Communicorps

Overview: Communicorps is a program we created at Keene State College, Keene NH, as part of the Architecture and Building Science Program, which engages students in collaborative design projects for non-profits and other community organizations.

We established Communicorps in the early 1990's as an integral part of our new academic program at Keene State College in Architecture and Building Science. The overall academic program was established around core values of Sustainable Design, Learning-by-doing, and Community Service. We created a teaching/learning model, "Problem-Based Service Learning," and integrated that model into this new academic program at the College.

Students, typically in teams of three, work on semester-long projects where the clients are representatives of non-profits, municipalities, or other community organizations. Students present work in process every two weeks to their clients, receive feedback, and give a final public presentation at the end of the semester. Past projects include affordable housing, homeless shelters, school additions, community centers, master planning, and designs of deep energy retrofits. Students have found this course to be one of the most valuable experiences in their four-year undergraduate experience.

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