

The Collaboratory

Service Today . . . Servant-Leaders Tomorrow

Overview

The Collaboratory adds value to classroom learning by enabling participants to apply academic knowledge and live out Christian faith through imaginative, hands-on problem solving that meets needs brought to us by Christian mission, relief and development organizations and businesses. Our projects enable students to engage classroom fundamentals in an authentic client-provider environment. Student leaders run the Collaboratory organization in partnership with the educators who mentor them. Collaboratory projects connect the scholarship and service of faculty members directly to student learning. As God enables us to serve others today, we seek to grow as disciples of Jesus, to serve as God's stewards over the resources of our academic disciplines, and to bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God. To learn more about the Collaboratory please visit our web site at www.messiah.edu/collaboratory.

Vision

Increasing hope and transforming lives through education, collaboration, innovation and service.

Identity

- Christians who aspire to obey the instructions of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to love neighbors as ourselves and to share the Gospel.
- A center for applied research and project-based learning, in partnership with the Christian Church and client non-profits, businesses, and communities.

Mission

- To foster justice, empower the poor, promote peace, and care for the earth through applications of our academic and professional disciplines.
- To increase the academic and professional abilities of students and other participants, their vocational vision for lifelong servant-leadership, and their courage to act on convictions.

Core Values

- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus in life, deed and word so that others may come to know him.
- Fostering lifelong commitment to Christian vocation and service through peer and advisor mentoring and discipleship to Christ.
- Integrating work and Christian faith by making wise use of workplace gifts and abilities to serve disadvantaged people around the world and to care for creation.
- Demonstrating God's love through imaginative problem solving that meets human need while valuing local culture.
- Nurturing long-term partnerships with the organizations and communities we serve, to gain deep understanding and achieve sustainable results.

Program Strategy

- Our projects enable students to act on their Christian faith and value commitments through excellence in their academic and professional disciplines.
- Our students share project leadership and administration responsibilities with educators, and learn by seeing their teachers in action.
- Our educators connect their scholarship directly to student learning by making hands-on professional contributions to projects as mentors and members of project teams.
- Our project teams include students from multiple years of study, to enable peer mentoring and sustain team member and leader transitions.
- We reflect on our service through intentional Christian discipleship that invites God to transform our lives as he teaches us and speaks to us through the people we serve.
- We engage multiple academic disciplines and partner organizations with their various modes of thinking and analysis for comprehensive solutions.
- We commit to projects that can span multiple generations of students when needed to attain tangible and sustainable results.
- We publically document best practices and processes for continuous organizational improvement and the equipping of each new generation of student leaders.
- We connect our projects to faculty loads and student graduation requirements to facilitate participation and increase academic engagement.

By the Numbers

- 200+ volunteer and for-credit student participants in 10+ majors, and growing.
- 30+ faculty and volunteer alumni and other professional project advisors and mentors.
- 10+ organizational partners with a presence in 9 countries, including the US.

Program Updates

- Over 40 student leaders spent the last week of summer vacation in workshops and planning for the Collaboratory ministry in 2011-12.
- Joni Eareckson Tada gave a public lecture at Messiah College to promote the disability-related work of the Collaboratory.
- Collaboratory alumni and CenterPoint Engineering advised an audit by a team in the Energy Group of Cure International's hospital for disabled children in Honduras.
- Partnership with Advance Solar Industries will host Ride Solar, a bicycle ride to raise money to power a Haitian community that is rebuilding after the earthquake.
- World Vision renewed Water and Disability funding over 4 years to implement simple technologies that give persons living with disability access to water in rural West Africa.
- Partnered with the Office of Sustainability at Messiah College to plant sunflowers, use the oil for cooking, and make bio-diesel fuel for College vehicles from the waste.