

**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."**

— *Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father and inventor.*

Our approach to experiential learning includes the combination of three educational disciplines needed for effective 21st Century education.

**Project Based Learning as the bridge:** "Connects your classrooms to the world" perfectly describes how PBL breaks down the artificial barriers between academic learning and real-world application. It transforms classrooms from isolated learning environments into spaces that engage with authentic problems and contexts.

**Service Learning as the focus:** "Actively focuses on real world problems" highlights service learning's commitment to addressing genuine community needs. Unlike PBL projects that might be simulated or hypothetical, service learning mandates that students work on actual problems affecting real people and communities.

**Design Thinking as the methodology:** "An innovative strategy that can be used to solve problems identified in service learning" accurately positions design thinking as a powerful tool or process that can enhance the problem-solving effectiveness of service learning projects. The human-centered, iterative approach of design thinking is particularly well-suited to the community-focused challenges that service learning addresses.

This framing also reveals their natural progression: PBL creates the educational structure for authentic engagement, service learning identifies meaningful problems worth solving, and design thinking provides a sophisticated methodology for developing effective solutions. Together, they create a comprehensive approach that is pedagogically sound (PBL), socially responsible (service learning), and methodologically rigorous (design thinking).

What is clear to us is that these are not competing approaches, but rather complementary strategies that can work synergistically to create more impactful and meaningful educational experiences.