

Community Partners Summit

Arkansas Tech University

Emily Bradley

Coordinator of Leadership & Service



Why are you here?

- Opportunity to:
 - discover ways to connect your agency with Tech students throughout the year
 - gain a greater understanding of how to engage Tech students in volunteering with your organization
 - know HOW to request student volunteers
 - build relationships
 - have an open conversation about community engagement and service in Russellville

Why does this matter?

- Creating a working relationship between Campus Life and community partners
- Connecting Tech students to the Russellville community
- The benefit of college students engaging in service learning
- Focus on providing quality service to Tech students

Overview

- About Me & Introductions
- Understanding the millennial student
- The Life of Tech (college) student
- Best practices for working with and engaging college students to ensure returning volunteers
- How to request Tech student volunteers
- Connecting with Tech students throughout the year
- Volunteer programs at Tech that could benefit your organizations

A little about me...

- My path
 - University of Central Arkansas
 - Bachelor of Communication Studies
 - Clemson University
 - Master of Education - Counselor Education (Student Affairs)
 - Graduate Assistant for Leadership Learning
 - Focused on positive, sustainable, social change
- My Arkansas Tech connection
- The root of my passion for service

My Role at Arkansas Tech

- Coordinator of Leadership & Service
 - Key contact for student volunteers & community engagement projects/initiatives
 - Service Drives
 - Action Days
 - Alternative Spring Break
 - Green & Gold Give Back

Introductions

- Please share
 - Name
 - Agency you are representing
 - Number of years working with your organization
 - Brief goals/objectives of your organization

The Millennial College Student

The Millennial

- Who is a millennial?
 - Individuals born between the early 1980s to the early 2000s
- Largest Generation to date
 - Approx. 80 million babies born since 1980
- Increasing number of young people enrolled in higher education

The Millennial

- What has shaped this generation?
 - National Events
 - 9/11
 - Columbine shooting
 - Virginia Tech shooting
 - Hurricane Katrina

The Millennial

- Seven Characteristics (Neil Howe and William Strauss)
 - Special
 - Sheltered
 - Confident
 - Team-Oriented
 - Achieving
 - Pressured
 - Conventional

The Millennial

- Technology has always been a part of this generation
 - Internet
 - Email
 - Cable
 - Cell phones
 - Social Media
- They are **CONSTANTLY** connected!

The Millennial

- Unique participation in service
 - The evolution of Service-Learning
 - Campus Compact
 - Required service in High School
 - National Service Programs after college graduation
 - Teach for America
 - The Peace Corps
 - AmeriCorps

College Student Volunteer Statistics

- From 2002-2005 (pre-Hurricane Katrina) service increased from 2.7 million to 3.3 million
- 44.1% of students participate in “regular” volunteering (12 or more weeks a year)
- In 2010, Arkansas ranked 11th in regards to the rate of college student volunteers in the United States (<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/rankings/States/College-Student-Volunteer-Rates/2010>)
- Volunteer rates are higher among students who work between 1-15 hours per week

Benefits of Service Learning

“Comparisons with non-service-learning college students revealed that the *service-learning students volunteered more hours, showed larger gains in esteem and protective motives (volunteering made them feel better about themselves and helped them cope with personal problems)*, and showed a marginally significant increase in motivation to volunteer in order to promote personal growth.”

- Eppler, M.A., Ironsmith, M., Dingle, S.H., & Errickson, M.A. (2011)

Benefits of Service Learning

“The findings suggest that life goals and subsequent service participation are a function of students' citizenship predispositions, the intensity and context of service involvement, and, importantly, the benefits that students derive from their service participation. *Becoming a more compassionate and socially aware person as a result of service work is positively linked to committing oneself to a meaningful life marked by helping others, civic engagement, and service.*” - Rockenbach, A., Hudson, T.D., & Tuchmayer, J.B. (2014).



Working with college students

Recruiting college students to volunteer

- Use Social Media

- Gives students a brief snapshot of your organization & volunteer opportunities

- Use the Web

- Allow students to communicate with you via email
- Post information with upcoming opportunities
- Create online forms for students to volunteer
- Include reliable contact information
- Advertise one-time events

Working with college students as volunteers

- Allow students to work in groups
- Be flexible with your hours
 - Remember that students aren't always available 9-5 M-F
 - Some students have evening classes and meetings
 - Students may also have jobs
- Engage the passions of a student

Working with college students as volunteers

- Clearly and thoroughly explain your organizations mission
- Discuss volunteer duties & expectations
 - This may include a brief training or orientation
 - Remember volunteering may be a VERY new experience for these students
- Clearly point out who is their key contact for they day
- Give feedback often

Working with college students as volunteers

- Offer a service learning experience that they can add to their resume
- Allow volunteers to take ownership of their work
- Create a genuine relationship with students
- Make it FUN!!!

The background consists of a light yellow field with several blue geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, arranged in a pattern that suggests a stylized mountain range or a series of peaks and valleys. The shapes are positioned along the top, bottom, and sides of the frame, leaving a large central yellow area.

Break

The Arkansas Tech Student

- 2013: 11,369 students enrolled
 - Target student population involved with Campus Life: 5,000
- Registered Student Organizations
 - 120 RSO's
 - 2,502 students involved in these organizations
- Greek Life
 - 9 active organizations
 - 387 Greek students

Service Learning at Arkansas Tech

- Academic Service Learning
 - Partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Services
 - Faculty seeking out opportunities for collaboration
 - The scholarship of service learning reveals that students who participate in service learning activities make better grades, have higher retention rates, and have greater levels of cultural competency (Pascarella & Tereenzini, 2005; Gallini & Moely, 2003; Mooney & Edwards, 2001.)

Service Learning at Arkansas Tech

- Academic Service Learning
 - Two courses (General Psychology & Introductory Sociology)
 - Student participation
 - 114 students
 - Service Hours provided
 - 1078 hours of service
 - \$7,815.50 free labor hours (minimum wage \$7.25)
 - Food Drive
 - 432 items for local elementary and middle school students
 - Bone Marrow Drive
 - 101 students registered for “Be the Match,” National Bone Marrow

Service Learning at Tech

- Alternative Spring Break
 - Students serve and give back to other communities
 - Engage with a variety of community agencies surrounding:
 - Hunger and Food Security
 - Animal Outreach
 - Health & Wellness
 - Poverty
 - Sustainability
 - Community Development
 - Education
 - Neighborhood Renewal

Service Programs at Tech

- Action Days & Service Drives
 - Strive to have one action drive and one service drive a month during the academic school year
 - YOUR agency could be an Action Day or Service Drive!
- Green & Gold Give Back
 - Campus Wide Community Service program

Greek Life Gives Back

- Phi Mu Phresh Deodorant Drive
- Zeta Think Pink Week
- All Greek Toys for Tots Toy Drive
- Phi Mu/Sigma Pi Canned Food Drive
- Zeta Angel Tree
- Delta Zeta Learn to Listen Week
- Zeta Highway Clean Up
- Delta Zeta Turtle Tug
- Greeks Give Back

Tech students volunteer because...

- They are required to fulfill service hours for:
 - Fraternity or Sorority Involvement
 - Class credit
 - Student Organizations
 - On Track
 - Graduate & Professional school admission
- They want to buff up resume
- They want to engage in the community out of personal desire
- Be willing to provide them with documentation for their service time

Again, try to make this FUN and engaging for students so it's something they ENJOY and not just something they have to check off of their list!

Connecting with Tech students

- Student Involvement Fair
 - Monday August 25th, 6pm-8pm
 - Hindsman Bell Tower
- Community Service Fair
 - September 23rd
 - Hosted by the Arkansas Tech Student Activities Board (SAB)
 - More info coming soon

Requesting a Tech Student Volunteer

- Community Partner Information Form
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kUWh48jSnBeuRzrz9gJ2e6Zoy6QLTweeOd00SsNmr_o/viewform
- Community Partner Volunteer Request
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11FeKw_mfeDZE0ez_tun7bPkgqHA1z9Ki-hQuVSCjUiJI/viewform

Requesting a Tech Student Volunteer

- To maximize the likelihood of working with Tech student volunteers please:
 - Send a request form at least one month in advance
 - Be specific when describing volunteer activities and duties
 - Be accessible for student questions
 - Think about the necessity of orientation or training

Collaboration for community engagement

- Together we can:
 - Make a positive difference in the Russellville community
 - Aid in the development of college students
 - We can help them to become global citizens
 - Create a culture of service and community at Arkansas Tech and in the city of Russellville

Let's Collaborate!

- Please *DO NOT* hesitate to contact me!

Emily Bradley

ebradley8@atu.edu

479-656-0280

248 Doc Bryan Student Services Building



**What do you need from me to make
this a successful partnership?**



**Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Other Discussion?**