The Benefits of Community-Based Learning Experiences for College Students: personal, professional, and social responsibility

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Why focus on personal, professional, and social responsibility? Why not just get trained for a job?

To prepare students for future careers/employment!

From a 2009 employer survey AAC&U

Employers believe that colleges should be placing more emphasis on several key learning outcomes to increase graduates’ potential to be successful and contributing members of today’s global economy. The areas in which employers feel that colleges most need to increase their focus include:

1) written and oral communication,
2) critical thinking and analytical reasoning,
3) the application of knowledge and skills in real-world settings,
4) complex problem-solving and analysis,
5) ethical decision-making,
6) teamwork skills,
7) innovation and creativity, and
8) concepts and developments in science and technology.
To be a 360 degree professional, you need to be a 360 degree person

Employers want their employees to use a broader set of skills and have higher levels of learning and knowledge than in the past to meet the increasingly complex demands they will face in the workplace.

Employers’ expectations of employees have increased.

% who agree with each statement:

• Our company is asking employees to take on more responsibilities and to use a broader set of skills than in the past 88%

• Employees are expected to work harder to coordinate with other departments than in the past 88%

• The challenges employees face within our company are more complex today than they were in the past 90%

• To succeed in our company, employees need higher levels of learning and knowledge today than they did in the past 91%

How do I become a 360 degree person?

• Understanding personal, professional, and social responsibility can help you develop a strong sense of self-determination and give you the best possible opportunity to succeed.

• Caring for the self, building a career, and contributing to society are not exclusive endeavors. In this workshop, you will learn and practice techniques for reducing stress, finding your career path, and building social capital.
Social Responsibility: Building Social Capital

• ‘Social capital’ refers to the many ways the workplace intersects with our personal lives and the communities we live in.

• Companies often want to build social capital to create goodwill, increase client base, keep a steady employee base, and invest in their future workforce. We might ask: Does a company sponsor volunteer events for its employees? Does it have a community grants or giving program? Does it support environmentally friendly or ‘green’ practices? Does it connect with k-12 or higher education for internships or educational programs?

• On a personal level, social capital asks us to consider if we find meaning, or are encouraged to find meaning in our work and the people we work with. We might ask: Do our jobs take up too much of our lives? Do we find meaning in our work or the people we work with? Does the company invest in the health and welfare of its employees?