



Driving Community Connections Frequently Asked Questions

What is Driving Community Connections?

Driving Community Connections is a pilot partnership between ITN*GreaterCincinnati* and the University of Cincinnati, supported by the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Board of Regents, with the goal of linking college students with older adults in their community in need of transportation assistance. Nationally, ITN's volunteers are mainly older adults; by tapping into the unique campus culture of the University of Cincinnati, ITN*GreaterCincinnati* fills an important service gap. In addition to earning transportation credits that they can save for future use, transfer to a loved one or donate to someone in need, students also have the opportunity to earn college credit.

What is ITN?

The Independent Transportation Network (ITN) is the first and only national non-profit transportation system for older adults. ITN connects elders who need transportation for any purpose with volunteer drivers who provide "door-through-door service" at any time of day. [ITN*GreaterCincinnati*](#) currently is the only Ohio affiliate of ITN America.

How does ITN work?

ITN is membership-based. Members pay dues and pay affordable fares for rides out of a pre-paid Personal Transportation Account. The ITN service is available 24/7 and gives customers the flexibility to schedule their rides in advance or as needed, as well as the option to ride alone or with others. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and earn partial mileage reimbursement and credit in their own Personal Transportation Accounts that they can use in the future, transfer to a loved one or donate to low-income riders. Payment is processed using ITN's proprietary software so that no money is exchanged between riders and drivers, adding to the program's safety.

How can I get involved?

Students have the opportunity to get involved with Driving Community Connections through Service Learning or by signing-up for SLCE 3000—an online course that offers individuals an opportunity to learn more about the aging process while earning college credit for driving older adults in their community. A student group was created for anyone on campus interested in volunteering without receiving college credit.

What is Service Learning?

Service Learning is a specially designed learning experience at the University of Cincinnati in which Students combine reflection with structured participation in community-based projects to achieve learning outcomes as part of an academic course or program. Students apply what they are learning in the classroom in civic services, thus deepening their understanding of course materials. Students also

get to work meaningfully with people of varied cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds, lifestyles and learning styles.

How is Driving Community Connections funded?

ITN*GreaterCincinnati* will support the Driving Community Connections pilot program through donations and in-kind contributions from local businesses, members and other partners. ITN is specifically designed to not compete with public transportation services for public funding. The University of Cincinnati provides the Service Learning program as part of its academic services.

Are there plans to implement Driving Community Connections in other parts of the State?

Driving Community Connections is a pilot project that, if successful, is designed to be replicated by other communities as ITN expands. It is one of several strategies currently being explored by state partners, including the Ohio Departments of Aging and Transportation, to fill gaps in Ohio's public transit systems and help communities be responsive to changing needs resulting from an aging population.

For more information about ITN, to join or to volunteer to drive, visit www.itngreatercincinnati.org.

Updated: 2/26/2015