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January 10–11, 2008  
Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

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# Problem-Based Service-Learning Institute

An Innovative Teaching Approach  
for Higher Education Faculty in All Disciplines



Vermont | Campus Compact

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Middlebury College  
Alliance for Civic Engagement



# Problem-Based Service-Learning Institute

## January 10–11, 2008

### An Innovative Teaching Approach for Higher Education Faculty in All Disciplines

**Problem-Based Service-Learning** is a pedagogy that organizes teaching and learning around a community problem or a research question developed in conjunction with the community. Well-designed community projects integrated into a course allow students to gain deeper understanding of academic content while applying their learning to real world problems.

Students become more engaged in their learning as they see first-hand how they can use acquired knowledge to meet community needs. Additionally, students learn to collaborate, problem-solve and make connections between theory and larger social issues, enriching both personal and civic development.

PBSL allows faculty to achieve their course learning objectives while engaging students and serving the community. Many faculty members feel that integrating service-learning into their curriculum stimulates their students to learn content material on a deeper level, while building stronger relationships among students, the faculty member and the community.

#### Institute Outcomes:

The Institute consists of two days of highly interactive sessions. Participants will be introduced to Problem-Based Service-Learning and engaged in curriculum redesign or development with support and feedback from facilitators and peers. Participants will leave the Institute with:

- A PBSL course design for one of their courses.
- Tools and strategies for curriculum design, engaging students, performance-based assessment, and working with community partners.
- Ideas for potential community partners or service projects.
- A network of peers experienced in civic engagement, service-learning, and problem-based service-learning.

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*“PBSL...gives us the opportunity to immediately practice, in real-life situations, what we are learning, in a safe and supportive environment. The best part for me was knowing that we were not only learning new subject matter ourselves, but giving it a swift turn-around by helping to solve real-life problems, individually and in groups, as we served our community partners. The work that we were given became truly meaningful, prepared us better for life beyond school and gave us some mentors in the process. The greatest reward was seeing the fruits of our labors, learning about our mistakes and knowing that we helped someone, who helped us back!”*

—Tina DuBosque, Student at Marlboro College Graduate Center

#### A Sampling of PBSL Projects

- At Green Mountain College, students in Sue Sutheimer’s General Chemistry II class researched historic pharmaceuticals and created a database on the names and uses of the drugs in a Civil War era pharmaceutical kit for the Poultney Historical Society.
- At Middlebury College, Jon Isham’s Conservation and Environmental Policy class researched the effects of urban sprawl on the economy of the town of Middlebury and presented their findings to town members and officials.

## Institute Facilitators

**Tom Redden** is Associate Professor of History and Politics at Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vermont and has been using service-learning in his courses for over 10 years.

**Kelly Young** is Chair of the Prevention and Community Development Program at Woodbury College in Montpelier, Vermont. Kelly has experience

designing and teaching PBSL courses, developing community partnerships (long- & short-term) and connecting community partnerships to the curriculum.

*Both Tom and Kelly are members of the Northern New England Faculty Consultant Program and are Problem-Based Service-Learning Institute alumni. They are available for on-campus service-learning consultations.*

## Logistics

**To Apply:** Please complete the Institute Application form and send electronically (if possible) to [clower@middlebury.edu](mailto:clower@middlebury.edu). Payment of \$150 should be sent under separate cover to the address below and must arrive by November 28, 2007. Please make checks payable to "Vermont Campus Compact." No refunds after December 7, 2007.

Send application and payment by November 28, 2007 to:

Cheryl Whitney Lower  
Vermont Campus Compact  
Marbleworks Complex, 152 Maple St., Suite G-1  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
[clower@middlebury.edu](mailto:clower@middlebury.edu)

**Cost:** The cost of the Institute is \$150. This fee covers breakfasts, lunches and snacks on Thursday and Friday, as well as a copy of *Problem Based Service-Learning: A Fieldguide for Making a Difference in Higher Education*. Dinner on Thursday night is on your own, but please feel welcome to join Institute facilitators and participants at a local Middlebury restaurant.

**Accommodations:** Accommodations are available at the Middlebury Inn. A block of rooms has been reserved at a discount rate, but you must call the Inn at (802) 388-4961 to reserve your room. To guarantee a room and receive the discount rate, you must call the Middlebury Inn by December 21, 2007 and mention Vermont Campus Compact. Rates are \$88 for a single and \$98 for a double.

For additional information, please contact Cheryl Whitney Lower at (802) 443-2507 or [clower@middlebury.edu](mailto:clower@middlebury.edu). Additional brochures and application forms are available on the Vermont Campus Compact Web site: [www.vtcampuscompact.org](http://www.vtcampuscompact.org).

## Learn More ...

*This institute was one of the most powerful training programs in which I have participated. I especially appreciated the concrete examples and case studies, which gave me ideas for modifying my own courses immediately, the practical suggestions for developing partnerships between institutions of higher education and community organizations, and meeting colleagues at other institutions of higher education in Vermont with whom I have stayed in contact.*

—Tom Hudspeth  
Professor, Environmental Program and Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, UVM

### **An Opportunity for You to:**

- Invigorate and transform your teaching.
- Join a statewide network of higher education service-learning practitioners.
- Design a learning environment that enhances skills and competencies, and encourages students to take responsibility for learning.
- Develop quality partnerships between your institution and a community organization and help make a difference in your community.
- Receive follow-up support and technical assistance to develop service-learning courses.



### **Directions to Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College from Route 7**

From the South:

Take Rt. 7 North into Middlebury. As you approach the town square and the Middlebury Inn, bear left around the square staying in the middle lane and following signs for Route 125 West. Turn left onto Main Street or Route 125. At the fork, follow signs for Route 30 (also called South Main Street). After passing the Arts Center and the field house complex on your left, go half way up a gradual hill and take a left onto Golf Course Road. Kirk Alumni Center is to the right at the top of the hill. Parking areas are located to the right and left of Kirk.

From the North:

Take Route 7 South into Middlebury. Go through one set of lights. At the large white Congregational Church, turn right into the center of town. You will be on Route 125 West. Follow directions from above to Kirk Alumni Center.

### **An Opportunity for Your students to:**

- Engage actively in their learning.
- Apply learning to real world problems.
- Gain a deeper understanding of academic content.
- Be contributing members of their communities.
- Work together to make a difference in the world.
- Explore the benefits of campus-community collaboration.

*Please complete this application and return by November 28, 2007. Space is limited to 20 participants.*  
If necessary, we will determine participation based on completion of the application and ensuring a representation of faculty from a variety of campuses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information where you can be reached and receive mail during December/January if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been teaching in higher education? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been at your current institution? \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know about any special needs. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed application as an e-mail attachment (if possible) to [clower@middlebury.edu](mailto:clower@middlebury.edu). A Word document of this application is available at [www.vtcampuscompact.org/pbsl](http://www.vtcampuscompact.org/pbsl). Payment of \$150 (checks payable to *Vermont Campus Compact*) should be sent under separate cover by Wednesday, November 28, 2007 to:

Cheryl Whitney Lower  
Vermont Campus Compact  
152 Maple Street, Suite G-1  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753  
E-mail: [clower@middlebury.edu](mailto:clower@middlebury.edu)  
Tel. : 802-443-2507

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No refunds after December 7, 2007.

*Additional brochures and applications are available at [www.vtcampuscompact.org/pbsl](http://www.vtcampuscompact.org/pbsl)*

*please complete other side*

*Please answer the following questions:*

1. List the courses you are currently teaching. Indicate which of these, if any, are service-learning courses. If appropriate, please also indicate service-learning courses you have taught in the past.
2. Why do you want to participate in this program? What do you hope to gain from participation in the PBSL Institute? What do you hope your students and/or your community will gain from your participation?
3. What support for service-learning is there on your campus (institutionally and culturally)?
4. What role might you play on your campus to promote service-learning and community collaboration?
5. What community issues are important to you? What, if any, community organizations are you involved with, for instance as a volunteer or board member?

If possible, please include an indication of support from your Chief Academic Officer or Department Chair. (This may be a letter, a short paragraph, or at the least, a signature.)

*Please use additional paper if needed.*