

Proposal for a Poster Presentation

ABCD Approach to Environmental Service-Learning

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Abstract:

At SUSS, Community Engagement (CE) is an **integral part of the University's learning ecology**. CE aims to empower the students to develop and act on their sense of social responsibility, grounded in real-world ideas and practices, to contribute meaningfully to society. Under this CE umbrella resides the Community Service-Learning (CSL) programme. This is an office-curated programme where students commit at least 12 months working with a local community partner. Examples of CSL projects include Sailors of SUSS (SOS), SUSS Impact and WILDSeaMarines x NParks.

Asset-based Community Development (ABCD) builds on the strengths of the community by enhancing what is already present (Kretzmann and McKnight 1993). This is different from the deficit based approach that focuses on identifying and meeting needs. ABCD draws upon existing assets and strengths to build more sustainable communities. This presentation will share an example of environmental sustainability focused CSL with the National Parks Board (NParks) using the ABCD approach and how students work closely with NParks to learn about the sustainability topics and bring in different stakeholders of the community at North-West district of Singapore through outreach and events.

Keywords: Environmental service-learning, sustainability, asset-based community

development

References:

Kretzmann, J. P. and McKnight, J.L. 1993 Introduction to "Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets," pp 1-11, from *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*, Evanston, IL: Institute for Policy Research

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<https://www.vistacampus.gov/what-asset-mapping>

Biographical sketch of each presenter

Please send the biographical sketch of the presenters together with the proposal using the following format:

Presenter 1:

- i. Last name followed by first name: CHIA Ming Huei
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- iii. Short biography (word count should not exceed 70 words)

A Service-Learning practitioner with firm belief in experiential learning, Ming Huei loves being in the outdoors and in nature. Trained in Chinese Studies with a Master Degree in Chinese Teaching from National Technological University, Singapore, she enjoys working with and developing young people. Her passion and experience lends her valuable perspectives to share when she mentor youths for Service-Learning projects.

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