



**HEQC**

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**Service-Learning in the Curriculum  
A Resource for Higher Education Institutions**



**JET** EDUCATION  
SERVICES

*June 2006*

Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC)

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A Resource for Higher Education Institutions**

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## **Service-Learning in the Curriculum A Resource for Higher Education Institutions**

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Service-Learning in the Curriculum  
A Resource for Higher Education Institutions

Published by:  
The Council on Higher Education  
Didacta Building  
211 Skinner Street  
Pretoria  
South Africa

PO Box 13354  
The Tramshed  
0126  
South Africa

Tel. +27 12 392 9132  
Fax. +27 12 392 9120  
Website: <http://www.che.ac.za>

**ISBN: 1-919856-57-9**

**Date of Publication: June 2006**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This publication is the product of a task group convened by the Community – Higher Education – Service Partnerships (CHESP) initiative of JET Education Services (formerly Joint Education Trust). The Higher Education Quality Committee and JET Education Services would like to acknowledge the contributions of:

The Ford Foundation who, through their funding of the JET-CHESP initiative, made it possible to produce this publication.

Kathleen Stacey (Director: Office of Academic Service Learning, Eastern Michigan University) and Timothy Stanton (School of Education, Stanford University), who served as advisors and critical readers during the development of the publication.

## PREFACE

The Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) is mandated by the Higher Education Act of 1997 to operate a quality assurance system that focuses on the accreditation of higher education programmes and on the audit of the quality management systems of higher education institutions (HEIs). Also included in the mandate of the HEQC are quality promotion and building the capacity of the higher education system, institutions and individuals to respond to the HEQC's quality requirements.

As part of fulfilling its mandate, the HEQC actively promotes discussion and debate about quality issues – especially in relation to the core functions of HEIs: teaching, research and community engagement – and these activities are located within the directorate of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development. The directorate takes responsibility for conceptualising and managing a number of activities and research projects with the participation of HEIs, research specialists and organisations involved in and concerned with higher education.

*Service-Learning in the Curriculum: A Resource for Higher Education Institutions* is one of several publications that the HEQC, in collaboration with JET Education Services (formerly Joint Education Trust), is devoting to community engagement in South African higher education. The other publications include: *A Good Practice Guide and Self-evaluation Instruments for Managing the Quality of Service-Learning*; *Service-Learning in the Disciplines: Lessons from the Field*; and *Perspectives on Community Engagement in Higher Education*.

The HEQC included community engagement in its work not only because community engagement is a core function of higher education but also because of the potential of community engagement to advance social development and social transformation agendas in higher education. HEIs vary widely in the way they locate and give effect to community engagement in their missions, and various approaches to and organisation of community engagement have emerged in South Africa. This publication focuses on one aspect of community engagement: service-learning. The publication includes the contributions of local specialists about their different experiences of the practice of and approaches to service-learning in higher education.

The HEQC hopes that this publication – aimed both at higher education academics and persons with institution-wide curriculum development and quality assurance responsibilities – will encourage debate and reflection about curriculum development in service-learning, its conceptual underpinnings, and the different models of partnerships that can be used to operationalise service-learning.

*Dr Mala Singh*  
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*June 2006*

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