

Ecological Sustainability in Adult and Higher Education, WWU
May 29, 2017 – Gail M Goulet

This is a report on my participation and project for this year.

Participation:

I usually need five reasons, three of them very good ones, to do anything. Listed here are the reasons I had to join this year's WWU Center for Service Learning Community Engagement Fellows:

1. I needed some fellowship; a community of practice; sharing with kindred spirits,
2. I wanted to get to know more community members to help my students find Field Experiences where they could contribute in meaningful ways,
3. I love Service-Learning and other community engagement pedagogies and was contemplating delivering a graduate AHE Service Learning course on the topic,
4. I wanted to contribute to other fellows' projects,
5. Travis asked me.

The above aims were more than fulfilled. I had a wonderful experience, and I made acquaintance with diverse faculty and community members, learned about, and input into their projects, which were very varied. I enjoyed the small group meetings off campus as well as additional community engagement festivities and other informational meetings.

I was able to refer one community member to the Human Services Internship Fair where she was successful in recruiting an intern for the non-profit she works with. I was able to put two faculty at Whatcom Community College in touch; one a student in our program who was able to help her colleague develop a syllabus for a new and challenging course. My Service Learning course (AHE 518 Winter 2017) went very well.

I also enjoyed participating in a panel presentation about our experiences at the Community to University Conference, C2UExpo 2017 at Simon Fraser University on their Vancouver campus.

Overview of project:

I worked on a four credit graduate course called Ecological Sustainability in Adult and Higher Education, AHE 518(4). My course is going to be much stronger with the other fellows' input, and the contacts I made through Travis and the fellowship.

The course will have:

1. a place based focus
2. strong linkages to people working in our area on environmental issues
3. a service-learning component
4. assignments of benefit to the current issues, community and the environment
5. field trips

I know I am going to love this course this summer and I am pretty sure the students will too! The contacts I have made will surely be beneficial to the students and to the organizations. I do expect some cognitive dissonance/ disorienting dilemmas, as Gloria Steinem says, "The truth shall set you free, but first it will piss you off".

A huge THANK YOU to Travis. Let the community engagement continue!