

UNITE HERE! LOCAL 5 SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM

University of Hawai'i - Manoa Ethnic Studies Department Fall 2007

UNITE HERE! Local 5 is a local labor union in Hawaii representing more than 11,000 hotel, health care, and other service industry workers statewide. Since its beginnings in 1937, Local 5 has worked to improve the quality of life for Hawaii's workers.

This service-learning module is the result of an ongoing collaboration between Local 5 and the Ethnic Studies Department at UHM. Its purpose is to expose students to the issues affecting working families and to incorporate students' community service work with their academic studies to enrich their learning experiences. Our goal is to help make available and provide for varied learning opportunities regarding the importance of union organizing as it relates to the initiation of community-based actions that raise awareness and encourage students to become agents of social justice and social change beyond the university.

Student Requirements

1. Minimum of 30 hrs. over 10 consecutive weeks, 3 hours a day per week.
2. Must be able to attend and assist with other events/activities (often between 4:30-7:30 pm) related to the work of Local 5 but not directly connected to voter registration related activities outlined above. (i.e., U.S. Labor Against the War event September 26th.)
3. Must be available to meet with a Local 5 representative during the week of Aug. 26-31
4. Must have signed UHM waiver and registration forms before start of service, keep timesheets, and fulfill specific requirements set by the instructor for the course for which the student is doing service learning.

Objectives

1. To promote initiatives that work to expand the opportunities made available to students in participating in community-based, student-initiated research that is centered on highlighting the importance of active civic participation of both Local 5 and student participants.
2. To help facilitate the education of students regarding their knowledge of the importance of organized labor in Hawaii and the social movement embodied via the Hawaii Hotel Workers Rising Campaign as a means for effecting positive and lasting social change in our communities while incorporating the voices of our youth in speaking to the need for securing "A Hawaii for our Children."

Local 5 Service-Learning Program

Participating in Local 5's Voter Registration program will serve as the main reference point for this module. Students will work together with Local 5's Political Organizer and Political Action Committee to help create a campaign to encourage workers to register to vote. More importantly, students will be exposed to the everyday and broader issues that working families currently face both at home and in their

communities as well as at work. Student participants will be encouraged to identify those issues that motivate and are of most interest to them while integrating the needs of working-class peoples as means for effectively identifying the commonalities between varying segments of our population that may speak to a broader collective vision for positive social change. Participants will be asked to share their insights with workers and community members as part of their personal contribution to the campaign and in representation of the student sector of the community.

| Date | Activity | Tasks |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Phase I Sept 3 rd -14 th Weeks 1-2 | Orientation and Brainstorming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation: identifying our goals for participation in the program, Local 5 history, introduction to the HI Hotel Workers Rising, union organizing (worker, community/political), background on the different on-going Local 5 campaigns • Brainstorming: opportunity for students to provide their input on their desired experience in participating in the Local 5 program |
| Phase II Sept 14 th -Oct 5 th Weeks 3, 4, & 5 | Research and Information Gathering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey/research related activity on current events and issues facing working families and students (i.e. infrastructure, health care, transit issue, issues specific to tourism industry, responsible development, etc.) • Help identify specific initiatives that will be utilized in the process of getting Local 5 workers engaged on issues that will motivate them to become registered voters • Translate understanding of the issues important to workers into effective voter-registration message |
| Phase III Oct 8 th - Nov 16 th Weeks 6-10 | Voter Registration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct voter registration drives at Local 5 properties. (Through one-on-one meetings, property visits and other meetings with workers discuss the importance of civic responsibility/participation, issues of participation, and the importance of civic engagement as it relates to the building of leadership capacity within their union and community) |

**UNITE HERE! Local 5 reserves the right to modify and/or suspend this program and/or program participation at any time.*

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