and her mission to keep service-learning a viable option for students to learn, grow, collect experience(s), and connect to their community and with the world.

Sincerely,

Denise Malloy

Macon Cove Campus • Union Avenue Campus • Fayette Site • Gill Center • Maxine A. Smith Center • Millington Center • Whitehaven Center

Southwest Tennessee Community College, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an affirmative action/equal opportunity college.