INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE LEARNING

International Service Learning offers a unique experience for students interested in solving real problems in real, practical ways for communities in other countries.

There are several different opportunities for international service learning at Northeastern, each of them quite different. All of them address an important community problem in the country concerned, develop viable solutions and implement them. The experience can lead to valuable research and organizational and leadership skills, all of which can be applied to your course work, to your future career and to your role as an engaged, educated citizen. Some of them include course credits.
ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Engineers Without Borders USA is a national non-profit organization established to partner with developing communities in order to improve the quality of life in those communities. This partnership focuses on the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, involving and training internationally-responsible engineers and engineering students. The NU chapter consists of academically-strong students with a common vision for global improvement.

The Northeastern University student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-NEU) is led by Professor Ferdi Hellwegger, College of Engineering.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT:

In 2006, EWB-NEU completed a water sanitation and distribution project in the village of El Tecuan, Honduras. El Tecuan is a small village of approximately 250 people in the Yoro District of Honduras. The village had difficulties sustaining adequate water pressure, resulting in a constant effort to produce enough water for the community. EWB-NEU members traveled to the village to survey water quality and pressure data in 2005. It was apparent that the inadequate pressure was a result of a poorly designed distribution system coupled with aging pipes and a significant growth in the town's population. A team of students returned in 2006 and successfully implemented their design to improve the distribution system in the village.

EWB now has a new project in Los Planes, Honduras. Los Planes is considered to be one of the poorest communities in the area. Because of a lack of water the villagers struggle to raise sufficient crops or livestock. Without these essential commodities, malnutrition and overall poor health are constant problems, lowering the average life expectancy in the village to the mid-forties. Members of EWB-NEU recently traveled to Los Planes twice in 2007 to work with the villagers and begin construction of a water distribution system. By improving the water supply, the overall quality of life will improve, allowing the villagers to become self-sufficient. EWB-NEU hopes to make a difference and change the lives of the people of Los Planes.