



What We're About

The Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) is Carleton's hub for place-based, experiential learning beyond campus; reciprocal community-campus collaborations; and publicly-engaged scholarship, leadership, and action.

Our learning objectives:

- Understand issues in their real world complexity
- Recognize and honor different forms of knowledge that may reside in/with community partners
- Deepen awareness of one's positionality in civic engagement efforts, such as gender, race, and socioeconomic background
- Take academic knowledge and do something with it beyond the classroom, while learning in the process
- Develop leadership skills
- Nurture a commitment to life-long civic engagement

What We Do

Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) Courses

The CCCE supports faculty to develop course-based projects that put students' academic skills to work in service of community partners' priorities. Carleton offers about 20 ACE courses each term across a wide variety of academic departments.

35%
of students
in 2022-23

Indigenous Engagement

Through the work of the Indigenous Communities Liaison, we strengthen Carleton's ability to enact our land acknowledgement commitments, partner with Native nations and organizations, and promote the well-being of Indigenous members of the campus community.

Student Leadership

We employ student fellows as leaders in our office. They connect volunteers with local organizations, support voting, build social change knowledge and skills, and assist ACE classes. Additional students volunteer as program leads, providing on-the-ground leadership for local collaborations.

191
volunteers

49
leads

34
fellows

Voter Education

The CCCE provides non-partisan information on when, where, why, and how to vote with student leadership from the Peace, Conflict, and Democracy fellows cohort.

Community-Based Work Study

Students earn their work study financial awards by working off campus in local schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations in sustainability, healthcare, education, and other fields.

12
local public &
non-profit
employers

Alternative Spring Breaks

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

67%
of students were
involved in the
community
last year

Lighten Up Garage Sale & Into the Arb

Through these collaborative campus events, we develop social responsibility practices on campus and resources for local nonprofits.

\$31,000
raised for
community
organizations

Summer Internships

Through support from the Career Center, students receive stipends to work with some of our core community partners during the summers, deepening their civic leadership and continuing collaborations between terms.

Faculty Public Scholarship

Through the Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship, the CCCE fosters public scholarship at Carleton using circles of practice, the Day of Public Scholarship, the Media Library for Public Scholarship, and small grants.

44
Day of Public
Scholarship
faculty & staff
participants

Wellstone House of Organizing and Activism

We advise WHOA, a student-led residential space for students interested in organizing and activism. Honoring the late Senator and Professor Paul Wellstone, a student program manager coordinates educational events open to all.

Who We Are: Professional Staff and Faculty Leadership



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 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 nearby Native nations and Indigenous students and partners.



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

Ask me about peace, conflict & democracy programs, education equity programs, Community-Based Work Study, 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 and the Carleton Humanities and Arts Trailer (CHAT).



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

Ask me about general partnership questions, summer internships, the Lighten Up Community Garage Sale, food & environmental justice programs, and health & belonging programs.



Eko Manson (they/he)
5th Year Education Associate

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



Academic Civic Engagement Courses

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 designations. Most ACE courses are project-based, with students using their academic skills to create videos, archives, oral histories, data visualizations, statistical analysis, digital resource, and more.

Support for ACE:

Course Design Consultation

Community Partnership Development

NEW: Co-Creation Grants

Public Scholarship Assistants

Periclean Faculty Fellow Grants

ACE Teaching Assistants

STAT 400.01

Statistics Comps: Crime & Policing

Professor: Claire Kelling, Assistant Professor of Statistics

Community Partner: Confluence, an East Lake Studio for Community Design

Issue: Spatial mapping of crime and policing

Contribution: Data analysis



SOAN 214.00

Neighborhoods & Cities: Inequalities and Identities

Professor: Daniel Williams, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Sociology and Anthropology

Community Partner: Viking Terrace Resident Association

Issues: Affordable housing, manufactured homes

Contribution: Oral histories



HIST 338.00

Digital History, Public Heritage & Deep Mapping

Professor: Austin Mason, Assistant Director for Digital Humanities, Lecturer in History

Community Partners: Northfield Public Library, Rice County Neighbors United, Rice County Historical Society

Issues: Limitations of public memory

Contribution: Digital maps



ACE Course Types

65

ACE Courses

18

Theoretical

47

Applied

21

Social Science

21

STEM

23

Arts & Humanities

Faculty Public Scholarship

Inaugural Day of Public Scholarship

How do public scholars employ academic resources and different forms of knowledge to collaboratively address pressing public priorities and social challenges?

More than 40 faculty and staff gathered for this first-of-its-kind workshop on June 8, 2023 for collective reflection on this question. The day also marked the launch of Carleton's new Media Library for Public Scholarship, developed by Palmar Alvarez Blanco in her role as Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship.



**MEDIA
LIBRARY
FOR PUBLIC
SCHOLARSHIP**

CCCE Fellows: Our Student Staff

Academic Civic Engagement

Sophie
Baggett '23



Lily
Horne '23



Sam
Gilbert '23



Alexa
Kong '23



Melissa
Grande '23



Indigenous Engagement

New cohort forming in 2023-24

Health & Belonging

Sophie
Baggett '23



Sammi
Sheridan '24



Abby Banks-
Hehenberger '23



Annika
Stewart '25



Brian
Caplan '25



Anna
Ursin '25



Padmini
Konidena '25



Maya Wolff
'24



Elise
Lehman '23



Education Equity

Fiona
Gillen '23



Adi
Satish '23



Dane
Swanser '23



Lizzet Solache
Salgado '25



Josh
Wu '24



Lindsey
Youngblood '23



Peace, Conflict, and Democracy

Emma
Freedman '23



Maxwell
Serota '25



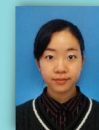
Valentina
Guerrero Chala '24



Mia Strubel
Iram '25



Moe
Kojima '24



Food & Environmental Justice

Lindsay
Boettiger '23



Lucy
Shapiro '23



Francine
Legba '23



Chloe
Truebenbach '23



Edith Reyes
Contreras '25



Liwei
Weng '25



Isabel
Rameker '24



WHOA

Wellstone House of Organizing and Activism

Adele
Fredericks '25



Highlight: New CNA Training Program

The new Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program is a response to recent labor shortages facing local nonprofit healthcare partners. Recognizing Carleton students' interest in health-related experience, Erica Zweifel and the Health and Belonging students partnered with an outside organization to provide training to interested students so they could become CNAs, thereby filling labor gaps in the community and providing valuable experiential learning opportunities to the students. Last year, 19 students received funding to participate in the program.



Indigenous Engagement

This year we launched the new Indigenous Communities Liaison role at Carleton, funded initially through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the Social Science Research Council. In her first year, Marcy Averill (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) dramatically strengthened partnerships and helped leadership, faculty, staff, and students understand the implications of Native sovereignty and cultural protocol. The ICL position is now permanent.

It is also our second year hosting an Indigenous Elder-in-Residence with support from the Provost's Office. This year, Ida Downwind (Leech Lake Anishinaabe) offered programs on plant knowledge in the Arboretum, the grandfather teachings, and Ojibwe and Dakota ways of knowing, as well as consulting with students, faculty, and campus leaders.

Alternative Spring Breaks

New in 2023: Place-Based Justice Alternative Spring Break
with Sharing Our Roots & Rice County Habitat for Humanity

Alternative Spring Breaks (ASB) are a great way for Carleton students to get off-campus and interact with and learn about Minnesota from a new perspective. These week-long, student-led trips are an affordable break option for students and a resource for the host sites. Building on the partnerships made through the CCCE's Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) classes, Community-Based Work Study positions, and volunteer initiatives, this year's Alternative Spring Break trips provide a chance for students to dive a little deeper into the social issues they care about.

"Being in this leadership role was the perfect opportunity to reflect on how I can use reflection activities and informal conversations to encourage others to challenge what they previously thought."

-Valentina Guerrero Chala '24



Summer Internships

Bellevet Canine
Service Partners

Northfield Public
Schools TORCH

Greater Northfield
Sustainability
Collaborative

Faribault Public
Schools STEAM

Northfield Union of
Youth

Clothes Closet

Northfield Area
YMCA

Laura Baker Services

Growing Up
Healthy

Northfield Public
Library

City of Northfield
Sustainability

Community Action
Center
Food Access



Lighten Up! Garage Sale

This massive annual event collects and sells the items students choose to leave behind when they move out, from bedding to skillets and winter coats to water bottles, and even a fake skeleton, as seen here.

Last year, the sale kept **23 tons** of potential-waste out of the landfill, including **\$4,000** worth of school supplies given to local families in partnership with the Community Action Center. All proceeds from the sale also go back to the community. Most recently, the sale raised **\$31,000** for local partner nonprofits.



Community-Based Work Study (CBWS)

Northfield College Tutors

Suwannee
Conroy-Baarsch '26



Nicole
Dawson '26



Adele
Fredericks '25



Gloria
Kossigan '26



Nora
Kushner '26



Noah
Paulsen '26



Lane
Maitland '23



Jonathan
Vonderlage '26



Will
Vonderlage '24

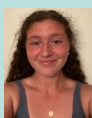


Ashley
Ye '26



Northfield Public Library Bilingual Homework Help

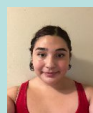
Mia
Anzalone '26



Lizzet
Cardenas '25



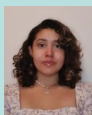
Karla Cruz
Sanchez '26



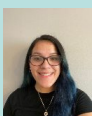
Nicole
Dawson '26



Ambar
Galaviz '26



Dani
Reynoso '25



David
Toledo '25



Carlos
Trejo '26



Sharing Our Roots

Helena Lee '23



Laura Baker

Noorah
Aldaghlas '24



Sara Negasi '25



United Way

Masyn
Rykhus '25



Northfield Community College Collaborative

Paul Fairchild
'23

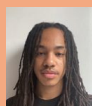


Used a Bit Shoppe

Catherine
Zons '26



Khalil
Jefferson '25



Faribault High School RISE

Suhani
Thandi '23



Clean River Partners

Anna Klein '23



Northfield Middle School Youth Center

Izzy
Charlton '23



Nora
Kushner '26



Project Friendship

Lucy
Zhang '26



TORCH

Eunseo
Jung '26



Mimi
Rapoport '24



New Carlson endowment eliminates CBWS cost-sharing inequities, increases resources for training

CBWS positions include paid time for training, transportation, and in-person work, and because some community organizations were required to pitch in part of students' wages due to federal regulations, location and training requirement differences resulted in inequitable cost sharing among community partners. The new Carlson endowment will fund cost-sharing and level the playing field.

"The new funding will make a huge impact, because it's particularly important that students in need of financial aid don't have to spend voluntary, unpaid time to get involved off campus. Instead, they can combine their paid student work with community engagement and have it be a robust and meaningful experience."

- Sinda Nichols, Director, CCCE



Sophie's Civic Engagement Journey

Meet Sophie Baggett '23

CCCE Fellow 2020-2023
Major: Biology, Minor: Spanish

Freshman Year: Sophie arrives at Carleton interested in **medical school** and seeks out healthcare related volunteer opportunities. She swims on the varsity **Women's Swim and Dive** team.

Sophomore Year: Sophie begins **employment** as a **CCCE Fellow** in the **Academic Civic Engagement** cohort. Sophie declares a major in **Biology** and minor in **Spanish**.

Summer after Sophomore Year: Sophie teams up with her friend Kristin Hultgren '23 on a **Four Friends Fellowship** to design and co-host a workshop for high school seniors in her hometown called "College, COVID, and Mental Health."

Junior Year, Fall: Sophie studies abroad with Carleton's **Off-Campus Study (OCS) Spanish Studies** program in Madrid with Professor Palmar Alvarez-Blanco. There, Sophie takes the "Welcome to the Spanish Revolution" **Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) class** and gets interested in taking more ACE classes to learn how she can use academic skills to address the social issues she cares about. Her Spanish skills are now quite strong, and she's learned about social change in Spain in a way that relates to her interests at home.

Junior Year, Winter: Sophie liked her ACE course and Spanish-language study in Madrid, so she signs up for the class "Films and Literature on Labor," an **ACE theoretical class** with Professor Hector Melo Ruiz where they learned from Ricardo Levins Morales, an organizer and artist based in South Minneapolis. Upon returning to Carleton, Sophie also begins working in the Health and Belonging cohort, now splitting her time with ACE

Junior Year, Spring Break: Sophie signs up to be a co-leader of a **Alternative Spring Break trip** to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, a low-cost experiential learning opportunity focused on food systems and sustainability. Along with other trip leaders, she gets training on how to facilitate group learning and reflection through the CCCE.

Junior Year, Spring: As a CCCE fellow, Sophie works with her CCCE supervisor Erica Zweifel to launch a new **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)** program at Carleton in response to recent labor shortages at local nonprofit healthcare partners.

Summer after Junior Year: Sophie works with the **Carleton Fellowships Office** to find funding so she can conduct **research** in Puno, Perú with Carleton Archaeology Professor Sarah Kennedy. On the trip, Sophie focuses on the community engagement aspects of the project, creating and disseminating information about archaeology projects and heavy metal poisoning.

Senior Year: Sophie works with the **fellowships office** again to apply for and be accepted to the **Fulbright Science Initiative** in Chile, where she'll work with researchers at a leading science center after she graduates.

CENTER FOR
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AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT