Community service builds students’ confidence & skills

Stephanie Mitchell and Melissa Elmore aspire to be the best interior designers around, and both are already building reputations for quality design work. The SCTD students were recruited this year by Wesley House Community Center to help with renovation of their retail store, Wear House. Stephanie and Melissa are space planning and developing finishes for the renovation under the supervision of Interior Design department Chairperson Terri George.

Wear House is designed to become an upscale clothing consignment shop. Students determined utilization of space, coordinated with allied building trades, and procured donations of new materials and furnishings. As a result, both Stephanie and Melissa serve on the Wesley House facilities management panel as advisors. SCTD Computer Graphic Design student Gracie Kosnik also shares that honor.

Melissa explains, “I was responsible for space planning a facility with about 4,000 square feet. We selected paint colors, suggested floor finishes and provided ideas for lighting. The project has given me a lot more experience working with a real client, listening to the client needs. I also gained a better idea of the complete design process, especially issues that affect your timeline, such as meeting building codes and gaining an architect’s approval.”

Stephanie said that she “learned a lot by interacting with other professionals, such as the architect.” She also felt that the greatest benefit for her was “working with the whole design process in a real situation.” She realizes now how designers manipulate their designs and plans to meet client needs as a project takes shape.

Both young women plan to continue to work with the agency.