



## What We're About

The Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) is a hub for

- experiential learning that contributes to more just, thriving, and sustainable communities;
- reciprocal community-campus partnerships that advance shared priorities; and
- building civic agency and practicing collaboration that is attentive to racial equity, power, and positionality.

Learning objectives

- Understanding issues in their real world complexity
- Recognizing and honoring different forms of knowledge that may reside in/with community partners
- Deepening awareness of one's positionality in civic engagement efforts, such as gender, race, and/or socioeconomic background
- Doing — taking course content and doing something with it beyond the classroom while learning in the process
- Developing leadership skills
- Nurturing a commitment to life-long civic engagement

## What We Do

### Academic Civic Engagement (ACE)

The CCCE supports faculty to develop course-based projects that put students' academic skills to work in service of community partners' priorities. ACE courses. With about 20 ACE courses on offer each term, there are opportunities for engagement across a wide variety of academic departments.

### Student Leadership

Approximately 25 paid student fellows coordinate and support CCCE work and promote an ethic of life-long civic engagement among peers. Co-curricular programs connect student volunteers with 40 programs partnering with local organizations, promoting positive social change and addressing community-identified needs. Fifty or more volunteer student program directors coordinate these co-curricular programs.

### Community-Based Work Study

The CCCE facilitates community engagement through community-based work study opportunities. Around 60 students each year earn their work study awards with local schools and nonprofit organizations.

### Campus-Wide Community Events

Whether raising money, reducing waste, or restoring our native prairie, events like Into the Arb, Lighten Up, and Empty Bowls bring the campus together in the name of our shared values.

### Break Internships

During summer and winter breaks, students join our partner organizations to provide continuity of support between terms. Through a partnership with the Career Center, students receive stipends.

### Public Scholarship

Public scholarship includes a broad set of scholarly or creative activities that join serious intellectual endeavor with a commitment to public practice and public consequence, including faculty-led community-engaged scholarship.

### Alternative Spring Breaks

Each year, the CCCE sponsors students to participate in trips through our Alternative Spring Break program. These student-led trips have been a favorite break option for their emphasis on learning, making new connections and service.

### Wellstone House of Organizing and Activism

WHOA is a student-led residential space for students interested in organizing and activism to practice community, build their skills as organizers and share their knowledge with each other.



# Who We Are



**Sinda Nichols** (she/her)  
Director

Ask me about any part of the CCCE's work and how to connect with different aspects of the college



**Emily Heynen Seru** (she/her)  
Associate Director for Academic Civic Engagement and Scholarship

Ask me about Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) Courses and collaborating with faculty.



**Palmar Álvarez-Blanco** (she/her)  
Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship  
Professor of Spanish

Ask me about faculty consultation regarding publicly and community-engaged scholarship and teaching



**Melissa Thomas** (she/her)  
Operations Coordinator

Ask me about transportation options, communications & recruitment, liability & contracts, and other operational considerations



**Marcy Averill** (she/her)  
Indigenous Communities Liaison

Ask me about collaborating with Native nations and organizations.



**Danielle Trajano** (she/her)  
Manager of Student Development Programs

Ask me about peace, conflict & democracy partnerships, education equity partnerships, Community-Based Work Study jobs, Wellstone House of Organizing and Activism (WHOA), how we train and coach students, and student jobs in the CCCE



**Kelsey Barale** (she/her)  
Academic Civic Engagement & Scholarship Coordinator

Ask me about academic Civic Engagement (ACE) Course logistics, including the Arts & Humanities Mobile Studio.



**Erica Zweifel** (she/her)  
Assistant Director for Community Impact

Ask me about general partnership questions, Lighten Up Community Garage Sale, Empty Bowls, Into the Arb, food & environmental justice partnerships, and health & belonging partnerships.



**Maddie Fry** (they/them)  
5th Year Education Associate

Ask me about community-Based Work Study jobs and Alternative Spring Break programs.





# Preparing Civic-Minded Graduates

CCCE data collection shows that 1,220 unique Carleton students participated in community or civic engagement through the CCCE in 2020–21, or 64% of our student body.

## Academic Civic Engagement is a distinguishing characteristic of a Carleton education.

In 2019, 59.5% of Carleton seniors reported having taken an Academic Civic Engagement course, applying their academic learning through an assignment in the community. We have seen a marked increase in the percent of students who report having this experience in recent years from 35.4% in 2011 to 59.5% in 2019.

## Historically underrepresented Carls take ACE courses at higher rates than their peers.

Compared to students who took no ACE courses, students who have taken one or more ACE courses are more likely to identify as Latine, female, first-generation, or low-income. Students who have taken two or more ACE courses are more likely to identify as the above or Black or African American.

## Readiness for Life after Carleton

Carls who participated in Community-Based Work Study indicated a higher degree of satisfaction with their opportunities for career preparation at Carleton than their peers. Likewise, the number of Applied ACE courses a student took is significantly positively related to their perceptions of Carleton's contribution to their career-related knowledge and skills.

## Collaboration

The number of Applied ACE courses a student took is significantly positively related to their perceptions of Carleton's contribution to their ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

## Working across Lines of Difference

Both the number of Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) courses a student took and participation in a co-curricular community engagement program are positively related to the importance students placed on getting to know people with backgrounds different from their own.

## Commitment to Making Change

Both the number of Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) courses a student took and participation in a co-curricular community engagement program are positively related to the importance students placed on working for social and political change.

## Exercising Leadership

Those who participated in a co-curricular community engagement program while at Carleton were significantly more likely than those who didn't to say that Carleton contributed a great deal to their development of leadership skills.

# Thanks

We are grateful for the investments of time and trust from community partners who serve as co-educators for our students, faculty, and staff, and have welcomed us into their organizations. We are equally grateful for the generosity of Carleton alumni and Carleton's investment in the CCCE as a vital function of the College. This work would not be possible without your support!

# Co-Curricular Focus Areas



## Food & Environmental Justice

This cohort aims to promote sustainable initiatives through community activism, engagement, and collaboration. Areas of focus include mitigation of food insecurity, education and practice of sustainable agriculture, and diversion of food and consumer waste from landfills. One example of programming in this focus area includes the Food Recovery Network (FRN). It also includes collaborations with Carleton's Sustainability Office, the City of Northfield and the Community Action Center of Northfield (CAC) to develop a community-wide response to food insecurity.



## Educational Equity

These programs focus on students in the Northfield and Faribault public school districts. Both districts are striving to improve the equity outcomes of their schools in the context of rapidly changing demographics and the welcoming of thousands of new citizens and residents. CCCE Fellows and Carleton volunteers actively tutor and mentor students across college access programs, homework help, after-school, community school, and other collaborative programming.



## Health & Belonging

These programs connect students to local organizations working to better the physical, mental and/or emotional health of our communities. These programs support community-based efforts to provide healthcare to under and uninsured families, build lasting relationships with youth and seniors, and support survivors of gender-based violence.



## Peace, Conflict & Democracy

This is a focus area that seeks to engender conversation about the root causes of inequality, injustice, and violence. We address current issues through community conversations, collaborations with organizers, podcasts, and direct work. For example, Paper Airplanes provides virtual tutoring to Syrian refugees, has spread to over 60 colleges.



# Academic Civic Engagement

Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) classes put academic skills in service of community priorities. Carleton faculty offer about 20 ACE courses each term, including both Applied and Theoretical. Many ACE courses are project-based, with students using their academic skills to create videos, archives, data visualizations, educational content, and more -- and this work is particularly resilient in the face of COVID limitations. Below are three new ACE courses offered in 2021-22.

## Data Visualization as Activism

*ACE Applied*

**Professor:**

Lin Winton

Director of the Quantitative Resource Center  
Lecturer in Biology

**Partner:**

Healthy Communities Initiative's  
Growing Up Healthy

**Issues:**

Power redistribution, Numeracy, Race



## Works on Work: Films and Literature on Labor in Latin America

*ACE Theoretical*

**Professor:**

Hector Melo Ruiz  
Assistant Professor of Spanish

**Community Co-Educator:**

Ricardo Levins Morales

**Issues:**

Race, Labor Organizing, Social Movements



## News Stories

*ACE Applied*

**Professor:**

Susan Jaret McKinstry  
Helen F. Lewis Professor of English

**Partners:**

The League of Women Voters of Northfield and Cannon Falls  
Ruth's House of Hope  
Lower Phalen Creek Project

**Issues:**

Redistricting, Recovery, Indigenous Reclamation of Sacred Sites



## Publication:

### "A Case Study of a Multiyear Community-Engaged Learning Capstone in Computer Science"

Amy Csizmar Dalal, professor of Computer Science and Emily Oliver, former CCCE associate director published an article in the Spring 2022 issue of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement on using an iterative, multi-year approach to collaboration with the Northfield Union of Youth's The Key.



## The Return of Empty Bowls

Carleton Empty Bowls, an ACE component of ARTS 230 Ceramics: Throwing and the CCCE Food & Environmental Justice Fellows cohort, came back as an in-person community event in May 2022 after two years of severe COVID constraints. This year, the annual project raised more than \$11,000 for the Northfield Community Action Center's three food shelves. Participants enjoyed a shared meal of community- and Bon Appetit-donated soup served in bowls made by Carleton ceramics students. By the end of the two-hour event, every one of the more than 600 handmade bowls and mugs found a new home. Professor of Art Kelly Connole started Carleton's version of the Empty Bowls event when she came to campus in 2004, and it's become a springtime tradition.







## Indigenous Partnerships

This year included progress toward realizing Carleton's commitment to healing and honest storytelling about our relationship to the Dakota people and these, their homelands. Carleton's President Byerly and then-President Buck of Prairie Island Indian Community participated in talks and a ceremony on Indigenous Peoples Day to formalize our relationship and discuss the priorities of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance.

Carleton also hosted our inaugural Elder-in-Residence, Dr. Denise Lajimodiere, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa from Belcourt, North Dakota with leadership from Professors Meredith McCoy and Michael McNally and support from the Distinguished Women Visitors Fund, Mellon-Funded Public Works Initiative, the Sustainability Office, and the CCCE.

To build our capacity to further this work, Carleton was also awarded a grant through the Social Science Research Council's Sustaining Humanities Infrastructure Program supporting the creation of a new Indigenous Communities Liaison position.

## Lighten Up! Garage Sale

- A zero waste move out program that sells items students leave behind when they move out.
- Diverts 2.5% of Carleton's total annual waste from the landfill. That's over 30 tons!
- Requires more than 100 hours/day of community volunteer and student work time to collect, sort, and operate the sale.
- Proceeds are shared with local community organizations Northfield Union of Youth, Project Friendship, and Special Olympics.

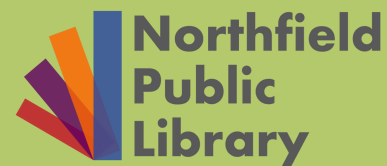


## Summer Internships & Alternative Breaks



## New Work Study Jobs Expand Public Library Partnership

Each year, the CCCE and the Student Employment Office partner with local schools, government, and nonprofits to offer off-campus Community Based Work Study (CBWS) positions to eligible Carleton students. The aim of the CBWS program is to connect Carleton students to the broader Rice County community by creating mutually beneficial relationships with the CCCE's partners. Volunteering is not always an option for students, so being able to contribute to the community through a paid position helps make community work more accessible. The Northfield Public Library has a long standing partnership with Carleton's CBWS program, offering multiple positions for students to gain experience in various areas of the Library's work. These positions have fostered partnerships between Carleton and the Library with students serving as the bridge.



"We absolutely could not have implemented sustainable, Monday through Friday, Drop-In Tutoring Hours at the library without CBWS students! The demand for tutoring in Northfield is great—even more so in COVID-19 times—and it's been wonderful to have the added capacity to address true community needs."

—Emily Lloyd, Youth Services Librarian, Northfield Public Library