

PROCEEDINGS



UNISERVITATE
Service-learning in Catholic Higher Education

UNISERVITATE COLLECTION

I Global Symposium UNISERVITATE

October 29th-30th, 2020

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Messages from the Rectors of the
Regional Hubs

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INDEX

About us	6
This publication	7
4. Messages from the Rectors of the Regional Hubs	
R.P. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM.....	60
<i>President of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, United States.</i>	
David Wang'ombe.....	61
<i>Vice Chancellor of the Tangaza University College, Kenya</i>	
Gabrielle Gien.....	62
<i>President of the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany</i>	
Ignacio Sánchez Díaz.....	63
R.P. José María Guibert Ucin, SJ.....	65
<i>Rector of the Deusto University, Spain</i>	
Luc Sels.....	66
<i>Rector of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium</i>	
H. Raymundo Suplido, FSC.....	67
<i>President of De la Salle University, Philippines</i>	

ABOUT US

Uniservitate

Uniservitate is a global programme for the promotion of service-learning (SL) in Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs). It is an initiative of Porticus and is coordinated by the Latin American Center for Service-learning (CLAYSS).

The programme's objective is to generate a systemic change through the institutionalisation of service-learning as a tool for Higher Education Institutions to fulfil their mission of offering an integral education to new generations and involving them in an active commitment to the problems of our time.

Porticus

Porticus coordinates and develops the philanthropic endeavours of the Brenninkmeijer family, whose social commitment stretches back to 1841, when Clemens and August Brenninkmeijer founded the C&A company, starting a tradition of doing good while doing business.

Several businesses, charitable foundations and philanthropic programmes joined Porticus and expanded through numerous family initiatives.

Since its foundation in 1995, Porticus has grown to become one of the most committed institutions working to address the challenges of our time, to improve the lives of those most in need and to create a sustainable future where justice and human dignity flourish.

Porticus has two goals that guide the way it works: to listen to and learn from the people it seeks to help, and to act on evidence that demonstrates what works.

CLAYSS

The Latin American Center for Service-Learning - CLAYSS - is a leading organisation for the promotion of service-learning in Latin America, and a worldwide reference. It promotes the development of service-learning in both formal and non-formal education, and advises policy makers, NGO leaders, communities, educators and students.

The UNISERVITATE Collection

The UNISERVITATE Collection is an editorial project of CLAYSS (Latin American Center for Service-Learning) in articulation with Porticus.

It is aimed at Catholic Higher Education professors and authorities, other educational institutions, specialists in Service-Learning, ecclesiastical leaders, as well as the general public interested in education and social change.

With the contribution and collaboration of outstanding international academics and specialists, its objective is to offer contributions from different regions and to share multicultural perspectives on topics of interest related to spirituality and the pedagogy of Service-Learning in the world.

Each digital book is published in English, Spanish and French, and can be downloaded free of charge from the Uniservitate website: <https://www.uniservitate.org>.

THIS PUBLICATION

This publication collects the proceedings of the I Global Symposium *Uniservitate*, held on October 29th-30th, 2020, in virtual form. The texts respect the order of the presentations made during the two days of the symposium.

The “Spirituality and service-learning” section also includes two presentations developed within the framework of the *Uniservitate* Training for Trainers Course.

All the texts have been minimally edited to facilitate their reading. At the bottom of some of the presentations there is a link to the slides used in each case. In addition, a link to the video recording of each of the panels has been included at the end of each chapter. All the audiovisual material of the event is available in Spanish, English and French on the YouTube channel CLAYSS Digital: <https://www.youtube.com/user/clayssdigital/playlists>

4. MESSAGES FROM THE RECTORS OF THE REGIONAL HUBS



R.P. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM

*President of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities,
United States*

Regional Hub for the United States of America and Canada

Welcome and greetings from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). My name is Father Dennis Holtschneider, I serve as its president. ACCU represents nearly 200 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States and about two dozen international members, several located north of us, in Canada. As an association, we serve as the collective voice of Catholic Higher Education in the United States to the media, the Government and the Church. Through our programmes, our services, our consultations, we help to strengthen the Catholic identity and the mission of our member institutions and so ACCU is humbled to serve now as the Regional Hub for the USA and Canada for the *Uniservitate* programme.

We believe that service-learning is a vital aspect for the ways in which our colleges and universities live out their faith. We know that participation in service-learning helps to strengthen our students' understanding of serving other people, those often on the margins of society and in need of compassion and care. This was the work of Jesus Christ and now it is our work. *Uniservitate* is an important programme because it reminds all of Catholic Higher Education that our faith in action matters. While each region of the world, every different culture and distinct charisms bring a unique strength and approach to how service-learning is conducted on any one campus, the universal practice of institutionalising service-learning at our institutions is an important goal for all of Catholic Higher Education. *Uniservitate* seeks to accomplish this ambitious goal and we are honoured to have a role in the programme.

ACCU has been tasked with building a research plan to compile and to systematise our region's research and best practices in the spiritual dimension of service-learning, the institutionalisation models and processes among our member institutions and the impact of service-learning programmes on students, institutions and communities. In order to accomplish

this, we have created a sounding board comprised of service-learning practitioners and scholars from diverse institutions across the United States and Canada. All are experts in their field and we are grateful to be working with each of them, some of whom will be participating in this conference over the next two days. So thank you to CLAYSS, to Porticus, for leading the *Uniservitate* programme and for making this conference possible. We are looking forward to our participation and we thank you for the honour of this invitation. God bless you.



David Wang'ombe

*Vice Chancellor of the Tangaza University College, Kenya
Regional Hub for Africa*

Welcome to this symposium on service-learning in Catholic Higher Education. My name is professor David Wang'ombe and I am the Vice Chancellor designate of the Tangaza University College. It is a pleasure to invite you to this symposium, we are excited to be participants and a Hub hosting this programme, particularly because it resonates a lot with the purpose, the theme, the life of Tangaza University College.

The Tangaza University College is an institution brought together by 22 religious congregations of the Catholic Church, who came together in the intent of forming religious leaders, clergy in the church. We started as a seminary, training priests, and we have expanded to include other socio-transformative courses in the society including education, management and leadership, ministry of youth, social transformation, business enterprise development and all kinds of courses that transform society.

It is our intent to develop transformative leaders in the Church, in the private sector, in the Government and the wider society. Leaders that will make a difference, that are cognizant of the challenges societies are facing today. For that reason, we embrace the service-learning pedagogy, an approach which is embedded in our strategy: we believe in building academic excellence, research excellence and community engagement. Besides that, being a Catholic institution, we are keen on developing these three aspects with a Catholic identity. Organization excellence helps us to put together all this into fusion.

The service-learning pedagogy comes in as our tool of developing leaders, understanding that their progress in academics and research is not sufficient unless it solves society's problems; hence the community engagement pillar. We believe in engaging with society, so that it can learn from us and also we run and work together with our society to solve its present and future problems. It is for this reason that we are happy to be a Regional Hub, hosting the service-learning agenda of the Church within the region. We are excited to have you and we hope that you are going to find this symposium fruitful for yourself. Thank you very much and welcome to Tangaza University College.



Gabriele Gien

*President of the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany
Regional Hub for Central & Eastern Europe and the Middle East*

Welcome to the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. Let me very briefly introduce myself and our university. My name is Gabriele Gien and I am the president of this university. We are located in the heart of Germany, in Bavaria. We have around 5,500 students and we are focused on teacher education, humanities, social sciences and economics. For seven years, we tried to sharpen the profile of third mission and service-learning. How do we do it? Let me just give you some examples.

First of all, we have a lot of engaged student groups and we try to support them wherever we can. They get a little budget, we help to connect them with society and we sharpen their individual competences, for example, coaching them or giving them special workshops. Second, we are very happy we just finished the process of including service-learning in each and every one of our curricula, which is very important to connect academic education and service-learning and to reflect in the interaction of both. Third, we have strong research and evaluation in the field of service-learning which shows us or gives us an insight of its impact on society. Finally, what is most important and the reason I am so happy about the *Uniservitate* project, is that we have an intercultural and international perspective on service-learning. I think all the challenges of society and the world at the moment can just be solved together interdisciplinary with a lot of dialogue and an inter-

cultural perspective. Therefore, we are so glad to be part of *Uniservitate* and be one of the Regional Hubs responsible for the Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East region, where we already have a lot of projects.

I believe it is so important that we learn from each other because we have the same perspective. I think Pope Francis wants us to take the challenge and the responsibility and out of our profile we can really work together on a very strong mission in the field of service-learning and third mission. So this is the reason why I am so glad to be part of that network and I am very interested in what we discuss in the future because I think it is a process, not a product. So I wish you all the best, stay healthy and may we have very good work together.



Ignacio Sánchez Díaz

President of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

Regional Hub for Latin America and The Caribbean.

I would like to send warm greetings from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile to this great meeting on service-learning where we are working together globally to highlight this contribution from the University to society.

Our university, which is 132 years old, is strongly oriented to the quality education of our youths and also to the creation of new knowledge and its transfer to society. We are very committed to the development of the community, the relationship with society, and with more than 32,000 students, more than 3,500 professors and research areas in all fields of knowledge we are contributing to the development of Chile and also of our region. We have strong international links with universities in Latin America and around the world through university networks and we are convinced that the possibility of developing this project on service-learning together is extremely important.

For us, the pandemic has clearly underlined the importance of universities in the construction of knowledge and in providing support to society. That is why we have worked hard in our country to be able to make, from the point of view of research and its transfer,

contributions to the development of vaccines, clinical trials and management of data that are so important in a pandemic, contributions of medical supplies and mechanical ventilators and also contributions in the form of different documents that allow us to advance in knowledge in important areas, such as school education, employment and economic aid, as well as ethical guidelines, spiritual accompaniment, and others.

I say all this because the pandemic has caused the universities to turn to social engagement and to go beyond their walls in order to contribute to the country. In this sense, service-learning presents two aspects that are really important for our institution: how to best educate our youth in different subjects, in values, and in global issues, so that they can perform in a changing and globalized world; and how to include community service, the reality of the territories, and the realities of the communities in this learning process so that young people, from the very beginning of their higher education, can be trained in a close relationship with this society that presents us with so many challenges. Challenges that are present in Health, in Education, in the communal territories, challenges that are also in Engineering, in Law, in all areas of knowledge. In this sense, for many years now, we have been developing service-learning practices at our university: today there are more than 130 courses connected with this methodology that are constantly being evaluated; and most importantly, we are advancing more and more in being able to incorporate new areas, to incorporate new contents, to incorporate new methodologies.

Service-learning is especially relevant in the Catholic universities of our country, our region and particularly ours, where we answer the call of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* for the universities that are born from the heart of the Church to turn towards the service to the community, towards the reality of the people we serve. Because universities—and particularly Catholic universities—have a duty of quality education, the duty of creating high quality knowledge and these two columns have to be projected towards the community. And what better way to do this than through service-learning, which puts the best capabilities of the university through teaching and research in very direct contact with the territories and communities?

So have a great meeting, count on the best contribution and proposals from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Thank you very much.



R.P. José María Guibert Ucín, S.J.

Rector of the Deusto University, Spain

Regional Hub for Western Europe South

It is an honor and a pleasure to participate as a guest with a greeting in this symposium of the *Uniservitate* programme, Service-Learning in Catholic Higher Education. I am José María Guibert and I salute you as Rector of the Deusto University of the Society of Jesus with campuses in Bilbao, San Sebastian and the Basque Country. We are the institution designated as the Regional Hub for the promotion of the institutionalisation of service-learning in the region called South Western Europe, which is an honour for us all.

At Deusto, service-learning was introduced in 2001. It was one of the Schools that introduced it almost 20 years ago and it has expanded to all the centres since then. Although there were already USR activities, voluntary service and other forms of university social engagement, service-learning was a further step in which this social dimension was better integrated into the heart of the educational project, and since then initiatives and courses designed with this pedagogical approach have been developed. There have been research and publications that have led us to reflect and learn. We see it as a tool that integrates experience, reflection, action learning and evaluation. This is in line with our pedagogical method based on the Ignatian pedagogy; that is, service-learning is a very appropriate instrument to materialise the Ignatian pedagogy, which seeks the whole-person development.

In this *Uniservitate* project, our role is to help institutions in the region to institutionalise the service-learning methodology. *Institutionalising* means that it should not be an individual, concrete, isolated option, just one professor, but it should be part of the curriculum, be recognized, be part of the university's strategic plan, and have its place in the promotion and incentive plans of the faculty members. This implies internal changes in the university. Being a professor, you realise that you learn a lot when you teach. By explaining, you learn and deepen your understanding. It has happened to us that when you accompany another university, you learn more as a university yourself. That is to say, the experience of accompanying helps us to improve ourselves as a university in the area of service-learning. We are honoured to have been chosen for this role of experts to accom-

pany others, but above all, this year you are on a learning path and it will be a path that we will make together.

In summary, at Deusto we are very excited about our role for two reasons: the first one, to help the universities—our vocation is to help where we can help—, and the second two, because this allows us to deepen and improve the service-learning option. Thank you very much for your attention.



Luc Sels

*Rector of the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium
Regional Hub for Western Europe North*

The university has a comprehensive remit which is often expressed in terms of missions, whereby teaching and research are crucial aspects, but not the only ones. The third mission stipulates that the university must contribute to sustainable social development. In Flanders, this mission is more or less officially translated as “public service,” a label that is not immediately inspiring and that downplays the importance of this mission. In fact, it goes much further than “service”; it is about our firm engagement to help shape our society.

For KU Leuven, this third mission means that, drawing on our teaching and research—and rooted in our Christian inspiration—we work towards humane and sustainable development and a harmonious and just society; we safeguard the values of democracy and the rule of law, respond to the needs of vulnerable groups, contribute to cultural development, and alert policy makers to the risks inherent in the major challenges facing people and society, in North and South, East and West.

Our mission statement provides the relevant frame of reference in this regard. It defines KU Leuven as a space for open, creative and forward-thinking debate. It regards academic education, based on scientific research, as its core task. It underlines the importance of interdisciplinarity and reminds us of our obligation to strive for excellence in everything

we do. It also anchors what we do in a Christian humane and world view which demands specific consideration for the most vulnerable.

KU Leuven Engage is also taking more and more shape in the study curricula. For example, with the now well-developed service-learning: learning through social engagement, and deepening this experience through reflection. Over the past five years, KU Leuven has developed a wealth of service-learning pathways. I can cite the Sinology students who devote a full year in China working for migrant children and women's rights, and who come into contact with Chinese culture in the most far-reaching way possible. Look at the History students who, through their contact with refugees, underprivileged children or homeless people, learn to place complex social problems in their historical and current perspective, and give them a voice.

KU Leuven Engage is only partly a story about impact and social innovation. It is first and foremost a lever for the broader teaching of our students to become critical and responsible global citizens, with central values, such as diversity, sustainability and solidarity. More than ever, we are giving substance to what makes the university a university: the place where engagement translates into targeted action by the university community that shapes it in all its domains.



H. Raymundo B. Suplido, FSC

President of De la Salle University, Philippines

Regional Hub for Asia & Oceania

Mabuhay to our dear friends from CLAYSS and fellow members of *Uniservitate*. It is my pleasure to be part of this Global Symposium on Service-Learning in Catholic Higher Education. Our founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle and his companions, discerned God's call to respond to the human and spiritual distress of poor and abandoned children during his time. As a concrete commitment to this divine call, they together and by association establish schools that make quality human and Christian education accessible to young people. Today, De La Salle University is part of that global network of institutions that continues that mission and ministry.

One of our key strategies is service-learning, an integral part of our commitment to community engagement. Together with teaching and research, service-learning allows our key stakeholders, namely our students, faculty members and partner communities, to deepen their appreciation of concepts and practices of sustainable development through practical applications, person-to-person connections and collaborative initiatives. Through service-learning, our students and faculty members partner with communities in creating solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in our society, while engaging in academic work that focuses on their personal and professional growth.

Our service-learning initiatives are also responsive to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and require a lot of passion and commitment from our individual members and our institutions. We are also honoured to have been chosen as the Regional Hub for Asia and Oceania of *Uniservitate*. This is a daunting task especially in this time of the global pandemic but through God's grace and our collective efforts, we will be able to pursue our shared mission to develop and promote service-learning in the region. We look forward to expanding our global partnerships, enhancing our capacities and most importantly helping uplift the lives of the poor and the marginalized within the perspective of Christian ideals and values. Thank you and we look forward to a meaningful and productive symposium.



In support of the Global Compact on Education

Uniservitate is a global programme for the promotion of service-learning in Catholic Higher Education. It aims to generate a systemic change in Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), through the institutionalisation of service-learning (SL) as a tool to achieve its mission of an integral education and formation of agents of change committed to their community.

UNISERVITATE COLLECTION

“Only by changing education can we change the world”

Pope Francis

1 I Global Symposium UNISERVITATE

This first volume of the Uniservitate Collection is dedicated to the I Global Symposium Uniservitate, whose objective was to initiate a series of meetings within the framework of the Uniservitate programme, as a multicultural, global and plural space, based on the contributions of the pedagogical proposal of service-learning to integral university education. The event, held in October 2020, sought to facilitate the exchange between experts, authorities and professors from Higher Education Institutions from diverse cultural contexts around the world, on university community engagement and service-learning practices and programmes. The present Proceedings are a compilation of the reflections and experiences shared there.

Uniservitate is an initiative led by Porticus, with the general coordination of the Latin American Center for Service-learning (CLAYSS)

<https://www.uniservitate.org>



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