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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.

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 the new accredited short course 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 NQF 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 applicable Masters program if passed with an average of 60%. The framework for this course is attached and more information may also be found at the Service-Learning Centre's website (<http://admin.sun.ac.za/ci/service%20learning/centre.htm>).

The next course will take place during the second semester of 2009 with contact sessions of two days in June, July and October 2009. The dates for the contact sessions are as follows:

May 14, 2009 – Registration, materials distribution and Orientation session (3 hours)

June 17-18, 2009 – First Session

August 11-12, 2009 – Second Session

October 27-28, 2009 – Final Session

Please register for this course before May 8, 2009. Feel free to forward this information to anyone that might be interested.