

BONNER PROGRAM: A FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENT, COMMUNITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS

Building, Sustaining, and Collaborating



BONNER AS A VEHICLE FOR FOSTERING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Bonner Program gives students the access to education and the opportunity to serve. The four-year cohort-based model of engagement fosters relationships between community partners, the university, and the student. Many students in the program spend over three years with their primary community partner and have cited the impact this relationship has had on their knowledge of community issues, growth as an individual, and skills. For the community partner, these instances of prolonged engagement have led to increases in the capacity of their organization through student contributions in the form of volunteer management, program development, marketing and communications, research, and fundraising. By demonstrating the benefits of this co-curricular engagement, the Foundation hopes to emphasize the potential of this framework in improving student and community success both in and out of the network.

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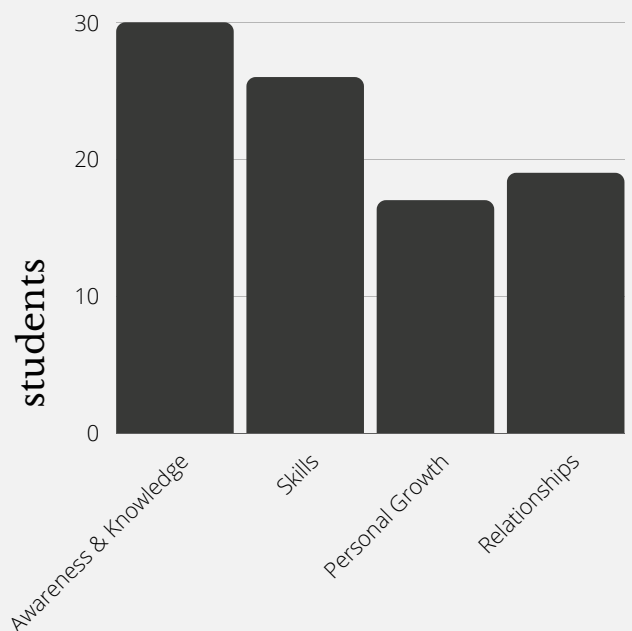
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PROGRAM IMPACT ON STUDENTS

The chart below showcases the frequency of respondents who discussed the profound impact of engaging in a co-curricular model of service learning on their growth. The areas of growth included:

- an increased awareness of a social issue
- the acquisition of practical or leadership skills
- personal growth, and
- the building of relationships



"THE BONNER PROGRAM CREATED THE FOUNDATION FOR ME TO REALLY JUST LEARN AND BE ABLE TO SUPPORT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY"

BONNERS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & BUILD CAPACITY

- Just like any relationship, the one between a student and their community partner is strengthened with trust, communication, and awareness.
- Students shared that the sustained relationships that the Bonner Program facilitates allow them to collaboratively identify and address gaps in the services their community partners provide.
- Students shared that the impact they had on their community was personally transformative. Read more about capacity building project opportunities [here!](#)

"[my relationships] really aided my ability to see like, okay, where's the gap right now"

"I can't force a community need. I need to understand what is going on then address that no matter how many ideas I have"

SKILLS GAINED THROUGH BONNER*

time management
communication
leadership
research
empathy
work experience
project management
teamwork
problem solving
collaboration
adaptability

*as indicated by students in Foundation interviews and the 2020 SIS

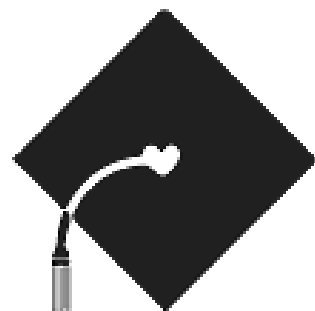
AREAS OF GROWTH AND IMPACT *

mentorship
homelessness
domestic violence
racial health disparities
disability
mental health
education
privilege
juvenile incarceration
civic responsibility
food insecurity

*as indicated by students in Foundation interviews and the 2020 SIS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a structure that allows students to explore issue areas and service sites in their first year.
- Strengthen relationships with community partners so students have the support they need to remain at their community partner for several years. The best, most sustainable relationships are those where all parties are equally invested in the success of the partnership.
- Establish expectations for the community partners and students (not just a volunteer role ... how can community partners effectively use students to build capacity? What can students offer that community partners would find useful?)



The Bonner
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