Community

You are a member of your family, which is a small community. You are also a member of the community of students at Tulsa Community College. You may be a member of many other communities, such as friend groups, spiritual communities, online communities, employment communities, and others. You are also a member of the larger community of Oklahoma and the United States.

Tulsa Community College

Tulsa Community College (TCC) was opened in 1970 with one campus in downtown Tulsa. Since then, the college has grown to meet the needs of the community of Tulsa. The mission of TCC is:

Tulsa Community College betters its community through the intellectual achievement, creative energy, and responsible citizenship of its students, faculty, and staff by their engagement in teaching, learning, and service opportunities that transform and enrich lives. Tulsa Community College commits to innovative, flexible, and affordable public higher education that responds to a dynamic global environment.

Part of the mission describes the importance that TCC places on being a responsible citizen and engaging in service opportunities. In essence, this means that TCC wants its students, faculty and staff to be active and positive members of the surrounding community.

What is Community-Based Learning?

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a way of teaching and learning that links academic learning topic with the surrounding communities, including local institutions, history of the community, literature appropriate to that particular community, cultural heritage, and natural environments. For example, students who are learning about Oklahoma art might spend class time going to an art museum and seeing the art “in person” and in context. In this Academic Strategies course, for instance, you are required to participate in five hours of community engagement. The thought behind CBL is that our community has rich resources. CBL strategies could also include volunteerism.

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a type of CBL. Tulsa Community College uses the following definition of service-learning:

Service-learning is a form of experiential education characterized by all of the following:

- Student participation in an organized service activity
- Participation in service activities connected to specific learning outcomes
- Participation in service activities that meet identified community needs
- Structured time for student reflection and connection of the service experience to learning.

- Abes, Jackson & Jones (2002)

Tulsa Community College offers service-learning classes. If you are a student who likes to be involved, these courses might be for you! Also, if you are in the Tulsa Achieves program, you can receive credit for your service-learning course hours. Please see below for how to find a service-learning course at TCC.