



PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NOMINATED PROJECT  
(Insert your answer after each question.)

- 1. For purposes of this competition, the Commission on Higher Education defines service learning as college student learning at any level and in any situation that is *linked* in a direct, hands-on fashion to the resolution of a problem or concern in a target community outside the institution *and is related* to a college course with some type of reflection activity. Briefly, how does your project meet the parameters of this definition?**

According to Dr. Janet Collins, former acting director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health at the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, organized activities teach children the importance of being on time, the value of teamwork, and the pride of working hard and seeing themselves improve. In addition, she expresses the importance of organized events as it correlates to behavioral problems in schools. As a preparer of "visionary leaders" for service to this global society, Claflin University is well-aware of the importance of removing barriers that hinder learning, to include behavioral issues, thus supporting students in their effort to form the Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill.

The Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team, facilitated by Claflin University students of the Service Learning and Community Service program works with more than thirty (30) students of elementary and middle schools in Orangeburg, South Carolina of the Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five. The student leaders of the Drill Team are undergraduate students of Claflin University and members of the Army ROTC program. During the academic year (eight times each month) student leaders meet with the youth to provide mentoring complemented with engagement activities aligned with the Army ROTC Seven Leadership Principles (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage).

With a visionary approach, the student leaders provide an interactive, purpose-driven approach to inspire holistic practices for an improved mindset of the participants that will inspire social change while also supporting the continued improvement in behaviors that yield a positive impact in their classrooms, schools, and communities.

- 2. Specifically, which segments of the college/university community does your project involve?**

The Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team is organized and maintained by Claflin University ROTC students and other student volunteers of the university's Service Learning and Community Service program.

- 3. How many students (specify degree levels to the extent possible) does the project affect?**

To date, there are fifteen (15) student leaders which impact more than thirty (30) participants. Student leaders of the Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team are freshmen and sophomores currently studying one of the following four courses required of first and second-year students: University 101, University 102 (required of freshman students) and the Second

Year Experience 201 and Second Year Experience 202 courses; additionally, the student leaders are ROTC students.

**4. Describe the target community or communities your project serves.**

The Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team targets youth currently participating in an area Boys and Girls Club. The youth are enrolled in grades one through eight and attend schools in Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five.

**5. Describe your project's effectiveness in helping to solve the problems or concerns in the target community.**

The effectiveness in helping to solve the concerns addressed by the project has been measured by the reports of positive behavioral changes reported by the Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Director. As of February 2014, there are thirty (30) participants of the Drill Team, and according to the Program Director of the facility, more than one-third of the participants' behavioral issues have reduced by 75% percent. Behavioral issues depending upon the severity oftentimes lead to out-of-school suspensions, juvenile delinquencies, and sometimes incarcerations; we work avidly to reduce the behaviors that yield these outcomes.

**6. Describe the degree to which your project enhances student learning while providing specific examples of the service learning activities the students engage in. Also explain how the service learning activities reinforce or apply what the students learn in the classroom.**

The Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team enhances student learning through student engagement, as the Army ROTC's Seven Leadership Principles (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage) are also practices that are important to a student's holistic development. Students write and submit essays regarding reflective of their learning; these assignments improve both their written communication skills and oral communication skills.

**7. Is there academic credit associated with the project (not necessary for submission)? If so, please explain the particulars.**

Academic credit is associated with the project through the following four (4) courses which integrate service learning and community service while also working to enhance life skills: University 101, University 102, and Second Year Experience 201 and Second Year Experience 202.

**8. If funding is required, how is the project funded and what is the approximate annual budget for the project?**

The university's student leaders of the project do not require funding.

**9. Feel free to add any other comments you may have about your project.**

The Orangeburg Area Boys and Girls Club Drill Team, has helped reduce student behavior issues by at least 75%, as reported by the site director; thus, this improvement provides a positive impact on behavioral problems in schools. Also, with a keen focus on the Army ROTC's Seven Principles of Leadership, the youth can work to improve themselves holistically. More than 120 hours of service have been provided by the university's student leaders of this program, thus contributing to Claflin University's history of more than 61,000

community service hours annually to seventy (70) Orangeburg County agencies/organizations.

With the continued success of the program and the university's Service Learning and Community Service partnership with Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five, we will continue to help increase student success by working with youth to reduce barriers that hinder learning, and ultimately reduce out-of-school suspensions due to behavioral issues. With this focus, we will work avidly to develop life-long skills that help instill productive citizenship and citizens.

You may also include supplemental information about the project (such as brochures, pictures, etc.).

Please return this form via e-mail by **March 14, 2014**, to:

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