

EMPOWER

Program Application

Fall 2009

Name: _____ Unique ID: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____
Campus Address: _____
Year in College: 1st Year 2nd Year 3rd Year 4th Year 5th Year
Major(s): _____
Total Credit Hours Registered for Fall Semester: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____
Do you intend to use EMPOWER for a +1 credit for a Miami Plan class? Yes ___ No ___
Do you intend to use EMPOWER for Honors/Scholars requirements? Yes ___ No ___
How did you hear about Empower? _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please write a paragraph for each question.

1. What is your initial understanding of EMPOWER? What do you hope to gain from this experience?
2. Please describe your most significant community service experience and how it embodies your definition of service.
3. What social issue most interests you? What role would you like to play in addressing this issue?

Please attach a copy of your Fall 2009 course schedule.

I have read the EMPOWER Fall 2009 application and overview. I agree to fulfill my responsibilities as an EMPOWER participant.

Signature _____ Date _____

Applications due September 2, 2009.

**Please return completed application to the front desk of
The Office of Community Engagement & Service,
located next to CAB, in the Hanna House on E. Spring Street
513-529-2961**

Program Overview

MISSION

EMPOWER is a nine-week service learning program for students at Miami University who are interested in expanding their understanding of civic engagement, diversity and how social issues impact local communities. Although intended for first and second year students, the program is open to everyone regardless of previous experience. EMPOWER is a rewarding yet intensive program that combines service, education, and critical personal investigation to foster social awareness and build community. Through EMPOWER, the Office of Community Engagement & Service seeks to cultivate and support Miami students who will continue to serve and participate in their community as engaged citizens.

SERVICE

In order to deepen understandings of social issues and gain direct experience, EMPOWER participants are required to complete a minimum of five community service experiences throughout the semester. These service projects will relate to topics discussed in the curriculum. Possible service experiences may include working in a choice food pantry, housing cooperative, social services center and disabilities agency in Oxford, Hamilton, Middletown and Cincinnati.

Service experiences will be arranged by EMPOWER Instructors, but participants will be allowed and encouraged to create service projects which also reflect their own interests.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend nine weekly meetings held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00pm, beginning Tuesday, September 15th and ending Tuesday, November 10th.
- Commit to a minimum five service experiences in the community throughout the semester.
- Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and contribute your own thoughts.
- Be a discussion leader, prepared with questions on assigned day.
- *Actively participate* in all discussions and activities.
- Complete 3 journal entries and any out-of-class assignments.
- Submit a final reflection piece at the end of the semester.
- Inform instructors no later than the Monday before if a participant cannot attend a meeting.
- Any participants receiving +1, Honors/Scholars or other form of credit will turn in an additional journal assignment regarding each missed meeting. These journals should be turned in no later than 1 week passed the missed meeting.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Interest in gaining a deeper understanding of civic engagement and the social issues that confront our local and global society.
- Responsible, mature, have good communication skills, able to work with people from different backgrounds.
- Able to remain open-minded in order to foster an inclusive environment.

BENEFITS

- Gain a better understanding of social issues, identity, and social class which affect people at the local, regional, and national level.
- Foster and build diversity awareness.
- Work firsthand with local agencies.
- Meet other Miami students who are interested in community service and social justice.
- Develop a continuing relationship with the Office of Community Engagement & Service and local core partner agencies.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, September 2nd, 2009 - APPLICATION DEADLINE
 - Submit completed application to the Office of Community Engagement & Service in the Hanna House (next to CAB building)
- Friday, September 10th, 2009 - APPLICANTS NOTIFIED
 - Empower selections are made, applicants are notified via email.
- Tuesday, September 15th, 2009 - First meeting
- Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 - Final meeting

INSTRUCTORS

Jamie Calobrisi

Community Partnerships Coordinator
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