

# *Stevenson Center*

for Community and Economic Development

College of Arts and Sciences  
Illinois State University

# Mission

**The Stevenson Center at Illinois State University promotes community and economic development in the U.S. and abroad. The Center sets the pace for public service and scholarship through a unique combination of coursework, research, professional practice, and collaboration with communities.”**

*We “... devote all of our resources and energies to creating the most supportive and productive community possible to serve the citizens of Illinois and beyond”*

**-- Educating Illinois, 2003-2010**

*We are a “..partner fully engaged in outreach with business, industry, government, and education.”*

**-- Educating Illinois, 2003-2010**

*We are engaged with “...local and state communities through service-learning projects, faculty research contributions, and college/community partnerships.”*

**-- Strategy Four, College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan, 2005-2010**

# Matching Students with Host Agencies and Communities

## Graduate Assistantships

- 15-20 hours per week for one or two semesters
- Local network, plus outreach
- Brief application, meetings, RSP
- Federal Work Study



## Professional Practice Placements

- 35 hours per week for 11 months
- Outreach in IL and beyond
- Longer application, in-person or phone interviews, RSP
- (Peace Corps)

# Report/Evaluation Structure

## Graduate Assistantships (AmeriCorps)

- Monthly reports on work activities and accomplishments
- Mid-term and final evaluation forms from site supervisor, plus checking in



## Professional Practice Placements

### Four Reports

- Relations to and progress toward work plan, including work samples
- Skills/abilities acquired and lessons learned
- Areas for improvement

### Final (Fifth) Report

- Objectives achieved or not and methods for achieving objectives
- Roadblocks--what could be done differently
- Stevenson Center support during internship
- Relation to coursework

Evaluation Forms—three to four from supervisor (except Peace Corps)

Site Visits (when logistically feasible)

# Current Students

- Who do they work with and what are they doing
- What are they gaining from the experience
- How do they expect to use what they have learned in a future internship or career



# Questions

To what extent is a University responsible for the community in which it rests?

What are the benefits to the educational experience of our students if the University is so engaged?