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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SHORT PROGRAM: SERVICE-LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SPSLCE)

Service Learning (SL) is a teaching approach that integrates community interaction into academic learning programs while addressing the needs of communities at the same time. SL offers specific differences as well as similarities with other forms of experiential learning. The difference and importance is the mutual equal concern/ interest of service and learning and the student's development of civic responsibility. SL has become an effective vehicle for producing civically minded graduates who has a broader perspective of the world in an era of globalization. Experiential learning contributes significantly to the professional development of students and is supported by most professional boards.

The Office for Service-Learning (OSL) in the Division for Community Interaction (DCI) was established to promote and support SL at the Stellenbosch University (SU). The vision of the OSL is to have at least one service-learning module included in every academic program by 2015.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the accredited short program in service-learning and community engagement for academic and other staff members **who are interested in practicing SL or are responsible for managing SL and CE in their faculty or institution.** This course was designed to replace the previously offered capacity building programs. The participants of this course earn 24 credits on HEQF Level 9 rewarded as a certificate of competence. The benefit of this qualification is an addition to a CV and the credits may be offered as credit for an relevant Masters program if passed with an average of 60%.

The next course starts on **March 14, 2012** (13:00-17:00) as a first meeting. External candidates will be visited at their own institution or in close proximity. Other contact sessions on SU main campus follow in May until September 2011. The dates for the contact sessions are as follows:

May 10-11, 2012 (2 full days)

June 26-27, 2012 (2 full days)

August 7, 2012 (1 day) External candidates will be contacted through Skype

August 31, 2012 (1 day - final presentations and celebration luncheon)

Please register for this course before **February 28, 2011**. A registration fee of R550 is payable for internal staff members and the course fee for an external participant (other universities) is R6200. The **attachments** include the **Framework for this short learning programme** as well as the **registration form. Please follow the instructions on the application form carefully. The form needs to be completed electronically, printed, signed by the relevant parties and then be sent in electronically as a scanned document or faxed.** Registrations will only be accepted if approved by the applicant's line manager and the applicable payment. For more information about the program, please contact Dr Antoinette Smith-Tolken (asmi@sun.ac.za) and for registrations, contact Mr Howard Gordon at the Division of CI (howard@sun.ac.za).

Feel free to forward this information to anyone that might be interested.

Programme Coordinator:

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