

McCook Community College students team up with community leaders for service learning project

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Thirteen students in the McCook Community College's business communications class teamed up with local foundations and non-profit organizations this semester for the first of its kind, service learning project.

According to Donna Harr, course instructor, "The purpose of a Service Learning Project is to provide structured activities that link academic content and standards to the business world. Service Learning Projects tap into both community and student resources and skills and enrich the learning experiences while encouraging civic involvement."

Students were paired with the Executive Director from the following seven local organizations: Terri Shipshock of Community Hospital Health Foundation, Gene Morris with the Fox Theater Alliance, Denise Ringenberg of Hillcrest Nursing Home Foundation, Stephanie Gunter of McCook College Foundation, Don Harpst of McCook Community Foundation, Linda Shiffelbein with the McCook United Way, and Mike Gonzales of the YMCA

The project required students to research their assigned organizations prior to the initial interview with the executive directors. Students were asked to assess the types of technology used and the common forms of communication used by their respective partner. Students evaluated written documents of the partners and composed their own documents based on hypothetical case studies. The students and the partners met recently for a final discussion of their written work and to complete their project.

Harr said students came to the project with varied experiences and from different majors, including business, business technology, and graphic design.

"They approached their evaluations and writing experiences from the viewpoint of their major field of study, thus linking their academic content to the business world," Harr said.

Some of the students will participate in an internship program later in their course of study at MCC.

Students involved included Aaron Goodenberger, Stacy Howell, Andy Lambing, Deanna Struck, and Kelsey Shoup of McCook, Jon Bandars of Lincoln, Russell Ridlen and Trevor Ridlen of Palisade, Tara Long of Sidney, Sara Wimer of Trenton, Stacey Wright of Wauneta, Keenan Davison of Wray, CO, and Jonathan Estis of Monroe, LA.