

Institution

Kwantlen Polytechnic
University

Principal Researcher

Larissa Petrillo (Director
(interim), CIR:CLE (The
Centre for Interdisciplinary
Research: Community
Learning Engagement))

Research Field

Community Engagement

Student Involvement

1 student research assistant

Partners

& Collaborators

Non-profit organizations in
BC Lower Mainland

Funding Sources

No additional funding

Project Location

British Columbia, Lower
Mainland (Surrey, Vancouver,
Richmond, Langley,
Cloverdale)

Connecting Non-Profit Organizations & Faculty – KPU’s CIR:CLE Cycle, 2013

Non-profit organization member: “I want to get Canada to pass a Disability Act. How can I get news coverage for something like that?”

Faculty member: I teach a course in Journalism at KPU that covers off-cycle media. Maybe we could bring this question into the classroom?

As interim Director of CIR:CLE (The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning Engagement), Larissa Petrillo has introduced a new concept to facilitate community service learning projects at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

This has involved a research component, in speaking with other institutions to gauge their involvement in community service learning. Discussions have included brainstorming ways to streamline this type of learning, as well as pinning down some of the theories behind this work, such as differentiating between community service learning and experiential learning.

As part of this endeavor a full survey was conducted with Faculty of Arts faculty and a database was created to indicate levels of interest in community service learning. Additionally, a full database was created for all non-profit organizations in the Lower Mainland, to determine possible project partners.

Community service learning, or experiential learning, is currently being practiced at all university campuses in the Vancouver region. Very little effort has been made to document what is going on and what future steps might look like in this area. There is an increased emphasis on community partnering in all sectors of BC right now, so how can we facilitate the process so that community partners and academics are more easily able to connect and partner?

As a companion to the research that is taking place in this area, CIR:CLE began running CIR:CLE cycles in the summer (2013). These are set up with equal numbers of faculty and non-profit organization members in attendance. A quick ‘meet and greet’ is organized in a systematic way that facilitates quick information transfer to assess if there are possibilities for faculty and the non-profit organizations to work together for their upcoming classes. This streamlines the process of figuring out what projects to run, in order to benefit the student experience. This process is currently faculty-led, and the cycles are an easy way for non-profit organizations to quickly check in with their local university options. These partnerships could easily build into collaboration on research projects, as well.

PACE Research Report



CIR:CLE CYCLE, June, 2013

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research:
Community Learning Engagement

Meet and Greet for Non-profit organizations
& Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic
Organization

Held at Richmond Nature Park Society

An opportunity to see if there are
connections for community service learning,
or experiential learning.

Faculty learn from representatives at non-
profit organizations about their current
projects and organization needs.

Faculty are able to easily assess if they have
an upcoming course that they can run with
the non-profit organization.

