



Global Sustainability and Earth Literacy Studies (GSELS) Scholar Civic Engagement Project

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.”

--Thomas Ehrlich
Civic Responsibility and Higher Education

The Global Sustainability and Earth Literacy Studies (GSELS) Learning Network at Miami Dade College helps students gain the expertise needed to be a 21st-Century engaged citizen. GSELS empowers students to be change-makers—to make a positive difference. We believe that in today’s highly-connected, socially-conscious world, civic engagement fosters valuable, marketable skills that will enable our students to be leaders in our schools, communities, and beyond.

An important requisite in earning the GSELS Scholar designation is completing a 10-hour (minimum) civic engagement project related to your GSELS studies. This work can take two forms: service-learning or volunteering. Service-learning is work directly connected to course curricula. This work reinforces your studies, and includes reflection. Volunteering is service that is not linked to a specific course, and can be performed by individuals, groups, and student clubs/organizations.

GSELS Scholar Civic Engagement Projects must be registered through the Institute for Civic Engagement and Democracy’s (iCED) website (www.mdc.edu/iced).

The procedure for this is detailed below:

1. Search for a service opportunity in iCED’s community partner database here: <https://sisvsr.mdc.edu/cci/search.aspx> (note: for GSELS students, the community partner may be Earth Ethics Institute)
2. Contact the agency with whom you would like to do service (instructions are provided for how to do this on the iCED website)
3. Register your service and start a new service-learning application here: <https://sisvsr.mdc.edu/cci/stuapp.aspx>
4. Print the Service-Learning Contract and the Hour Report
 - a. The Service-Learning Contract should be completed with your site supervisor and then returned to your campus iCED office.
 - b. Keep track of your service hours on the Hour Report. Return the completed form to your campus iCED office.
5. Complete the Student Survey and view your logged hours on the iCED website.
6. Note: your iCED Service-Learning Transcript reflecting at least 10 hours of GSELS-related service will be needed when applying for GSELS Scholar status.

We thank you for your interest in civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and Earth Literacy!

