

## **Service Learning: Bolstering Leadership Development While Encouraging Personal Growth**

Constance Scharff<sup>1</sup>

Service learning is evaluated as a model pedagogy for leadership development in university students. A case study of an anti-bullying initiative with collaborating partners St. Lawrence University, *Power Up*, Peace Games, and schools from the Los Angeles Unified School District serves as an example of a way in which service learning can be a medium for leadership development and personal transformation for all participants. Anti-bullying skill building activities are outlined. Service learning is discussed as a means of helping participants develop a broader understanding of self and others in addition to skill building, academic learning, and community service. All student participant names have been changed. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2009 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

**KEYWORDS:** Service Learning, Anti-Bullying Programs, Leadership Development, Undergraduate Experiential Education.

### **INTRODUCTION**

My assignment was straight-forward. In order to receive a Master's degree in Transformative Leadership from the California Institute of Integral Studies, I needed to showcase my leadership skills through the development and implementation of a capstone project. What would I do? I considered my interests. I enjoy working with undergraduates and have a strong relationship with my alma mater, St. Lawrence University. I thought about my strengths. I spent ten years with the Girl Scouts. I am well-versed in creating experiential learning activities for youth. Finally, I looked at my network of friends and colleagues. A close associate of

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