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International Symposium on "Service – Learning" in Higher Education



An International Symposium on "Service – Learning" takes place next week, November 22 – 24, in Athens with 65 Universities participating from four continents. The Symposium is organized by the University of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA (UIndy), under the auspices of the Athens Campus of the University of Indianapolis (UIndy Athens), and will be held at the UIndy Athens Cultural Center.

University of Indianapolis
Athens Campus (UIndy Athens)
Cultural Center – 5 Markou Avriliou, Plaka
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday November 22, 23 & 24, 2009

The event introduces to Athens the international academic discussion on "Service – Learning", one of the most exciting, hands-on and innovative approaches to education, that brings learning to life by integrating meaningful community service with instruction ,enriching learning experience, teaching civic responsibility, encouraging lifelong civic engagement and strengthening communities for the common good.

"If we consider service-learning as a "social movement" or "social reform" in higher education, we must address a number of pertinent questions so that service-learning can be rooted in the fabric of higher education," said Phylis Lan Lin, Symposium Chair and Associate Vice President for International Partnerships of UIndy. "[...] Universities are increasingly embracing the notion of service-learning as a model to integrate research work, learning inside the community through civic engagement."

"Service-learning, which combines the best of the teaching and service sectors, has proved to be a powerful and practical methodology and tool with far-reaching implications. Two separate yet interrelated goals—community engagement and student learning—set the nature and structure of a service-learning program in higher education," explained Mary Moore, Vice President for Research, Planning, and International Partnerships of UIndy.

"Service - Learning is embedded within UIndy's philosophy according to which, the University 'strives to nurture in its students the qualities that make a meaningful life possible and the wisdom to recognize that such a life is inseparable from personal and social responsibility'" noted Vasilis Botopoulos, Chancellor of UIndy Athens and Vice President of the University of Indianapolis (USA).

The Conference is co-sponsored by UIndy, UIndy Athens, Indiana Campus Compact, USA; Miami University Hamilton, USA; and Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University, China.
For more details contact Anthi Kalomiri at 210 3237 077 or visit www.uindy.gr .

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