

One of the goals of the **Office of Multicultural Student Affairs** is to be a bridge between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. To this end we have added an educational component to the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) experience. Women and Gender Studies faculty will be designing and teaching learning modules to complement the service component of Alternative Spring and Summer Breaks. Students will not only be engaged in service during their trip to Miami but they will be researching immigration and cultural issues pertinent to the immigrant population. On their trip to New York they will be working at an HIV/Aids clinic and engaged in learning components that will address the irrational fear of person's with aids and populations at risk. In addition, this year students will have the opportunity of traveling to Honduras and working with Habitat International as part of the Summer Alternative Break. Dr. Socorro Zaragosa from the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Humanities and Women and Gender Studies will be facilitating the learning component of this trip. In addition, this April the applied learning project From the Mountains to the Bayou will conclude by taking 20 students to New Orleans. The students are currently conducting research and fundraising activities. During their stay in New Orleans they will be engaged in community service with Hands On New Orleans. Several completed student-faculty collaborative papers will be submitted for publication in Summer-Fall 09. For example, one student is an environmental health major and is doing research on the water quality post Hurricane Katrina, he will be working on a collaborative publication based on his findings with Dr. Sheila Presley.

If any faculty is interested in designing any applied learning or programmatic function that would assist in meeting and or enhancing their courses learning outcomes we are available to support and help to make both programs and trips that would meet their criteria. We are also in the process of designing a service learning course. Please feel free to contact : Marta Miranda at Marta.Miranda@eku.edu or 622-4373 and Brian Perry at Brian.Perry@eku.edu 622-3855.