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## Director shares lessons of service

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Community service was taught to Margaret Stevens from an early age.

"I grew up with my dad in the Navy and my mom supporting every scouting troop and classroom that my siblings and I were in, so I knew that there was value in serving our community," Stevens said.

As the director of the Service Learning for the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, she is using those same lessons to enrich the education of NKU's students and work with the community.

"This work combines the two things I enjoy most: helping people learn and being involved in the community. Also, I love that I get to interact with so many different people (faculty, staff, students and community members) in a variety of different situations. In turn, all of this allows me to continue to learn and grow myself," Stevens said.

In the role, Stevens will be responsible for helping NKU's students find opportunities to learn through community service.

"I often describe the service activities as a 'lived textbook,'" Stevens said.

NKU has charged Stevens with developing service learning at NKU. Success will be measured by counting how many students participate in the program, how many courses are included, and how many programs are served. Stevens also wants to measure the quality of the experiences.

"I hope to collect their stories and anecdotes over time to show how our programs are really making a difference in the lives of all of those involved," she said.

Stevens' prior experience includes director of Experimental Learning Programs at University of Cincinnati's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences and in student affairs at the University of Charleston (W.Va.). She holds a bachelor's in psychology from St. Louis University, a master's from the University of Charleston and is completing her doctorate at UC.

The Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement was established in 2003 to promote the civic involvement of NKU students.

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