



ALL THINGS IGNATIAN

Celebrating Mission at Creighton University

Community Orientations

Schlegel Center for Service and Justice

What are Community Orientations?

Local community orientations further Creighton's mission and a commitment to a faith that does justice by learning about our Omaha community and Catholic Social Teaching. Participants see how various social justice topics intersect with Catholic Social Teaching through presentations, experiential learning, and visiting with local community partners. Participants learn how history informs present day realities of Omaha communities, consider challenges, discover community assets, engage community leaders, and enjoy lunch in the community. After closing the day with an examen and reflection, all participants are asked to put what they learned into practice. All community orientations consist of a commitment to a personal or community oriented action step that furthers Creighton's Jesuit, Catholic mission. One participant said, "I loved the Ignatian approach to the day. It intensified the reflection/discernment for me. It was very energizing and enlightening and made me want to 'Go Set the World on Fire.'"

Community orientations are generously supported by the Catholic Social Teaching Fund and are open to faculty, staff, and students. They offer an important invitation for all of Creighton to be "living our mission". The SCSJ currently offers four distinct community orientations.

North Omaha: Context and Connections

Participants learn more about Creighton's neighborhood, especially the North Omaha Village Zone. Facilitated by the SCSJ's Director, Ken Reed-Bouley, this community orientation offers a bit of history and the opportunity to dialogue with community partners about community development and learn from local experts. Community partners that interact with the North Omaha Community Orientation include: Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC), The Great Plains Black History Museum, Love's Jazz & Arts Center, Creighton University at the Highlander/75 North, Empowerment Network, and Family Housing Advisory Services. Participants gain insight on ways to support local businesses and community engagement efforts.



Participants learn about Love's Jazz and Arts Center and the intersection of music and history in North Omaha.

Journey to Omaha: Exploring the Refugee Experience

Participants engage with the Jesuit commitment to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees through learning about and interacting with Omaha's refugee community. Omaha is home to refugees from all around over the world. Participants learn what the designation of 'refugee' means, the process to be considered for resettlement, the local community in Omaha and the many ways that refugees contribute to our city. Participants visit a local agency that serves the refugee community, learn about health care and refugees, share a meal with refugee elders and help in an naturalization class, or hear a story from a refugee while enjoying lunch from a refugee owned restaurant.



Playing bingo together during a visit to the Intercultural Senior Center.



Participants visit the South Omaha Community Learning Center



Martin Luther King Memorial located in North Omaha



The dynamic community of South 24th St.

Climate Change: Faith, Hope and Action

The environmental justice orientation is co-facilitated by the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice and the Office of Sustainability Programs. Participants engage with the issue of climate change through a local lens. Participants reflect with an Ecological Examen, hear a presentation on Catholic Social Teaching, caring for creation, and cases of environmental justice in Omaha, the U.S., and the world. Participants then tour the North Omaha Power Station (NOPS) run by Omaha Power Plant District (OPPD), and meet Creighton sustainability experts and OPPD engineers.



Participants tour the OPPD Coal Power Plant

South Omaha: A Dynamic Immigrant Community

Participants learn a bit of history of the South Omaha Community, learn about Catholic Social Teaching Principles, visit with community partners, speak with local leaders, and eat lunch as a community from a local restaurant. Participants get a chance to walk through the neighborhood and converse with community members as well as support local businesses. Visits to agencies have included: South Omaha Learning Community Center, Catholic Charities Juan Diego Center, Immigrant Legal Center, Heartland Worker Center, Nebraska Appleseed meatpacking speaker and more.



Students enjoy supporting a local businesses in South Omaha, the International Bakery.

Learning Outcomes

While each orientation is unique and individuals are able to participate in just one or all four, the Community Orientations program has the following learning outcomes:

- The group will:
- be introduced to history and culture of part of our local community
 - meet a local community leader and/or visit a local community agency
 - experience reflection
 - be introduced to Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to this experience
 - get to know Creighton colleagues
 - create one action step as a result of the time together