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# **Honors Colleges and Service- Learning: Keys to Student Success**

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# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Honors Education Defined
3. Service-Learning/Experiential Learning Defined
4. Theoretical Discussion
  - Physiological Needs
  - Safety Needs
  - Love and Belong
  - Esteem
  - Self-Actualization

# Agenda

5. Understanding and Applying Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
6. The Partnership between Honors College & Service-Learning
7. Building the Brand
8. Maslow's Theory as it relates to faculty and staff
9. Questions & Answers



# Introductions

# What is Honors Education?

## “Components of an Honors College”

- “The National Collegiate Honors Council recognizes an honors college, program, institute, or equivalent descriptor, as the academic unit on a collegiate campus responsible for devising and delivering in-class and extracurricular academic experiences that provide a distinctive learning environment for selected students. The honors college or program provides opportunities for measurably broader, deeper, and more complex learning-centered and learner-directed experiences for its students than are available elsewhere in the institution; these opportunities are appropriately tailored to fit the institution’s culture and mission and frequently occur within a close community of students and faculty. In most cases, the honors community is composed of carefully selected teachers and students who form a cross- or multi-disciplinary cohort dedicated to achieving exceptional learning and personal standards. The National Collegiate Honors Council recognizes “departmental honors” as educational experiences that are similar but restricted to cohorts of students pursuing the same field of academic study.”
- Source: NCHC (<https://www.nchchonors.org/directors-faculty/definition-of-honors-education>)

# What is Service-Learning/Experiential Learning?

**Experiential Learning** is the process of learning by doing. By engaging students in hands-on experiences and reflection, they are better able to connect theories and knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

**Experiential learning** opportunities exist in a variety of course- and non-course-based forms and may include community service, service-learning, undergraduate research, study abroad/away, and culminating experiences such as internships, student teaching, and capstone projects, to name a few.

Source: Kent State University ~ <https://www.kent.edu/community/what-experiential-learning-and-why-it-important>

**Service-Learning and Experiential Learning** are listed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> by the National Collegiate Honors Council as *Modes of Honors Learning*, only preceded by research and creative scholarship at number 1 and number 2 “multi- or interdisciplinary learning”.

# Who was Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)?

American psychologist who developed a hierarchy of needs to explain human motivation.

- Abraham Maslow was born on April 1, 1908, in Brooklyn, New York
- First of seven children born to his Jewish parents (Russian)
- Early childhood as unhappy and lonely
- Earned all three of his degrees in psychology (a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate) from the University of Wisconsin
- Heavily influenced by **Gestalt psychologist Max Wertheimer** and **anthropologist Ruth Benedict**
- 1950s, became one of the founders and driving forces behind **humanistic psychology**
- Felt that Freud's **psychoanalytic theory** and Skinner's **behavioral theory** were too focused on the negative or pathological aspects of existence
- Focused on maximizing well-being and achieving one's full potential
- Theories continue to influence researchers and students interested in knowing more about human motivation, self-actualization, and humanistic psychology

# Maslow's hierarchy of needs

**Source:** Plateresca / Getty Images

(<https://www.thoughtco.com/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-4582571>)



Maslow's hierarchy of needs



# Understanding Maslow's hierarchy of needs through

[The Pursuit of Happyness \(2006\)](#)



<https://x.com/CEOofHappYness/status/1449015032365424642>

[Chris Gardner](#)

[@CEOofHappYness](#)

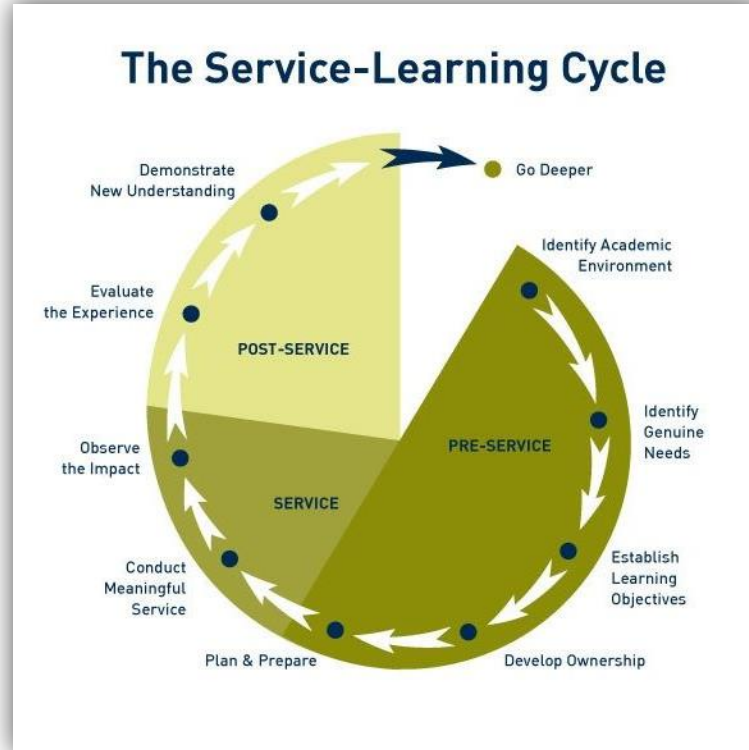
'The Pursuit of Happyness' is more relevant today than when it was initially released. Because of the pandemic, we're all having our own Pursuit of Happyness experiences. What's yours? I'd like to know.



# Think Tank



# The Cycle of Service-Learning Implementing Maslow's Theory





# **Applying Maslow**

# Physiological Needs

- Most essential of all needs
- Food, water, shelter, warmth, sleep, etc.
- Meeting the first need



# Safety

- Personal security, employment, resources, health, and property
- Lacking causes fear & anxiety





# Love and Belonging

- Feeling loved & accepted
- Friends & family
- Belonging to a social group





# Esteem

- Self-confidence & Clothes
- Feeling valued by others
- Achievements & contributions
- Honors Day



# Self-actualization

- Inner fulfillment
- Living up to one's potential
- Rarely achieved:
  - Abraham Lincoln
  - Albert Einstein
  - Mother Teresa



# Strengthening the Brand

## The First Class of Scholars' Jacket Recipients





# Strengthening the brand through scholarship, leadership & comradeship – “with an undergirding tenet of service”



# Strengthening the brand by building a sense of connection and belonging





# Strengthening the brand by building a desire to become the most that one can be!



# Strengthening the brand by building esteem.





# Strengthening the brand through service-learning.





# Strengthening the brand through research & service-learning.



# Building the Brand

Earl Lester Cole Honors College



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96%

Retention Rate

Earl Lester Cole  
Honors College

Members

# **Maslow's Theory Implications for Higher Education Faculty and Staff**



**How can we motivate  
our students if our  
own needs are  
not met?**

*I Love My*

**HONORS COLLEGE**



**EARL LESTER COLE HONORS COLLEGE**  
**GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Thank you for joining our session.



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