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Students learn by doing in NKU grant project

Review process done through NKU

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Some Northern Kentucky University students have just finished learning about giving. The Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project allows students earning their master's of public administration to administer grant funding to nonprofit groups.

NKU's student philanthropy is an example of what professor Julie Olberding calls "experiential teaching," or, learning by doing.

The project has involved more than 1,000 students, 200 agencies and \$300,000 in grants during the past seven years.

This semester, the students learned with Citibank's money.

Citi provided six funding requests for the class to review, Olberding said. Each student was assigned two proposals and had to do a site visit of the organization or interview a representative, conduct external research and write an evaluation.

Students with the same requests selected one of the two proposals to recommend to the whole class. Then the class debated and ranked the six proposals. The ranking was passed along to Citibank's Community Impact Board.

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