



Partnering Academics and
Community Engagement

Newsletter

Spring 2016 edition

Biology 1151L: Dr. Jacqueline Jordan partners with the American Red Cross



When I first heard about the Partnering Academics with Community Education (PACE) program, I was so excited. Sometimes it's hard to encourage students to take the time to volunteer and give back to the community. With the PACE program, I could do more than encourage service learning but I could also play an important role by making the activities part of classroom learning. At first, I was very apprehensive and unsure about how I would have time to merge these activities in the class.

Since I was in high school, I was always fascinated and impressed with the great work done by the American Red Cross (ARC). When I moved to Atlanta several years ago, I was interested in becoming more involved in the community. I found the ARC Disaster Team (ARC-DAT). Volunteering with the ARC-DAT opened my eyes to how important all careers in responding to disasters. I was excited about incorporating the ARC-



DAT service learning experience in my Anatomy and Physiology course.

The ARC was excited about becoming a partner with Clayton State University (CSU) and our PACE program. They immediately gave me ideas of how to get the students involved in volunteering with the ARC.



At first, the course was such a challenge in trying to explain to the students how a PACE course works. It was very helpful to have a PACE student mentor talk help explain the concept to the students. The first orientation with the students and the ARC staff really stimulated their interest in the service learning project. The students were so excited about the project that they came to class early and even on Saturdays to get complete the PACE project. No matter the hard work and extra time needed to complete the projects they always had a smile on their faces.

Not only did students complete training to be DAT members, they also hosted Clayton State University Disaster Day on campus. Members of the Red Cross and local first responders including the Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Clayton County Fire and Emergency Team came to campus to share information on disaster preparedness.

Want to learn more about PACE and what our students are doing? Visit www.clayton.edu/pace or contact PACE Director Dr. Antoinette Miller at antoinettemiller@clayton.edu.