2016 ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING ESSAY CONTEST

The Academic Service-Learning (AS-L) Student Essay contest, established in 1998, celebrates 18 years of student excellence this upcoming spring semester! This contest continues to support student achievement and the essential reflection process that is so vital to AS-L and student learning.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time/Part-time graduate and undergraduate students who have participated in an AS-L project during Summer 2015, Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 on any of the University’s campuses are eligible to enter the contest.

OPENING DATES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Essays will be accepted from February 8, 2016 through April 8, 2016. All essays should be sent to:

Queens Campus
Louis E. Saavedra, Coordinator of AS-L
Office of Academic Service-Learning
Lourdes Hall
saavedrl@stjohns.edu
718.990.6499

Staten Island Campus
Dr. Bryce Davis, Associate Director of AS-L
Office of Academic Service-Learning
Loretto Library, Room 101
davisb@stjohns.edu
718.390.4357

STUDENT NOTIFICATION DATE:

Winners will be notified via e-mail by May 2, 2016.

St. Vincent de Paul has said, “The poor have much to teach you. You have much to learn from them.” Please visit the St. John’s website to learn more about our Vincentian heritage at St. John’s: http://www.stjohns.edu/about/vincentian-heritage

The Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA) brings faculty, administrators, and students together to address poverty and social justice both here in New York City and around the globe. Please click here to learn more about VISA: http://www.stjohns.edu/faith-service/social-action/vincentian-institute-social-action. Academic Service-Learning, which is a part of VISA, is a classroom/experiential site-based program that involves students in some form of required community service that benefits the common (public) good and uses service as a means of understanding course concepts. The service activity meets course objectives, and through reflection students examine issues pertaining to social justice and responsibility.

YOUR ESSAY SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- What did you do when you served? What did you observe, hear, and read while serving?
- How did the service experience relate to the learning objectives of your course and what you have learned in the classroom?
- How did your feelings about the population you served change or grow after serving?
- How was this service connected to the Vincentian Mission of the University, to search out the causes of poverty and social injustice and to encourage solutions which are adaptable, effective, and concrete?
- How has this service affected your worldview on social justice issues?
- How has this service enabled you to assist your community partner to address social justice problems?

ESSAY GUIDELINES:

- All essays must be academically relevant to the class in which it is assigned.
- Essay length should be a maximum of three pages.
- All materials must be the original work of the person submitting the essay.
- The essay should be double spaced with a 12 point font.
- The title page must include:
  - Title of essay centered approximately in the middle of the page.
  - In the lower right corner, student name; student X number; student e-mail address; AS-L class name and course number; faculty name; and semester when course was taken

PRIZES/AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$500 Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$250 Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$100 Award</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>