



Service Learning for Reading and Other Academic Improvement



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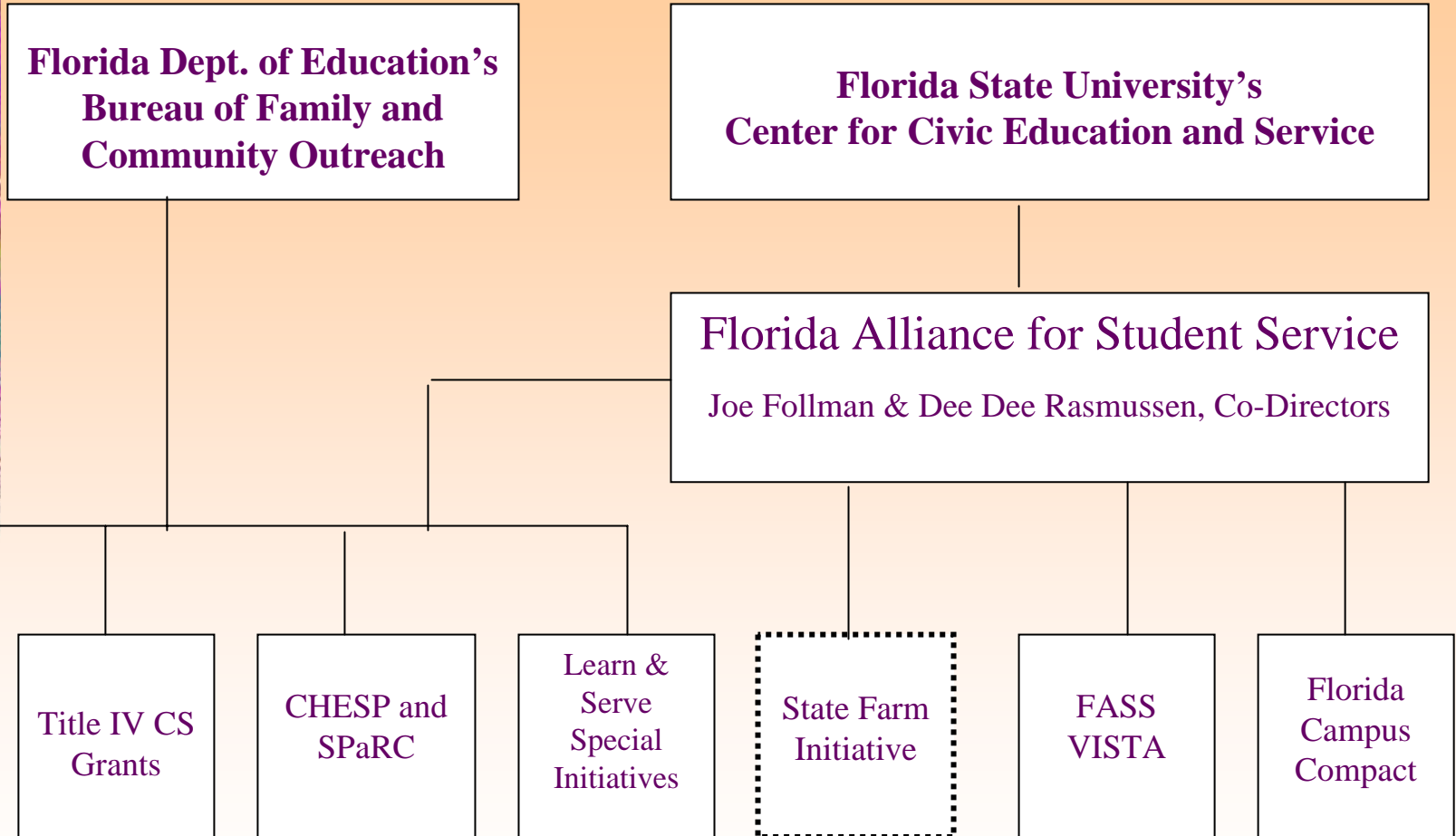


National Service Program

Corporation for National & Community Service

1. **AmeriCorps**, AmeriCorps*VISTA, AmeriCorps*NCCC
2. **Senior Service Corps** (RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions)
3. **Learn & Serve America** (K-12 School- & Community-Based, Higher Education, K-12 Competitive)

Florida's K-Higher Education Service-Learning Partnerships



Department of Education



Florida Alliance for Student Service

- **Florida Learn & Serve** (*\$0.9 million—60-90 projects to schools and school districts*)
- **Florida Campus Compact** (*\$500,000, 46 college/university president members*)
- **FASS VISTA** (*\$150,000—20 VISTAs at K-HE sites*)
- **Community/Higher Education/School Partnership** (*\$350,000—12 projects*)
- **Homeland Security/SPARC** (*\$371,000—7 projects/technical assistance sites statewide*)
- **Learn & Serve Special Initiatives** (*\$475,000—8 projects statewide*)
- **State Farm Service-Learning Initiative** (*\$150,000 at 15 K-HE sites statewide*)




What is Service Learning?

- A method by which students improve academic learning and develop personal and career skills through structured service projects that meet real needs.
- In such projects, students practice skills and behaviors they need to learn via service. Service is a means and application of learning.



3 Key Criteria for Academic Service Learning

- Relevant and meaningful service to the community
- Enhanced academic learning
- Purposeful civic engagement/learning



Components of Effective Service-Learning

Preparation – assignments for research, needs identification and assessment, discussion, site visits, policy examination, project design

Action - service that flows from preparation.
Either direct, indirect, advocacy or research.

Demonstration - presenting, teaching, performing, advocating, etc., about service

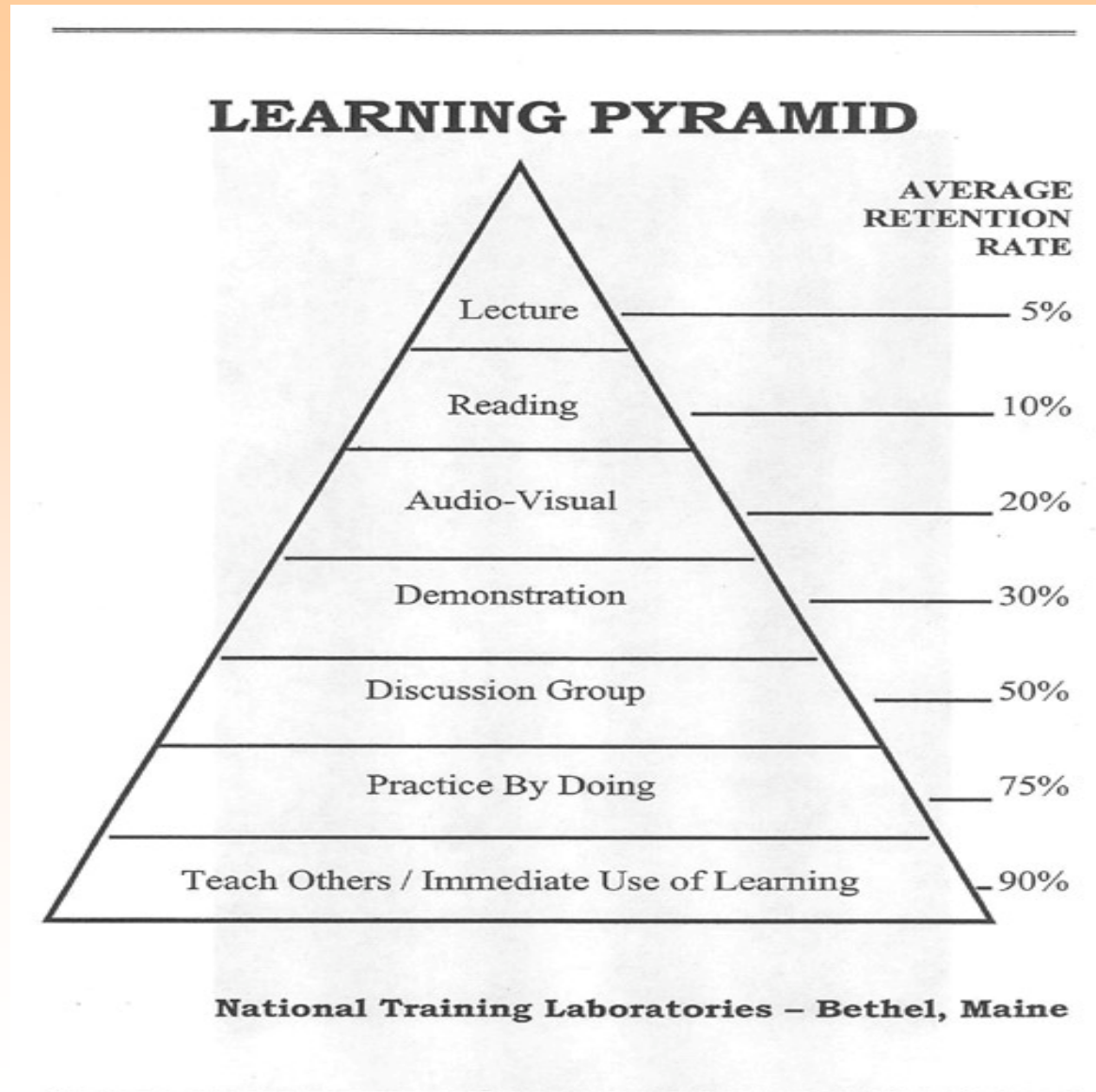
Reflection - writing, discussion, evaluation, future planning, etc., about needs & service



Other Elements of Effective Service Learning

- Recognition - celebrating what students and partners have accomplished
- Reciprocity – collaborating to ensure those who receive service play an active role in defining needs and activities
- Youth Empowerment – integrated into all other components

LEARNING PYRAMID





Types of Service Learning

1. Direct—person-to-person, face-to-face, tutoring, work with elderly, etc.—projects in which students service impacts individuals who receive the service from students.

Affective impact: Care for others, dependability, responsibility, getting along with others who are different, problem-solving, big-picture learning

2. Indirect—environmental, construction, restoration, drives, etc.—projects with clear benefits to a community as opposed to specific individuals.

Affective impact: cooperation, working as a team, playing different roles, organizing, prioritizing, project-specific skill development




Types of Service Learning, cont.

3. Advocacy—working, acting, speaking, writing, lobbying, etc.—projects that create action or awareness on an issue of public interest.

Affective impact: perseverance; understanding rules, systems, and processes; engaged citizenship; working with adults.

4. Research—surveys, studies, evaluations, experiments, interviewing, etc.—projects that find, gather, and report on needed info.

Affective impact: learn how to learn/get answers/find info, make discriminating judgments, work systematically, organize, assess, and evaluate.



Service Learning and Brain-Based Learning (BBL)

- Students learn best when learning situations promote stimulation (sensory & emotional) leading to the discovery of new knowledge rather than through memorization/repetition
- Brain-based learning needs frequent challenges, continual novelty, emotional and physical stimulation, and dramatic feedback for best learning



Service Learning & BBL, Cont.

The Brain Works Best When There is . . .

- **Active engagement** in the learning—SL actively engages learners in hands-on work with others
- **Choice of activity** or project—SL empowers students to choose, design, implement, and evaluate projects
- **Feedback and reflection**—key components of SL
- **Variety and novelty**—SL moves students from theory/concept to reality
- **Complexity and challenge**—SL is real-world application
- **Functioning in a social setting**—SL engages students with others at all stages



Youth Ser·vice-Learn·ing Coun·cil *n.*

1. Youth in charge of youth service-learning mini-grant projects.
2. A group of youth who design, disseminate, review, and select applications to do youth service learning to meet real needs.



Sample Youth Council Projects

- Teach elders how to use computers
- Give tours in a museum
- Write and performed a play about their town
- Write lesson plans for working outdoors
- Teach cooking to younger students
- Write and read books for younger students
- Design and help build a playground
- Conduct/write a town history
- Develop portable museums on Native American culture
- Vermiculture project to recycle lunch-room leftovers
- Cigarette litter awareness campaign
- Teach people how to better take care of their pets
- Build a greenhouse at the school
- Pen pals for elders
- Care for a cemetery
- Teach CPR and fitness to elders
- Welcome video for new students
- Teach conflict resolution



Environmental Service Learning in Florida

- Students engage in instructional and experiential activity that builds understanding of the environment, its needs, and actions beneficial to it.
- Students have hands-on, interactive, contributing relationships with their environment.



Environmental S-L Examples

- Advocacy on environmental issues
- Composting
- Education peers or the community
- Energy Conservation
- Exotic removal/native planting
- Habitat development or restoration
- Land Management (Legacy)
- Recycling
- Research/Documentation (mapping, water testing, flora/fauna counts and monitoring)



Service Learning and Education Reform

- Academic Improvement
- Addressing Standards & High-Stakes Tests
- Prevention and Intervention
- Civic Engagement/Citizenship
- Experiential/Hands-on learning
- School-to-Work/Career Exposure
- Alternative learning styles
- Community/Business/School relations
- Alternative assessment
- Technology, 3Rs, parent involvement, etc.



Service Learning & At-Risk Youth

- Promotes connections/bonding
- Builds self-esteem/empowers
- Promotes values
- Career exploration/skill development
- Accommodates difference learning styles
- Exposure to different kinds of people
- Promotes constructive risk and expression
- Reciprocity—students give and receive



Moses parting his hair



Impacts of Service Learning

1. **Cognitive** (academic, problem-solving, performance on tests)
2. **Civic domains** (interested in community, likely to serve in future, feelings of efficacy)
3. **Personal/social domains** (caring about others, patience, personal responsibility, cultural sensitivity, confidence, avoidance or risk behavior, empowerment)
4. **Career exploration skills** (knowledge of career paths, workplace literacy)



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