

For the past six years, there has been a service-learning class partnered with a university in Cap-Haitien, Haiti that works on projects for the partners and has the opportunity to visit them over a winter break on a study abroad trip. The president of the university, Gedeon, is committed to improving the lives of his students and the surrounding community through education and practical learning. One of his most recent projects stems from an issue that he has identified: they are able to grow many different fruits in Haiti, but they are unable to process them, causing post-harvest loss due to spoilage and large amounts of imports of food products such as juice and jam. He plans to develop a food technology lab where students will learn skills that they can use to better themselves, their families, and their country. There are two teams in the service-learning class that will be working to help Gedeon achieve his goals, food technology and food science. The food technology team is investigating the processing methods for making various fruit juices, while the food science team is focusing on food safety issues associated with each fruit and processing step. We will also be delivering a lab design to Gedeon as well as a suggested list of equipment and materials for the lab. This project is a great opportunity to have a small impact on some of the challenges our partners face.