How does community engagement help prepare students for the job market?

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Students participating in community engagement and community service activities gain valuable skills and experience that can help build a career in nearly any sector of society. Students use their experiences to increase marketability to employers.

Many jobs today ask or require potential employees to have the following skills or experience. This list was culled from actual job postings in a variety of fields: criminal justice, technology, health services, engineering, business management:

1. Demonstrated ability to work with persons of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, disability, and ethnic backgrounds.
2. Demonstrated commitment to the increased understanding of, sensitivity to, and respect for all cultural groups, women, and the disabled.
3. Establish and maintain cooperation/working relationships.
4. Communicate verbally, including giving verbal assistance or directions.
5. Conduct public relations activities such as making presentations to a variety of groups.
6. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
7. Ability to work well under pressure, analyze and evaluate a variety of situations.
8. Provide motivational leadership and day-to-day supervision of employees.
9. Support and model the company's ethics and core values; hold employees accountable to the same standards.
10. Take direction well, and then execute independently.

Students who regularly take part in community service activities experience, practice, and develop the following:

1. Exposure to and work with a wide range of ethnicities, cultures, socioeconomic levels, and family structures.
2. Work in general cooperation with other volunteers, staff, and the public.
3. Communicate verbally with clientele and give assistance.
4. Give presentations or teach lessons to clientele.
5. Practice communicating in a public and professional setting.
6. Evaluate and respond in new situations, environments.
7. Work as part of a functioning team of staff and volunteers or independently.
8. Meet the goals and standards of the organization.
9. Take directions to complete projects.
10. Motivate and encourage others involved in the project or the clientele receiving the service.