

History of Theaters in Allegany County

By Brian White

Meet a recognized need in the community: The students were performing an invaluable service to the community by valuing the contributions of older citizens in Allegany County as they were interviewed for the book. The students were also doing a service to the community by compiling and publishing a history of the community.

Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning: The students were involved in researching, writing, and constructing books on the history of theaters in Allegany County. The students also interviewed many of the senior citizens in Allegany County.

Reflect throughout service-learning experience: The students reflected on their findings and discussed the importance and relevance of exploring history.

Develop student responsibility: The students were responsible for gathering information by researching, interviewing, and networking.

Establish community partnerships: Partnerships were created with members of the community who provided valuable information to the students. Many individuals have helped set up additional interviews and some have provided additional contacts to the students. A partnership was also created with Jan Alerton, editor of the Cumberland Times, who published several of the students' articles in the paper.

Plan ahead for the service-learning: To prepare for the project students signed up for the seminar and met over the summer to develop a work plan. The students researched and developed a list of theaters in Allegany County. They also developed a list of people who could be interviewed for the project.

Equip students with knowledge and skills need for service: The students learned effective researching, interviewing, and writing skills.

