In summer 2013, the staff members from Aggie Blue Bikes, Blue Goes Green student sustainability fee, Education Outreach, Service-Learning, Utah Conservation Corps, and Val R. Christensen Service Center came together to form the Utah State University Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning (CCESL). With a mission to develop engaged citizens through service and education, these programs already had an extensive history of collaboration and innovative success. CCESL values community partnerships to provide experiential outcomes-based service grounded in academics; guiding students to become (responsible) leaders and mentors; and holistic development of students as part of USU’s engagement mission. The following is the first annual report as a department that details the accomplishment of CCESL programs and we look forward to publicizing more synergetic outcomes in years to come.

Best wishes in 2014

Sean Damitz
CCESL Director

Sean Damitz -CCESL Director
Aggie Blue Bikes’ mission is to add to the vibrancy of the USU campus community that Student Services promotes through bicycle lending, education and advocacy.

In 2013 Aggie Blue Bikes had:

- 3,056 people used the student tool-boards (up from 3,013 in 2012)
- 634 people used three month bike check outs (up from 590 in 2012)
- 1,012 people used day check outs (up from 900 in 2012)
- 28 volunteers that served 518.25 hours
- 24 children’s bicycles were refurbished for Sub for Santa (up from 16 last year). 21 bikes went to the Cache County Sub for Santa and 3 bikes went to the USU Sub for Santa.

“I started working at Aggie Blue Bikes last semester, and it’s been a great experience for me so far. I had a little bit of bicycle knowledge coming into it, but I have learned a lot about bikes and I’ve improved immensely. It’s just given me a great opportunity to provide a service to all of the students at Utah State and to learn more about bikes.”

- Jared Christensen

Aggie Blue Bikes AmeriCorps member Katie Harker instructs USU student on bicycle repair
Other Aggie Blue Bikes milestones include the following:

- Aggie Blue Bikes was awarded a $89,660 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant through Environmental Protection Agency to complete a shop remodel.
- Aggie Blue Bikes sponsored the first ever USU Open Streets Festival as part of the second annual Alternative Transportation Week in September that included 487 participants.
- Program Coordinator Stephanie Tomlin was awarded the NASPA Outstanding New Professional at the Utah NASPA Conference.
- Aggie Blue Bikes presented at the 2013 AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) on bicycle lending.
- Aggie Blue Bikes launched Sprocket, a database created by AmeriCorps member and USU student Andy Taylor that organizes the program’s check-out program and inventory.
- Aggie Blue Bikes played a pivotal role in the USU campus gaining a silver rating for bicycle friendliness through the League of American Cyclists’ Bicycle Friendly University program.

For more information on Aggie Blue Bikes, please visit: www.usu.edu/abb

Aggie Blue Bikes AmeriCorps member Andy Taylor maintains check out bike
2013 Education Outreach highlights include the following:

- 140 America Reads Tutors, including 50 AmeriCorps members, served a total of 42,673 hours earning $440,120 ($26,880 under budget of $467,000) in Work Study wages mentoring an average of 1,226 students per day. AmeriCorps members also received more than $35,000 in AmeriCorps education awards to use towards their education expenses at USU.
- Education Outreach hosted 11 campus visits, bringing 390 potential students to USU for activities and campus tours.
- USU students participating in Uncommon Collective held 8 community events and helped to raise $16,600 for green space at Fast Forward Charter High School and Huntsman Cancer Center.
- USU students serving in Education Outreach initiated three greenhouse projects at Edith Bowen Laboratory School, Cache High School, and Wilson Elementary School.
- Education Outreach began a partnership with USU Space Dynamics Lab for a three year experiment that will allow GEARUP and elementary schools to participate in a seed growth project with students in Japan and scientists in Russia, Japan and the US. Education Outreach and the Center for Women and Gender began a new program in September 2013 called “Smart Girls” at four Cache Valley schools to provide mentoring to young women.
“I have greatly enjoyed my time working for America Reads because of the first hand experience that I get dealing with kids before I become a teacher. It has helped me to develop my explanation skills. I have also learned that I am a patient person. I feel like I am a real help to the teachers and students while I am in their class.”

- Geri Dominguez

2013 Highlights Cont.

- Education Outreach formed a partnership with the Utah Office of Refuge Services to place a VISTA at USU to expand outreach efforts to the local refuge population.
- Education Outreach formed a partnership with Leslie Timmons and the USU Music Department to bring music to afterschool programs. The results of this effort were featured at the October 10, 2013 “Lights On” concert featuring students from 20 schools in the Kent Concert Hall. Video of the event can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qbeu1GMf82U
- The Alliance for Youth began a series of meetings to attract community organizations to participate in afterschool programs. Participants to date include USU Space Dynamics Lab, The Beverly Sorenson Foundation and the Cache Valley Center for the Arts.
- A recent study by the Logan and Cache School Districts demonstrates the impact of Education Outreach on afterschool club (ASC) programs. The data show that while a higher percentage of Afterschool Club students are from low income families and a higher percentage are also ESL learners when compared to day school enrollments statewide, the ASC participants outperformed non-ASC participants in Math and Language Arts skills in Logan and Cache School Districts.
Impact of Afterschool Club on Logan and Cache School Districts

For more information on Education Outreach, please visit: http://www.usu.edu/educationoutreach/
2013 Service-Learning (S-L) program highlights include the following:

- The first ever S-L mini grants were awarded in March. Three students and one faculty member were awarded $1,500 for projects related to S-L classes.
- There were a total of 41 students active in Service-Learning Scholars program. The program admitted 13 new scholars while graduating 6 scholars on the 2013 academic year.

Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

USU students serving at an orphanage in Uganda
Upcoming additions to the program include:
• New website to be rolled out January 2014.
• S-L courses have been designated through the registrars office and listed in the course catalogue
• S-L Faculty Fellows program to be implemented Fall 2014.
• S-L Scholars TA/Fellows program to be implemented Spring 2014.
• Community Partners Speed Networking event to be held March 2014 at Logan Country Club.

“The University is preparing me for my future career. [Being a Service-Learning Scholar] has prepared me to become a lifelong volunteer and has helped instill in me a passion for service. I honestly believe that if I had not walked in the doors of the Service Center as a freshman I wouldn't be who I am today. The experiences and lessons I've gained through serving here at Utah State are just as valuable to me as the diploma I'll receive at graduation.”
- Shelby Foster

USU students collect plastic grocery bags for a recycling project

For more information on Service-Learning, please visit: http://www.usu.edu/servicelearning/
The Student Sustainability Office mission is to make a concrete place on campus where students can funnel their green ideas, obtain research grants for sustainability, and find out more ways to participate in sustainable living both during their time at USU and into their futures.

Nine USU student proposals were awarded $20,581 in Blue Goes Green Student Grant funds in 2013. This funding will be matched with $33,850 in in-kind and cash support from both on and off campus sources. Awarded proposals include:

- Installation and research of high efficiency water facets in the Quinney College of Natural Resources Building.
- Installation of new bicycle racks on Aggie Shuttle buses that accommodate the transport of three bicycles at a time.
- Compost bins for Aggie Village community gardens.
- Research for psychological mechanisms of green behavior.
- Construction of a portable aquaponics system for display in the Engineering Building atrium.
- A daylight harvesting and delamping project in the Merrill-Cazier Library.
- Construction and research of experimental composting and desiccating latrines.
- Creation of the Residential Service and Sustainability Institute within Housing and Residence Life.
- Support of the True Blue Reuse Sale.

“\The Student Sustainability Office not only provided me with opportunities to directly apply concepts and passions I’ve developed during my college experience, but also allowed me to make a positive impact at Utah State University.\”

-Ethan DeVilbiss
Other 2013 Student Sustainability Office highlights include the following:

- 3 student interns completed their term of service.
- 4 student interns have been hired to start in January 2014.
- The SSO hosted 2013 Earth Week at USU that included daily education focus areas alternative energy, alternative transportation, local food, environmental activism, and physical fitness.

I feel like this program has helped me really feel like I can make a difference. Although we're still starting out, the amount of change and student connections we've made in such a little time is incredible. I love feeling like I'm making a difference with students, and informing and teaching them about how they can make their college experience and lives better!

-Liz Kirkham

For more information on the Student Sustainability Office, please visit:

www.usu.edu/sso

Water bottle fill stations were installed around campus to help university students go green.

Taggart Student Center bike racks paid for by Blue Goes Green Grant
The mission of the Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) is to develop the conservation of leaders of tomorrow through service and education. UCC successfully completed its thirteenth year of operation with conservation field crews, individually placed AmeriCorps members, and the Bilingual Youth Corps.

Conservation Field Crews

In 2013, 99 members on UCC conservation field crews:

- Constructed or maintained 1,017 miles of trail and 21.4 miles of fence
- Removed invasive weeds and restored 6,418 acres of habitat
- Completed two mission assignments to New Jersey to complete Hurricane Sandy relief projects that leveraged 1,507 volunteers serving over 7,500 hours assisting 353 affected households.
- Were favorably evaluated by 100% of project sponsors that indicated that 1) needed projects could not have been completed without the UCC and 2) they were satisfied with the project.
- A 2012 evaluation by researchers (Duerden, Edwards, & Lizzo) of Brigham Young University and Texas A & M University found that compares to a control group, UCC participants saw statistically significant increases regarding attitude towards public lands, environmental activism, teamwork, and leadership in contrast to comparison group members who experienced no significant changes across a similar period of time.

UCC AmeriCorps member clearing corridor for Rick’s Canyon trail re-route
UCC Participants of Public Lands Service Corps Study

UCC Individual Placement AmeriCorps Members
In 2013, 36 individually-placed UCC AmeriCorps serving at non-profit organizations throughout Utah completed the following projects:

- Reached over 7,500 students with environmental education presentations
- Mobilized 2,740 volunteers that served 6,341 hours

Collecting cactus at Red Butte Garden
**UCC Bilingual Youth Corps**

In 2013, with funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wells Fargo, and Cache County School District, the Bilingual Youth Corps served youth in Salt Lake and Cache Counties. The program delivers all education materials in both English and Spanish. During four 5-week sessions, 13 local youth and 4 crew leaders completed the following projects:

- Maintained 13.5 miles of trail.
- Restored 11.6 acres of habitat.

Video of BYC crews in action can be found at http://youtu.be/tzkhbJIo51k

More UCC Accomplishments

- UCC staff member Adam Stoldal received the American Trails 2013 State Trail Worker Award for Utah.
- UCC received 21st Century Conservation Service Corps designation from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.
- UCC moved operations from the USU Fieldhouse to the USU Wuthrich property in May 2013. UCC staff have subsequently gained an $8,000 Community Forestry Grant from Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and a $2,500 Carbon Offset grant from the USU Sustainability Council to improve the property.

“I got into a discussion with some AmeriCorps members here in DC on the Metro this morning and it brought me back to the greatest summer I have had to date. As it has now been eight years (!!!), and my memories have still not faded, I can assume that I will always remember it as such.”

-Ted Twinting, UCC 2005 Alum

For more information on the Utah Conservation Corps, please visit:

www.usu.edu/ucc
The mission of the Val R. Christensen Service Center is to prepare students to make life-long contributions through genuine service; provide all students the opportunity to serve; and foster positive attitudes, personal growth and change through service of our community and environment.

2012-2013 school year highlights for the Val R. Christensen Service Center include the following:

- Students ran 17 volunteer programs and raised $63,493 in support of those programs.
- Just over 1000 students participated in a volunteer capacity with the Service Center.
- The Service Center and its volunteer programs sponsored more than 240 events during the 2012-13 academic year.
- Total Service Center Volunteer Program Committee Members was 87 in 2012-13. This in addition to Service Center Council Members (6), the VP, and Service Center Volunteer Program Directors (17) makes for a total of 111 total students in leadership positions in the Service Center.
- Total recipients of Service is an estimated range of 2400-2700. This excludes those served through Service-Learning Scholars and Alternative Breaks.
- Aggies Giving Service (AGS), the campus volunteer tracking system, was launched for its first full year. 693 volunteers registered on the system from 77 volunteer organizations and logged 23,173 hours of service.

“To me, the value of the service center is that it has afforded me opportunities to get directly involved in improving people’s lives using skills I’ve acquired in working construction. Because of the service center, I’ve also gained confidence in my leadership abilities. Finally, the service center has led me to develop friendships I could not have found any other way.”

– Aaron Christensen, USU Habitat for Humanity
Service Center Highlights Cont.

- Executive Committee Bill (ECB) 2013-06 was passed in April of 2013, leading to the establishment of The Campus Service Steering Committee.
- USU Stuff-a-Bus raised over 15,000 pounds of food which was donated to the Cache Food Pantry. $1,407.34 was also raised through USU Stuff-a-Bus and was donated to Cache Sub-for-Santa.
- Tiered Community Partnerships program to be rolled out January 2014.

"The Service Center has given me the chance to see our community in a whole other light. I have met the most dedicated, humble, and selfless people through the Service Center that love to give back to our community and who do so through service. I have seen our Aggies take out so much time, an extremely precious resource for college students, of their lives to strengthen, aid, and uplift our community. The programs I have participated in have empowered, taught, and motivated me to be a continual learner and better person. I’ve worked with the elderly, the youth, those with special needs, those who are experiencing economic downturns, diverse populations, ecological groups, and so many more. My experience in the Service Center has made me want to be a lifelong humanitarian."

- Chloe Raphael, Service Center Council

For more information on the Val R. Christensen Service Center, please visit: https://www.usu.edu/servicecenter/