

University of Central Florida

STARS

High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall
2024

High Impact Practices Student Showcase

Fall 2024

Service-Learning Course

Shanzida Toha

University of Central Florida, sh549851@ucf.edu

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2024fall>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Service Learning is brought to you for free and open access by the High Impact Practices Student Showcase at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2024 by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Toha, Shanzida, "Service-Learning Course" (2024). *High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2024*. 57.

<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2024fall/57>

Hello, I am Shanzida T. and this is my Service-Learning presentation for my LDR course: LDR 3905 - Directed Independent Study: Section: 0W60, Leadership Lab Foundations.

Reflecting on my service-learning experience, I recognize that I used to judge first-generation immigrants who struggled with English. Over time, I realized this was unfair, as I hadn't considered their individual challenges. This shift in perspective led me to become more open-minded, seek new experiences, and pursue my passion for helping others through direct patient care. I realized that engaging in leadership-based service learning could enhance my empathy and leadership abilities, which has become central to my personal and professional growth.

- Here's a list of the skills I've learned and applied in this community work:
- 1. Leadership
- 2. Empathy
- 3. Communication
- 4. Planning and Organizing Schedules
- 5. Consistency
- 6. Determination
- 7. Problem-solving
- 8. Adaptability
- 9. Critical Thinking
- 10. Collaboration

Time Management: Balancing project demands with other academic or personal commitments may lead to delays or stress.

Balancing Academic and Service Commitments: Balancing coursework, project deadlines, and direct community work can be overwhelming, especially when each demands a high level of dedication. This balance becomes even trickier if your service commitment requires substantial travel or time outside regular class hours.

Maintaining Professional Boundaries: When working closely with a community, establishing and maintaining boundaries can be difficult.

Balancing Personal Biases and Objectivity: Working with communities can stir up strong emotions, especially when encountering social issues like inequality, poverty, or lack of access to basic needs. Service-learning aims to address these issues with empathy, but there can be a fine line between helping and imposing. Learning to be a compassionate observer, rather than a

rescuer, and addressing your own biases toward the community you're serving will be essential yet challenging.

I've also become more competent in specific skills, including project management, public speaking, and team collaboration. These skills are directly applicable to my future career goals, particularly in healthcare, where these competencies are essential in managing teams and patient care. I learned to approach situations with an open mind, recognizing the different perspectives and values that everyone brought to the table.

This project was important because it allowed me to make a real difference in the community while also learning valuable leadership and problem-solving skills. It gave me the opportunity to apply academic knowledge in a practical setting, and it has inspired me to continue to make an impact both locally and globally.

Throughout the project, I reflected on my personal values and how they aligned with the UCF Creed. I realized the importance of integrity and community in my leadership style, as I strived to make ethical decisions that benefitted the larger community. Self-reflection was crucial in understanding how my leadership experiences shaped my character and self-awareness. This experience reinforced my desire to pursue a career focused on making a difference in healthcare and community advocacy.

My involvement in this project has also reinforced my professional and civic goals, and I've learned how to connect past experiences to future aspirations in both service and leadership. It gave me the opportunity to apply academic knowledge in a practical setting, and it has inspired me to continue to make an impact both locally and globally.