

Attitudinal and Academic Effects of Service-Learning

Elizabeth B. Gardner
Corinne M. Baron

Fairfield University

SUMMARY. We examined perceived learning and attitude change in classes in Cognitive Psychology and Sensation and Perception in which some but not all of the students did service-learning with autistic children or in other settings. Attitudes toward people served became more positive based on questionnaire and journal entry data, and in one class, service-learning students felt they learned more about course material from their experiences. [Article copies available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service: 1-800-342-9678. E-mail address: getinfo@haworthpressinc.com]

Service-learning, which overlaps experiential learning, community-based learning, experiential diversity education, and other kinds of learning, is growing in popularity in American education. A useful definition (T. Stanton, quoted in Cohen & Kinsey, 1994) is that service-learning is "a particular form of experiential education, one that emphasizes for students the accomplishment of tasks which meet human needs in combination with conscious

Address correspondence to: Dr. Elizabeth B. Gardner, Department of Psychology-BNW, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06430 (E-mail: gardner@fair1.fairfield.edu).

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