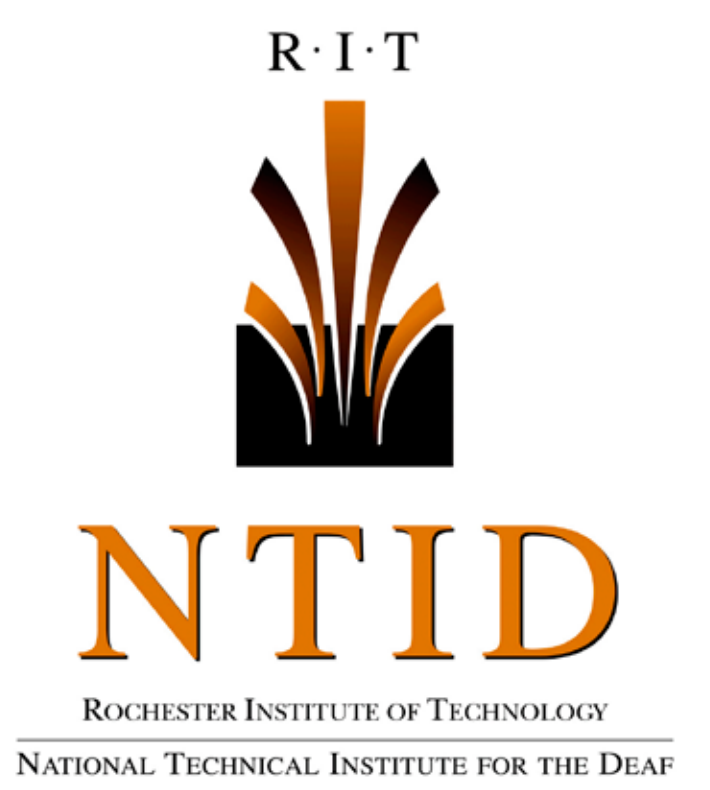


# Pilot Development of Student Portfolios for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Enrolled in Freshman Seminar

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## Examples of "Discussion Posts" of Student Portfolios

### What do you think the value of service-learning is in the college environment?

*I felt that really benefit for me. This program make me to have more fun and good time with my friends. Also this program to learn to help another people and do not being selfish.*

*I think that interested to me charity things like kid's quilt or what others.*



Initial service-learning activity: Students designed quilt blocks that were assembled for final class.

*Service-Learning is very important for people to learn from themselves. They can have the chance to learn in many ways how to be with people, right and wrong.*

*service-learning is what we learn how much of a difference we can make when we help people who are in need of assistance. The quilt was enjoyable becuase i got a chance to make something homemade that can be used by people. It was a first for me and i was fun*

*I think that service-learning is good for people to have fun and good time. This program seems like help people to know how to handle with other people for good time. I had good time with the quilt. I enjoyed to do it.*

*That Service-Learning is benefits for people and its gain experiences and knowledge about different new culture.*

*The value of service-learning in the college enviroment is a critical phase in a person's life. The services would help one gain experiences by dedicating their time and absorb knowledge about other people's experiences that you, personally, haven't gone through before. This experiences of services would enable one to continually give effort in "post-college era."*

### What characteristics does a leader have & why is effective leadership important in service-learning

*yeah we went to Lake Ontario for picked up debris that man is asking us for helping. I am sure that man is good characteristic leadership and charge of them. That will not fight or brawling there*

*Yes, I agree that the man did a great job of getting everyone to places and help pick up the trashes. A leader's characteristics would be great social skills, good listener, caring heart, and really motivated to get the job done. Effective leadership is important in service-learning because that would help people to have fun while completing their tasks*

*Most important to have friendly and motivation as leadership and make another people have more excitment and want more to participation the community service.*

*When we went to by the lake for community service. It's make place a clean but we look like a prisoner in orange clothes . We made that guy a proud that we helped and clean up the places and also the trashes too. It's make me feel good to help to other people*



Class photo of Intercoastal Highway Clean-up Project

### How is team work an important part of service-learning?

*I think it is important for people to learn to work as part of a team. Team members can cooperate and work better than one individual. Teams can try to figure out the best ideas and the best way to do things and team members can cooperate to divide up work so that more work can be done. If we add service learning to teamwork, we are adding a very worthwhile thing. If a team of people is working on a project that will help other people, then many good things happen. This service is better because more people and more talent is being used to help the people in need. And the team working on the service project will do a better job for the service. Thus, I think teamwork + service-project = the power of teams + the power of learning to work together + the goodness of helping others.*

*A team work is very important because, if you don't work together as a team, how you going to get any project done. That's why we need to have a team work, to get things motivate.*

*It would provide more better cooperation among with students. It is based on communication itself that would make team work going smoothly. Additionally, it would show to the boss that respect, communication, commitments, and motivation are part of teamwork for service-learning.*

## RESULTS

Students were surveyed during the eighth week of the academic quarter using the NTID Student Rating Survey. On a 5-point scale where 1.0 is a "strongly disagree" rating and 5.0 is a "strongly agree" rating, the following results were obtained to this question:

*I liked having the on-line course materials that were available in the on-line management programs (outline, discussion posts, grade book).*

4.89 (n=9 students, Fall Quarter, 2004)  
4.80 (n=5 students, Winter Quarter, 2004)

Numerical data seems to suggest that students felt favorably about the student portfolio. Those students who did participate also posted favorable anecdotal evidence of positive progress. Among sample student posts are the following:

*"My biggest academic accomplish was that I learned new ways of doing things for my classes. Also, I learned how to get ideas for projects. My biggest accomplish socially I don't think I have done it yet because I am a very shy person but I am working on it slowly."*

*"My biggest academic accomplishment this quarter is to improve my reading and writing skill. I am glad that I do really well in English class because it is such an important issue this college. I want to be able to enter RIT course because I want to achieve my dream of getting a Bachelor degree. My biggest personal/social accomplishment this quarter it to be aware of the many essential things about college life and gain communication skill. I am glad that Freshman Seminar does teach me everything essential because I will be lost and my personality for sure. It is all I say."*

One of the biggest issues with the portfolio system appears to be that deaf and hard of hearing students with weaker writing and English language skills frequently did not participate in the discussion posts. However, for the majority of students the portfolio system appeared to be a positive experience.



Students prepare "gifts" for the Open Door Mission

## ABSTRACT

Student portfolios are used by colleges as a way to provide: 1) self-assessment, 2) evaluation of progress/learning, and 3) student/faculty interaction. This poster will show initial development of web-based portfolios for deaf and hard of hearing students (n=17) enrolled in *Freshman Seminar*.

## SUMMARY

While evidence suggests significant benefits, use of student portfolios is rare in the United States (<http://www.siu.edu/~deder/assess/porft.html>). Storage and evaluation of the needed documentation is often a significant problem. The question is, if an existing web-based course management system can be utilized, would students who are deaf and hard of hearing benefit from a portfolio as a method of 1) self-assessment, 2) evaluation of progress/ learning, and 3) student/faculty interaction?

Initially, it was determined that "myCourses.rit.edu" (Prometheus™) would be used as a means to organize individual student's thought processes. "MyCourses.rit.edu" already existed within the college as a tool for providing lecture notes, homework assignments, and instructional handouts. Deaf and hard of hearing students (n=17) enrolled in *Freshman Seminar* posted in the "Discussions" of "myCourses" every seven to ten days. The posts, e-mailed questions/responses between instructor and students, and photos of class activities were assembled in a hard-copy "scrapbook" format at the end of the quarter to document student progress. Students completed the NTID Student Rating Survey (SRS) at the conclusion of the course to evaluate the perceived benefit of web-based portfolios. Summary results of questions will be shared along with student "scrapbooks."



Recipients of student "shoe boxes" for homeless individuals in Rochester