Engaging students for Extra-curricular Participation and Community-building

Kyle Fredrick
Associate Professor
California University of Pennsylvania
Who cares?

- You should!
- Student participation CAN have a direct, but certainly has an indirect impact on YOUR…
  - Research
    - Recruitment of Students
    - Small-scale funding
  - Teaching
    - Field trips
    - Informal feedback
    - Advising – group communication and getting to know your students (Recommendation letters?)
  - Service
    - Their service is often YOUR service
What does “participation” mean?

- Showing up!
- Volunteering and Outreach
- Peer mentoring
  - Formal
  - Informal → “Hanging out”
- Research and Presentation
- Professional development
- ALL OF THESE ARE ACTIVE!!
  - Students must WANT to do this!
Why DO students participate?

- Social reasons
  - Meet people
  - Stay involved
- Resume building
  - Professional Development
- Travel and Field Trips
- Because they like it!
Why DON’T students participate?

- Time availability
  - Work and family obligations
  - Class schedules and Studying
  - Other extra-curricular interests

- Is it nerdy?
- Don’t know what is available or how to get involved
- They don’t recognize the benefits
- They simply don’t want to!
CalU Geology Club

❖ Stats

❖ Spring ‘07: Suspended → No budget
❖ 2007-08: $500, 6 members
❖ 2011-12: $10K, 47 members
❖ 2014-15: $4500, 48 members

❖ How did we do it?

❖ You have to be the model

❖ Activities

❖ Field Trips
❖ Outreach - On-campus and off
❖ Student support for travel and research

❖ Make it relevant: Resume-building, Social, Academic
Extra-Curricular Benefits

- Community in your program
- Resume items
  - Field experience
  - Volunteerism
  - Leadership
- Professional development
  - Society Memberships, meetings
- Travel and Experience
  - Local and Regional
  - National (International?)
  - Potential Graduate Schools
  - Conference attendance/presentations
Questions, Please!