

# The Center for Community Engagement

Citizenship & Service-Learning | Community Involvement & Service | Community-Based Research

ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-2016 *Highlights*



The Center for Community Engagement's mission is to support and advance Missouri State University's public affairs mission by increasing the University's involvement in local, regional, and statewide efforts at community engagement. The following units serve as the foundation for the center's work: Citizenship & Service Learning, Community Involvement & Service and Community-Based Research.

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Missouri State University is proud to be the state's only public affairs university. This mission influences almost everything we do, from curriculum choices to extracurricular events. Put in its most basic terms, the mission means all members of the Missouri State community are encouraged to contribute to society.

As societal issues increasingly pose challenges to us, our students, and our community, the need to work for the common good becomes more crucial. In an effort to more efficiently address these needs, The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has unified Citizenship & Service Learning, Community Involvement & Service and Community-Based Research together as Missouri State's synergetic service agency.

The CCE demonstrates our public affairs mission in different ways; however, all of them affect not only the campus community but also the larger community. Many opportunities to learn about the tenets of the mission take place within the classroom where students, faculty, and the local community are bound together. Many others exist outside the bounds of campus, in national or even international communities where we are excited to expand, learning more about effectively fulfilling our mission and serving as we go.

The CCE, in cooperation with its partners, Public Affairs Support, the eJournal of Public Affairs and the Office of Assessment reflects growth and success in the 2015-2016 academic year. We look forward to the upcoming year and how we can build on this momentum by continuing to work together.

### **Dr. Rachel Darabi**

#### **Associate Provost for Student Development & Public Affairs**

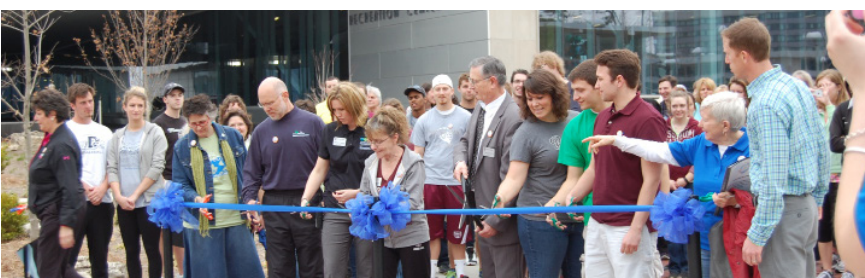
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Over the course of the past academic year, the Center for Community Engagement developed and implemented a strategic plan to align community-based research, volunteer services, and academic service-learning, reducing the silo effect and building collaboration among the entities housed in the Center for Community Engagement.



Rather than having one director for the Center for Community Engagement, the Center now has three co-directors (director for community-based research; director for Citizenship and Service-Learning; director for Community Involvement and Service) who work together to build capacity within the University and within the community to advance civic and community engagement.



# CCE

## Highlights of 2015-2016

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Conducted the Walkable Springfield project in four high-poverty neighborhoods as a result of receipt of grant funding from Campus Compact

Successfully acquired funding from NW Project Grant in partnership with the Fairbanks

Triple P partnership with Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Hosted the Civic Engagement Conference

Successfully acquired funding from Triple P partnership with Community Partnership of the Ozarks

The CCE continues to serve as the Lead Consultant for eight higher education institutions across the US with a goal of advancing civic learning and democracy education

Conducted Neighborhood Association meetings, addressing community issues

Hosted visits by multiple groups from other universities looking to model their programs based on the work of the CCE

# Citizenship & Service-Learning

The office of Citizenship and Service-Learning provides academic service-learning opportunities for freshman through senior students attending Missouri State University. Service-learning, which requires the use of effective reflection activities as a part of the coursework, is a type of experiential education that combines and pursues both academic achievement and community service in a seamless weave. Service-learning is shown to increase student retention, GPA's, and long-term commitment to civic engagement in communities. Through service-learning coursework at Missouri State, students engage in both community-based problem-solving projects, including research, as well as addressing social-justice issues – locally, nationally and globally.

The CASL office continues to experience growth in number of students engaged in service-learning over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year, development of new and sustainable community partnership, and in the number of high school dual-credit service-learning courses.

## CASL Highlights of 2015-2016

**521**

Number of Service-Learning Courses  
a 6% increase (This includes Integrated and Designate linked to Component Courses)

**195**

MSU Faculty/Staff Offering/Teaching Service-Learning courses  
(compared to 185 during the 2014-2015 academic year)

**70,735**

Total Service-Learning Hours Provided to Community

**\$1,506,666**

Value of Service to Community @ \$21.30/hour

**4,359**

40% increase of Service-Learning Students

These numbers represent a 40% growth in numbers of service-learning students. Additionally, the number of courses offered increased by 6% and the number of faculty teaching or offering service-learning courses increased from 185 to 195.



## Signature Programs

### VISION SCREENING PROGRAM

**6,268** children, youth, and adults screened

Resulting in an increase of 35% compared to the 2014-2015 academic year. This program involved service-learning students from a variety of departments.



Departments involved:

- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Pre-Med
- ▶ Pre-Optometry
- ▶ Cell and Molecular Biology

**754** vision problems found and alerted

12 % of the children, youth and adults screened were found to have significant or potentially significant vision problems and were referred to the Vision Rehab Center of the Ozarks (VRCO)

### ROBBERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**66** competent service-learning students

**183** integrated service learning students

**300** K-5th graders recieved after-school programming from Missouri State students



Programs and activities:

- ▶ Spanish Club
- ▶ Musical Theatre
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Math LEGOLAND.

### SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

Service-learning students continue to use their skills and knowledge to provide valuable resources to address the issue of hoarding and squalor in our communities.



Departments involved:

- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Gerontology
- ▶ Social Work

### WALKABLE SPRINGFIELD

**4** neighborhoods assessed and evaluated

**2** original neighborhoods reassessed



Departments involved:

- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Planning

# Community Involvement & Service

Community Involvement & Service is a set of programs engaging students in meaningful experiences throughout the community. These programs seek to engage students to foster experiential learning opportunities that enhance the Missouri State University public affairs mission. We develop students who are active citizens of enhanced character, sensitive to the needs of community, competent and committed in their ability to contribute to a global society, and civil in their habits of thought, speech, and action.

Opportunities:

- ▶ Bear Service Days
- ▶ Immersion Trips
- ▶ Service Hour Tracking
- ▶ Education and Outreach

Integration of service education and engagement opportunities for First-Year students

Amount of service hours MSU gave to the community

**82,000**

Value of service to the community

**\$1.7 M**

Student volunteers participating in Into the Streets kickoff event

**600**

MSU Students represented Immersion Trips at national conferences



## Understanding of Public Affairs Mission Enhanced through Immersion Programs

100% of students who participated in Immersion trips said they can connect real-world application to their major or future career. 100% of students said they understand how volunteering supports Missouri State's Public Affairs Mission.

Completion of the first International Immersion Trip - Costa Rica

CIS  
Highlights of 2015-2016

# Bear Service Days

Snapshot of Bear Service days in 2015-2016:

<p><b>INTO THE STREETS</b></p> <p><b>294</b> participants</p> <p><b>1,176</b> hours Served</p>	<p><b>MEALS-A-MILLION</b></p> <p><b>700</b> participants</p> <p><b>1,400</b> hours Served</p>	<p><b>STOMP OUT HUNGER</b></p> <p><b>100</b> participants</p> <p><b>400</b> hours Served</p>
<p><b>BEAR SERVICE TEAM WEEKEND</b></p> <p><b>200</b> participants</p> <p><b>800</b> hours Served</p>	<p><b>MLK DAY OF SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>155</b> participants</p> <p><b>775</b> hours Served</p>	

The Bear Service Team is a student organization housed within the Center for Community dedicated to planning service opportunities for peers at Missouri State University. Every year there are many opportunities for students to get involved in service and be engaged in the community. These service days help students find out about local agencies to get further involved in even after the service day is complete.

Total: **1,349** students | **4,951** hours

## Immersion Trips

Our vision for Missouri State University is that every student at our institution will be active citizens by engaging in positive social change in local, national, and global communities. Bear Breaks Participants are making that vision a reality through the work and dedication they bring to Immersion Trips. These trips, and the lessons learned from them, are connecting Bears with citizenship and with their unique visions for change.



Bear Breaks is a student organization housed within the Center for Community dedicated to developing and leading immersion experiences for their Missouri State peers. This group is advised by Center for Community Engagement Staff, collaborates with MSU faculty on trip implementation.

- Issues of Focus
- ▶ Disaster Relief
  - ▶ Eco Agriculture
  - ▶ Health and Wellness
  - ▶ Urban Development
  - ▶ Homelessness and Hunger
  - ▶ Children and Families
  - ▶ Sustainability
  - ▶ Urban Development



# CCE Partnerships Highlights

## Public Affairs Support

**2,643** students | **10** individual events | **164%** increase over past years [ *Overall Participation* ]

### Voter Registration Drive

- ▶ 431 new voter registration cards
- ▶ 248% increase

### 2016 Public Affairs Conference

- ▶ 6,236 (record attendance)
- ▶ 12% increase

### Conference on Civic Engagement

- ▶ 277 attendees
- ▶ 29% increase



### Public Affairs Week

- ▶ Naturalization Ceremony
  - ◇ 425 total attendance
- ▶ MSU Talks
  - ◇ 120 students (max capacity)
- ▶ FED-UP Documentary Film
  - ◇ 235 students
  - ◇ 88% increase
- ▶ Frank Warren Presentation
  - ◇ 425 students
  - ◇ 431% increase
- ▶ Dr. Hubbard Open-Campus Presentation
  - ◇ 148 students, faculty and staff
- ▶ Building Healthy Communities through Advocacy Training (2 hr)
  - ◇ 67 students
- ▶ Hunger Banquet
  - ◇ 215 student
  - ◇ 7.5% increase

## eJournal of Public Affairs

### Publications

Met goal of 3 issues within the academic year

- ▶ 8/15: Higher Education's Role in Preventing & Responding to Gender-Based Violence
- ▶ 10/15: Open Submissions
- ▶ 3/16: Campus and Community Civic Health

### Website

Launched eJournal's website with Vol. IV | Issue 2

### Media

Successfully implemented media evaluation tool for media submissions.

### Networking

Editors attended, presented, and promoted the eJournal at conferences, including:

- ▶ Imaging America
- ▶ American Democracy Project
- ▶ Ohio U (site visit)

## Office of Assessment

### Gather, Make Sense, Summarize

- ▶ 5600+ student participants surveyed with NSSE and BCSSE
- ▶ 2,300+ examples of students' public affairs work collected, reviewed, and shared across campus

### Assess and Advance Student Learning

- ▶ Assessment Day: 51 faculty and staff attendance
- ▶ Public Affairs Assessment Workshop: 36 faculty, staff and students attendance
- ▶ \$1500 awarded to faculty in Public Affairs Assessment Grants

### Serve as a Resource

- ▶ Cut test administration costs by eliminating redundancies in reporting for state & federal requirements (ETS-PP, MFT, etc.)
- ▶ President's Task Force on Graduate Tracking and Outcomes committee resource
- ▶ 40% response rate after partnering with Graduate College on Exit Survey