Points of Interest

- Teams of faculty and community organizations come together to design service learning projects
- Design and carry out a service learning project to address a community need.
- Demonstrate your impact.
- Win money and help support a community organization in need.

Focus

- Teaching & Learning
- Collaboration
- Partnership
- Impact
- Progress Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Community
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
ARMEN AWARDS OVERVIEW
The Armen Awards is a team competition designed to inspire best practices for teaching and learning. Using the principles of innovation and service learning, faculty and community partners form teams to create a product that results in shared impact.

How it works
During the Fall semester, teams of faculty and community organizations come together to design service learning projects that equally align course outcomes and institutional learning outcomes with community partner needs.

Each team will submit their service learning project proposal between the months of October and November. Each proposal will be reviewed and approved with the goal of implementing the service learning projects during the Winter 2014 semester.

All projects will be asked to demonstrate how they will measure impact, with particular focus on:
- students' understanding of course content
- students' acquisition of communication, critical thinking, social or personal responsibility skills
- faculty teaching and learning practices
- community partner capacity (the extent to which needs were met and goals achieved)
- demonstration of how the service learning project will be sustained

What is Service Learning?
Service learning is a pedagogical method that combines service in the community with academic learning in the classroom. It is commonly defined as a course-based, credit-earning educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets community-defined needs. Students reflect on their service activity in order to increase their understanding of course content, to appreciate the relevance of their discipline, to engage social justice issues and to enhance their sense of civic responsibility. Structured reflection activities in the course provide meaningful opportunities for students to connect their learning in the community with their learning in the classroom. (Service-Learning A Resource Manual For Faculty, Loyola University, 2010)

Teams
The Armen Awards is a team competition. You must register as a team comprised of:
- (1) Community Partner (must be public organization and/or nonprofit)
- (1) GRCC faculty (Full-Time and adjuncts)

*Student participation on your team is highly encouraged, however optional.
*Team members may participate on only one team, unless approved by the GRCC Armen Awards Team.
Designing your Service Learning experience
Teams should be creative in designing their service learning experience and are required to follow the core principles of service learning (directly tied to course outcomes, reciprocity, service, and reflection). Each team will need to apply its best creative problem solving, project management, analytical thinking and teamwork skills towards the creation of their service learning experience.

Time Line
November (Prepare and Submit Service Learning Curriculum Integration Plan)
December (Begin to establish the logistics and resource acquisition)
January (Implement your service learning experience – Orientation of students)
February (Collect evidence of your outcomes – schedule video shoot with Media Services)
March (Collect data - make adjustments – prepare final report)
April (Celebrate your teams’ success at the Armen Awards Celebration Event)

Important Dates
Friday, November 1st (Service Learning Curriculum Integration Form Due)
Friday, February 28th (Demonstrate progress towards goals)
Friday, April 11th (Final Outcome Report Due)
Friday, April 25th (Armen Awards Celebration Event)

Armen Awards Scoring
As teams complete their Service Learning Curriculum Integration Plans, the Armen Awards Team will review them using three weighted (3) criteria:

- **Originality (20%)** How unique or novel is this idea?
- **Feasibility (30%)** How likely is it that your team can implement this idea?
- **Alignment (50%)** How directly does this idea impact the following:
  - students understanding of course content
  - students acquisition of communication, critical thinking, social or personal responsibility skills
  - faculty teaching and learning practices
  - community partner capacity (the extent to which needs were met and goals achieved)
  - demonstration of how the service learning project will be sustained

The Armen Awards judges will score the Final Outcome Report using the three criteria used during the submission of their Service Learning Curriculum Integration Plan (originality, alignment, feasibility) as well as three additional weighted criteria:

- **Presentation (5%)** Quality of the service learning project materials submitted
- **Collaboration (45%)** Demonstration of teamwork to achieve impact
- **Impact (50%)** Evidence of positive impact for students, faculty, and community partner
  - students understanding of course content
  - students acquisition of communication, critical thinking, social or personal responsibility skills
  - faculty teaching and learning practices
  - community partner capacity (the extent to which needs were met and goals achieved)
  - demonstration of how the service learning project will be sustained
<Special Note>
Be sure to keep good recordkeeping throughout the Armen Awards event. This will make demonstrating your progress much easier. Teams are encouraged to communicate regularly and use a variety of methods to capture your progress including pictures and video.

Armen Awards Prizes
Prizes are based on the decision of an independent team of judges according to the scoring criteria and will be presented at the end of the competition on **Friday, April 25th** at the conclusion of the Armen Awards Celebration event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Armen Awards Checklist

**Phase I**
- Determine the best fit for service learning to be integrated into your course.
- Explore possibly learning outcomes and community needs.
- Create your team. Identify students and potential community partners for best fit.
- Together, your team will brainstorm and determine potential service learning projects.
- Submit your teams’ Service Learning Curriculum Integration Plan.
- Prepare for January implementation (complete the Community Partner Agreement form)

**Phase II**
- Implement your service learning experience (orientation of students and student service learning registration)
- Track and monitor your progress
- Complete your Mid-Outcome Report

**Phase III**
- You are in the running for first, second, or third place!
- Continue to track and monitor your progress
- Complete your Final-Outcome Report
- Attend the Armen Awards Celebration