Research exercise: Working Together for a Greater Tomorrow

Sarah L. Dickson  
*University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu*

Brittany J. Hornick  
*University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu*

Anais M. Nin  
*University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu*

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Working Together For A Greater Tomorrow
A Social Justice Learning and Living Cohort Community Project
2012 Service Learning Experience

Abstract

As members of the Building Communities through Social Justice Learning and Living Cohort (BCSJLC), we aimed to assist students in grades one through five in acquiring the skills needed to succeed in the educational environment. Through various experiences at the University of Dayton, we focused on understanding social justice issues and providing meaningful service experiences for the students. We aimed to promote the power and strength of equality education.

Building Communities for Social Justice LLC Mission Statement

We are a living learning community that engages in a process of intellectual inquiry, promotes social justice, and creates spaces for critical reflection upon the lived experiences of others.

The Cave

John Rawls (1921-2002) was an American philosopher educated at Princeton University who taught at Cornell, Oxford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard. While teaching at Harvard, Rawls developed and composed his most prominent book, *The Theory of Justice*. The philosophical theory of justice developed by Rawls in *A Theory of Justice* has been revolutionary in the philosophical community because it was innovative and fresh, pulling away from the previously established view of utilitarianism. The utilization of the concept of a system that was consistent on balancing the greatest number with the greatest good for all contributed to benefits everyone equally based on abilities, as opposed to benefits from just a few. This theory encourages undergraduate research that is informed by the experiences of service learning.

A Theory of Social Justice

John Rawls (1921-2002) was an American philosopher educated at Princeton University who taught at Cornell, Oxford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard. While teaching at Harvard, Rawls developed and composed his most prominent book, *The Theory of Justice*. The philosophical theory of justice developed by Rawls in *A Theory of Justice* has been revolutionary in the philosophical community because it was innovative and fresh, pulling away from the previously established view of utilitarianism. The utilization of the concept of a system that was consistent on balancing the greatest number with the greatest good for all contributed to benefits everyone equally based on abilities, as opposed to benefits from just a few. This theory encourages undergraduate research that is informed by the experiences of service learning.

Outcomes

Gain personal experience while assisting the students of Dayton.

Provide inspiration for students to overcome academic challenges and on-station higher education.

Positively impact college students at the University of Dayton.

Reflection

Annie

My experience at DECA has increased my passion for assisting others. I enjoyed working with Ana and Dia, helping them to overcome the challenges school can sometimes bring. I am grateful for the relationships built with other student and staff. In my time at DECA, I was able to apply the theories and concepts I learned during my studies to real-world situations. The experience has taught me valuable lessons about leadership, teamwork, and the importance of giving back to the community. I continue to apply the skills and knowledge gained during my time at DECA in my current role and future endeavors.

Brittany

My experience with the students of the Dayton Public School System has been invaluable. Not only have I learned more from the students, but I have also learned more about myself. I have come to realize that every student has the potential and opportunity to achieve their goals. I have learned that by using the strategies and techniques taught to me during my time at DECA, I am able to make a positive impact on the lives of others. I feel that this experience has prepared me for a future in social work and the importance of working with and supporting those who need it most.