



Service Learning in International Schools A World of Possibilities

Welcome to the OSAC Grant David Cobb, Executive Director, CEESA

By reading this introduction you have already shown an interest in service learning and how international schools can benefit by incorporating this pedagogy into their ongoing curriculum. We hope that by continuing your exploration of this OSAC—Overseas Schools Advisory Council—grant you will be hooked and bring service learning into your school’s core values.

Mission statements of most, if not all, international schools include preparing youth as active participants in a global society. Increasing the capacity of schools to deliver on this promise through the research-based approach of service learning simply makes sense. Providing substantial support for this integration in a manner custom designed for overseas schools will lead to success.

This grant is designed to support ideas and concepts that already are integral in international school communities: youth as citizens of the world. This is our contribution to show how service learning will fit and make your school’s efforts more rewarding. It offers to show how your students can participate in their communities in meaningful ways without forced sacrifice or mandated community service, all to advance deep purposeful learning. Promoting service learning as a core value has been part of the Central and Eastern European Schools Association’s strategic plan for five years. This project is the second, and complimentary, OSAC grant promoting service learning. The first grant, created ten years ago, introduced the concept of service learning to an audience accustomed to community service as a method of “giving back.”

CEESA was fortunate to find Cathryn Berger Kaye, a leader in the service learning world, who helped the association change its views from “one off” community service projects, which are helpful but not really an integral part of our schools’ curriculum, to creating a service learning culture as part of our school’s collective experience. CEESA worked with Cathy for two years in this effort and soon realized that the formula for success their schools reported should be shared with all international schools.

This grant is a result of that desire. We reviewed what service learning guides were currently available and while liking the latest edition of Cathy’s book, we agreed there would be value in adding the lens of the international school environment. The result of this OSAC grant is support for a service learning approach with both Cathy’s book *The Complete Guide to Service Learning* and the rich information on this supplementary DVD, *Service Learning in International Schools: A World of Possibilities*. As you will see, this enlists examples and ideas from around the world that will work in all international schools—from developed countries to those of the developing world—respecting the unique needs of every unique environment.

It is the hope of the grant writers, myself and Cathy, that this project encourages those schools just starting out and supports those already active in service learning to have service learning as an integral compliment to their curriculum.

We hope this product changes your school and students, providing a new way of looking at their place in the world, instilling a more complete sense of being world citizens with its attendant obligations and benefits.