Community Service Learning Project

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

PRESENTED BY: JULIET ROMEO-JOSEPH
JUNE 25, 2015
What is Community Service Learning (CSL)?

“...that subset of community engagement activities in which students, with the support of other stakeholders, collectively apply discipline-specific knowledge in a tangible manner to a particular community need, in order to obtain academic credit, as part of the Teaching/Learning associated with their programme of study.”

Why is it Best Practice?

- Enables students to apply their acquired skills to meet basic social and economic needs taking account of local and regional considerations
  - a key component of our graduate profile and IET requirement (for accreditation purposes)
- Facilitates active participation in a meaningful and fulfilling activity
- Builds key attributes in the distinguished UWI graduate
CSL in Teaching & Learning

- First introduced into the BSc Electrical and Computer Engineering programme in January 2009
- Community-based group project
CSL in Teaching & Learning

CSL Project

- 8 weeks
- 3 hours/week
- Jan – March
- 8-10 students
- staff/stakeholders
CSL Main Project Objective

- to identify and solve a problem,
  - related to electrical and computer engineering
  - in a community of choice
Group Brainstorming Session → Initial Project Proposal → First Formal Site Visit → Finalise Project Scope → Seek Funding → Design → Implement → Hand Over → UWI Presentations
Lessons Learned - Highpoints

- UWI flagship project
- Impact
  - Beneficiary:
    “You did too much for me to just say thank you.”
    - Angela Gonzales (Society of St. Vincent de Paul)
  - Students:
    “It was one of my proudest moments in life thus far...”
    - Yohan Seepersad (student - 2008/2009)
  - Accreditation: “…ability to apply acquired skills to meet basic social needs…”
- Catalysis
  - Sponsorship offers e.g. PPGPL
  - Service offers e.g. Eng. Institute, Electrical Inspectorate
Lessons Learned - Challenges
Future Plans

- UWI Today
- CSL Website
- Increase publicity
- Increase Stakeholder Input
- Improve project delivery
- More sponsors
- Greater staff participation
- Introduce at end of semester 1
- Incentives for students
- Supporting workshops
- Strengthen approach to legal and IP issues
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis

Video Presentation: Feedback from Beneficiary - The Lewis Family, La Fillette
Thank You!

St. Dominic’s Children’s Home
Belmont Orphanage

349, Belmont Circular Road,
Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

May 5, 2009

Mr. David Chow
Office of The Engineering Students’ Society
Room 12 Block 7
Faculty of Engineering
University of the West Indies
St. Augustine

Telephone: 624-7882
Telephone: 634-7067

CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL
Church Street
Curepe, Trinidad, WI. Tel.: (868) 623-4120

April 21, 2009

University of the West Indies
St. Augustine
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Attention: Lecturers – Dr. Ronald De Four and Ms. Juliet Romeo Joseph
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Aumund Presbyterian Church
Recognizes the
Year 2 Electrical Engineering Students,
U.W.I. St. Augustine

With thanks and appreciation for their
inspirational contribution to
Community Outreach Project, 2009

David at 7th day of June 2009.