

Civically Engaged Scholar



Brittany Stephenson
Assistant Professor
English

Professor Brittany Stephenson has a sincere passion for teaching and a fervent commitment to using service-learning pedagogy in her classes. In 2007, Brittany received a Service-Learning Grant & Designation award for her English 1010 course. Her research activities include extensive work investigating the connection between service-learning and civic engagement in relation to student retention in the collegiate environment.

She has presented her research at several conferences including the National Council of Teachers of English in 2008, the Conference on College Composition and Communication in 2010, and the Utah NASPA conference in 2010. Brittany also demonstrates her commitment to social justice by serving on the planning committee for the SLCC Writing & Social Justice conference, to be held in April 2011 and to welcome Nicholas Kristof as its keynote speaker. Furthermore, in addition to her scholarly and professional activities at SLCC, Brittany is personally invested in addressing social issues in the Salt Lake Valley.

"Students learn best when they make meaningful connections with the course content and with each other. Service-learning composition courses, being grounded in a pedagogy that is both student and process centered, help students create these meaningful connections and help them see that their writing matters."

Civically Engaged Staff Member



Jon Glenn
Director
Jordan Campus Library

Jon had his first volunteer experience as a student in the University of Utah's Bennion Center. He traveled to Bolivia to learn about building wells and medical practices in the developing world. Jon has advised three different Alternative Spring Break trips. In 2005 he worked in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco, serving meals at a shelter, working with the homeless youth population, and learning about community-based grassroots organizations. In 2007 he partnered with the residents of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, which was completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The most recent trip was to Seattle, Washington, where he planted trees in areas that had been cleared of invasive species. The ASB team also moved and repotted over a 1000 trees to be used in reforestation efforts. Jon will advise another trip to Seattle this spring.

"ASB trips weren't about me being a leader. I was a follower, a learner, and a team member. I gained and grew from these experiences every bit as much as the students. All of the ASB trips were new and life expanding opportunities."

Civically Engaged Student Group



Desa-Rae Robertson

New Media Leader Initiative

Desa-Rae Robertson and Whitney Rose are exemplary leaders at Salt Lake Community College, and both are members of SLICE (Student Leaders in Civic Engagement). Desa-Rae has been a SLICE leader for three years and Whitney for two years. Both are also Civically Engaged Scholars and part-time AmeriCorps members. They have each logged well over 900 hours of service to date. In 2010 they were selected to serve as New Media Leaders in partnership with a prestigious grant from the American Association of Community Colleges. Desa-Rae manages social media for Wasatch Community Gardens and Whitney manages social media for the Crossroads Urban Center Community Food Co-op. For the New Media Leaders project alone, they have logged over 75 hours a semester, working on-site at their partner organizations to use social media to recruit SLCC students and community members.

"Being a mentor for SLICE has been humbling. Being able to empower the other members on SLICE, and to have them look up to me is the most gratifying feeling." -Desa-Rae Robertson

"Experiencing the complete community awareness, joy, compassion, and empowerment that SLICE and school leadership programs have provided has been nothing less than a miracle in my life."
-Whitney Rose



Whitney Rose

Committed Community Partner



Linda Hilton
CORC Project Director, Church Liaison, Resource Coordinator
Crossroads Urban Center

Linda Hilton works at Crossroads Urban Center in downtown Salt Lake City and has long been a strong partner of the Thayne Center for Service & Learning. Crossroads Urban Center is a non-profit, grassroots organization that assists and organizes low income, disabled, and minority Utahns. Linda receives this award for her dedication to service-learning students at Salt Lake Community College. Linda and Crossroads Urban Center are connected to the Community Food Co-op of Utah, where our student leaders serve on a weekly basis. Linda has been the keynote and facilitator of many SLCC Oxfam Hunger Banquets, informing citizens about food scarcity on a local, national, and global level. She also takes groups of students interested in understanding Capitol Hill and learning how to influence legislation. Linda educates our students about how they can make a difference politically. She is part of a coalition that fights hunger and an increasing food tax by informing students about economic social justice, and by encouraging them to sign petitions against these laws.

"I believe that students must see the connection between their academic studies and real world applications to give substance to what they are learning. Higher education service-learning programs do just that. It is a joy to watch students grow as they participate in this program."