

## **Finding Opportunities to Connect Undergraduates with Service Program Description 2011-2012**

### **What is F.O.C.U.S.?**

F.O.C.U.S. is a partnership between the Volunteer and Service Learning Center and Campus Living. The program is designed to build bonds between like-minded students who want to make a difference in the community. One way to make the most of your college experience is to get involved.

F.O.C.U.S. members take part in meaningful service projects and discuss the importance of being socially responsible. Regular activities, special events, and presentations also emphasize the importance of learning through service. If you have always enjoyed volunteering or are interested in learning more about the exciting ways you can serve, the F.O.C.U.S. program is for you.

### **F.O.C.U.S. on Service**

F.O.C.U.S. is a living-learning and serving community with the following goals:

- Cultivate a commitment to service.
- Raise awareness of social issues by exposing students to a variety of service opportunities.
- Cultivate civic responsibility.
- Develop common bonds between students with diverse backgrounds.
- Identify and address local community needs.

### **F.O.C.U.S. on Commitment**

Your acceptance into F.O.C.U.S. will expect you to make the following commitments:

- Live in Jones Hall on the designated floor.
- Attend the early move-in Fall F.O.C.U.S. Orientation.
- Enroll in Fall *COAD 1000: Student Development and Learning in Higher Education* F.O.C.U.S. cohort.
- Allow afternoon time block available in your schedule for service projects (Thursday, 3pm – 7pm).
- Enroll in Spring class cohort. More information coming soon.
- Complete 30 hours of service each semester.
- Assist in the planning of service projects.
- Attend biweekly meetings (twice a month).
- Attend all ends of semester activities.
- Participate in relevant campus programming in conjunction with the FX Freshman Experience Program.
- Collaborate with the Volunteer and Service Learning Center on special events.

### **What is the Application Process? Application Deadline is May 1, 2011.**

Qualifications:

- F.O.C.U.S. is reserved for full-time freshmen or undergraduate transfer students.
- Decisions of the selection committee are final.
- Applicants will be able to select their roommates, however selections are subject to change based on the needs of the program

Process

- Step 1: Pay the \$100 enrollment fee to ensure commitment as an ECU student.
- Step 2: New students will pay by credit card the \$100 application fee and the \$100 Advanced Room Fee (credited towards Spring 2012 room charges) \$200 total to submit a contract to reserve a space. Make payment to the university for housing.
- Step 3: Complete the on-line 2011-12 F.O.C.U.S. Program application **by May 1.**
- Step 4: Phone Interview with a member of the selection committee.
- Step 5: Applicant is notified.

## **F.O.C.U.S. on Opportunities**

These specific programs are open to all students, but F.O.C.U.S. members are strongly encouraged to participate.

- *University Million Meals Event*
- *National Days of Service: Make a Difference Day & MLK Day Challenge*
- *TRIPS (Turning Responsibility into Powerful Service)*
- *Volunteering with Community Partners*
- *Community Events – Pirate Fest, Relay for Life, etc.*
- *ECU READS/Pen Friends/ECU Counts*
- *Pirate Playtime*
- *Adopt-A-Grandparent*
- *Mural Corps*

## **Service**

The motto of East Carolina University is “*To Serve*”. The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center works to improve the community and challenge students through service. Established in 1990, the Center promotes volunteerism, service-learning, and civic responsibility. Service is one of the most effective ways for students to apply the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom in a meaningful way. Volunteerism also increases students’ awareness of social issues and builds critical thinking, interpersonal, and leadership skills. Our goal is to cultivate a life-long commitment to service in all students.

The F.O.C.U.S. program is designed to introduce exemplary students to a plethora of service agencies, in the hopes that they will choose to volunteer on a recurring basis throughout their college experience. This model encourages lasting and mutually beneficial relationships between students and community partners. Supported by a Resident Advisor, peer leaders, and VSLC professional staff, F.O.C.U.S. members will gain awareness of social issues, build critical thinking skills, and become advocates of volunteerism.

## **Testimonials from Past F.O.C.U.S. Members**

*FOCUS has been an eye opening experience. It has helped me develop leadership skills that have opened many doors for me for the next three years. FOCUS will always be what I think of when I think back to my freshmen year in college and I could not have made a better choice than by joining this program.*

Lea Bolanz – FOCUS Member 2010-2011

*You cannot truly help others until you understand and appreciate all of what you have yourself. FOCUS is a unified group of dedicated ECU students who act as one team to make volunteering successful and more popular around campus.*

Katy Ross – FOCUS Member 2008-2009

*Being involved in FOCUS has been an amazing opportunity for me to find myself as a first year college student. Not only did I get to help my community, I met tons of great people and found where I am supposed to be at East Carolina.*

Brady Hedglin – FOCUS Member 2009-2010

*FOCUS opens up a wealth of service that the Greenville community has to offer. I am so grateful that I was able to get involved in my community that I will be serving for the next four years.*

Will Thomas – FOCUS Member 2009-2010