



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE: A BRIDGE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

ABSTRACT:

This poster presentation will examine community service in Mexico and the United States, with a focus on its connection to service-learning. It will explore the distinct approaches each country takes toward service, the tangible impact on communities, and the benefits students gain from active participation. Drawing from personal experiences, this presentation will highlight the transformative power of service—not only in strengthening communities but also in shaping the personal and academic growth of those engaged in meaningful service work.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

BIO(S):

CAROLINA BECERRA LOPEZ

Carolina has always been deeply passionate about community service. Her dedication has led her to volunteer in various settings, particularly in orphanages in León, Guanajuato, where she helped prepare meals for children in need. She has also contributed to impactful initiatives like *Carta a los Reyes Magos*, a project that allows children from marginalized communities to send letters with humble requests—simple necessities such as shoes or toilet paper, which many take for granted. These transformative experiences have fueled her interest in service-learning programs and their potential to foster meaningful growth for both students and the communities they serve. Carolina firmly believes that community service is more than just an act of giving—it is a powerful opportunity for learning, empathy, and personal development.