



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Annual Report | Academic Year 2019

Highlights of the Center for Community Engagement's accomplishments in service-learning and community research during the summer & fall 2018 & spring 2019 semesters.

CCE LEADERSHIP



Dr. Kathy Nordyke
Co-Director - CCE
Director | Citizenship & Service Learning



Alex Johnson
Co-Director - CCE
Director | Community- Engaged Learning



Mary Ann Wood
Director | Public Affairs Support



Andrew Lokie
Director | eJournal of Public Affairs

CCE STAFF



Erica Stark
Program Coordinator
Service-Learning



Stacey Trewatha-Bach
Coordinator - Special Projects
Public Affairs Support



Charles Whitaker
Project Coordinator
Service-Learning

VISION

The vision of the CCE is to foster public engagement of all members of the Missouri State community. As a collective commitment, the CCE is committed to:

- Reflecting the values of Missouri State University through a standard of high quality work
- Empowering students and faculty and fostering their success
- Understanding our audience(s) and communicating appropriately
- Valuing reciprocal relationships (and collaborative work)
- Shining a light on our strengths and weaknesses, and seeking ways to always improve
- Having positive presuppositions of others



A service-learning student teaches children at Robberson Elementary about modern medical practices during the Medical Explorers Club program.



MISSION

The Center for Community Engagement, on Missouri State University's campus, serves as an interdisciplinary hub for publicly-engaged service, education, and research. The Center works to deepen the University's commitment to engagement (adopted from the Ten-Point Plan for Advancing Public Engagement) by:

- Enhancing faculty support for research and teaching activities associated with public interest
- Establishing a system, University-wide, for providing students with articulated public engagement experiences that are tied to students' academic goals and professional goals and ambitions
- Expanding opportunities and ways for the University to gain community input and feedback regarding issues of public engagement
- Strengthening the internal alignment and coordination of the University's public engagement activities to foster and promote more collective community impact and capacity building




Just one of many Springfield Community Gardens locations around the community, where Missouri State students can get hands-on service experiences.

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE), on Missouri State University's campus, serves as an interdisciplinary hub for **publicly-engaged service, education, and research.**



A service-learning student helps a client fit new glasses at Hope Connection 2018.

The service-learning office is now able to look at the retention rates, associated with the completion of service-learning courses, for a variety of demographics including students who identified as first-generation. Of those students, 1,925 students (undergrad) re-enrolled in coursework for the following semester. This represents an **89% semester-to-semester retention rate for first-generation students.**

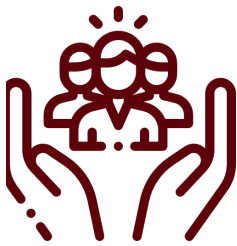


CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE-LEARNING (CASL)

The office of Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL) provides academic service-learning opportunities through various courses for 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 academic achievement and work with a community learning site in a seamless weave. Service-learning is shown to increase student retention, GPA, career/major exploration and preparedness, and long-term commitment to civic engagement in communities. Service-learning opportunities help students connect their coursework with real-world experiences, explore majors and careers, engage in core career readiness skills (like critical thinking, collaboration and professionalism), and gain meaningful hands-on experiences with a learning site partner in our community. The CASL office continues to experience growth in number of students engaged in service-learning over the 2018-2019 academic year, in the development of new and sustainable community partnerships, and in the number of service-learning courses:

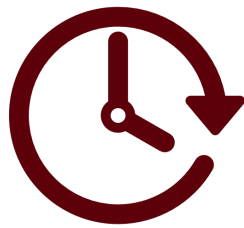
8,759

students participated in one or more service-learning courses



102,246

total service-learning hours provided to community



\$2,449,814

value of service to the community (based on IndependentSector.org estimate of \$23.96 per hour)

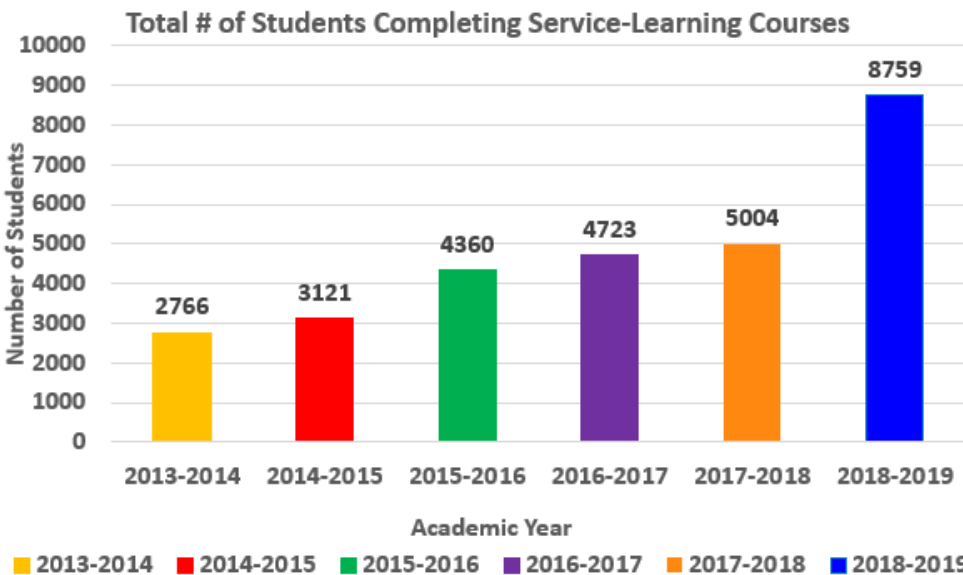


667

number of service-learning courses



The following graph illustrates the increase in the number of students completing service-learning courses since the 2013-2014 academic year. Of the 8,759 students who completed academic service-learning courses, 1,479 of those students enrolled in and completed more than one academic service-learning course during the 2018-2019 academic year.



During the 2018-2019 academic year, 2,569 students who identified as first-generation students completed an academic service-learning course. Of those students, 1,925 re-enrolled in coursework for the following semester. **This represents a 89% semester-to-semester retention rate for first-generation students.**



Service-learning uses the **Community Focus Report's Red Flags Issues** to connect Missouri State University students with career experiences to continue to address problems and issues in our communities through a variety of signature projects. The CASL office added five new signature partner programs and continued another year with our ongoing signature projects. Here are a few of our programs that address community issues:

Vision Sreening Program

The MSU Vision Program is the top service-learning opportunity for students. The program provides



early detection screening to identify significant or potentially significant vision problems such as hyperopia, myopia, astigmatism, anisometropia, esotropia, exotropia, vertical alignment errors and opacities.

Screenings took place in low-income day care centers, elementary, middle and high schools throughout southwest Missouri and in the West Plains area, OTC's Adult Literacy Program, the Hope Connection event, as well as other locations.

New locations and partnerships added in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 include schools in the Lebanon area. This project will continue through the 2019-2020 academic year. Additional locations included Aurora, Dadeville, Verona, Morrisville, Halfway, Fair Play, and Chadwick, as well as expansion of locations in the Springfield area.

Service-Learning students from the Biomedical Science department continue to conduct research examining the role genetics plays in vision deficiencies and color-blindness.

16,546

Number of individuals screened for vision by service-learners.

1,921

Vision problems detected by screenings and referred to VRCO

2,350

Number of individuals tested for color-blind deficiencies.

88

Number of individuals found to be color-blind after testing.

127

Service-learners and Bonner-Leaders who conduct screenings.

Bear Power

Bear Power (Promoting Opportunities for Work, Education and Resilience) is a two-year, five-semester, inclusive college program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. As of January of 2019, several of the Bear POWER students served as Bear POWER leaders in our office and within the community. They worked on projects to include the art design for fire hydrants in the Doling Neighborhood and costume design for a new Bear POWER super-hero video, work with photography for our web pages and videos, work with our Robberson afterschool programs, and work with our community gardens.



A new cohort of Bear Power students pose with staff and service-learners from the CCE. These Bear Power students are the first wave in a new program designed to teach valuable skills instill the university public affairs mission.

Springfield Community Gardens

This three-year collaborative partnership between Springfield Community Gardens, the US Department of Agriculture, and Missouri State University is to create a local food hub that empowers low-income individuals



to reduce food insecurity and enables those individuals with education and skills to generate their own mean for financial security. During the 2018-2019 academic year, students **provided 4,218 hours of service at a value of \$97,894.00** (independentsecor.org).

Urban Roots Farm

NEW

Service-learning students, from dietetics, biology, agriculture, psychology and education work to develop programs centered on farming and healthy eating for



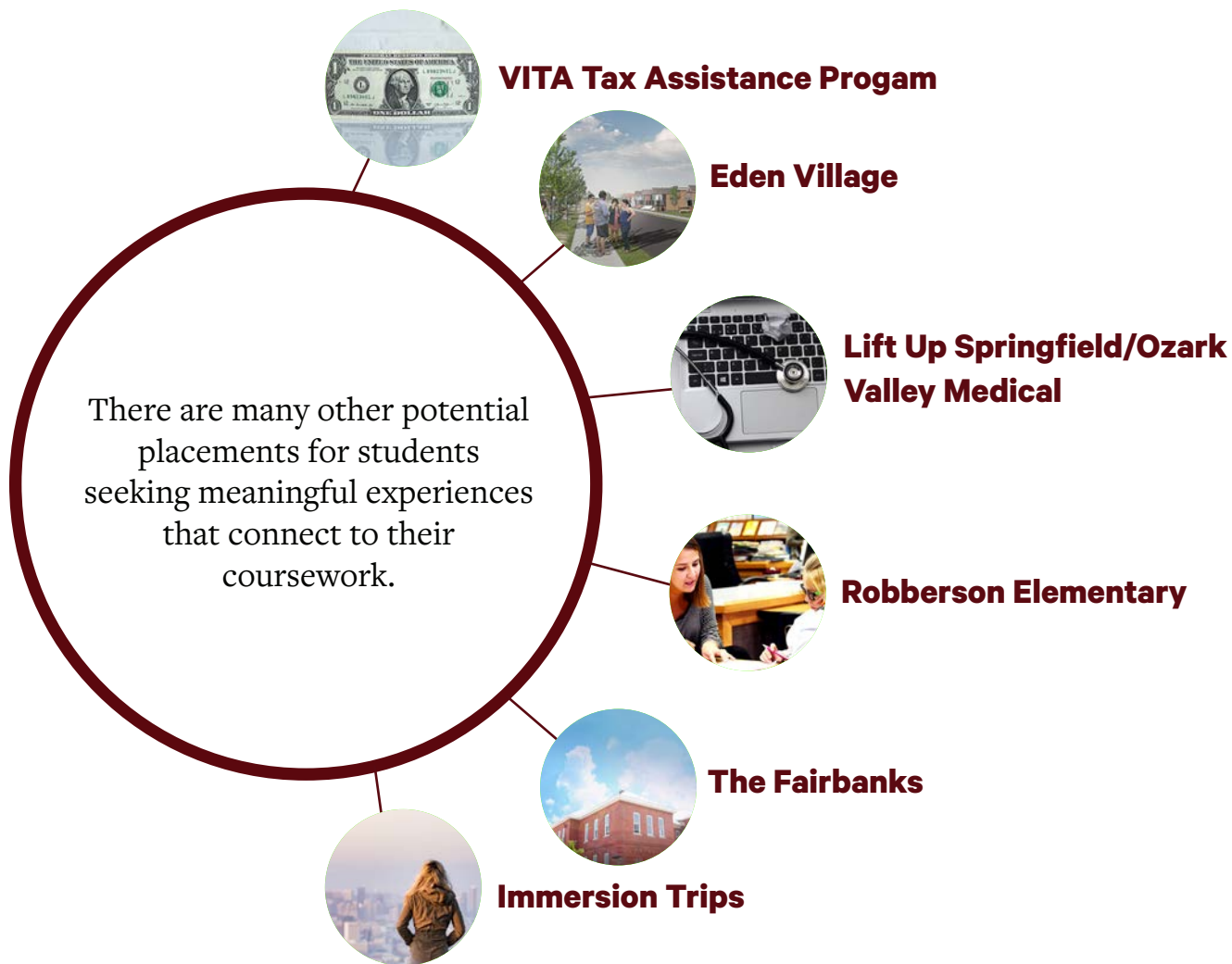
communities. Programs include serving as mentors for at-risk youth that visit the farm frequently.

Nixa CASc

Community Alternative Sentencing Courts - In partnership with the Nixa Court Systems and the City of Nixa, Missouri, Psychology, Social Work and Criminology service-learning students work with



low-level offenders to reduce potential jail time. Service-Learning students continue to serve as Case Managers conducting assessments, identifying educational and other resources for their clients, and reporting the client's progress to the court system.



Of the unduplicated count of 7,280 students, 1,094 graduated. Of the remaining 6,690 students, 5,874 students re-enrolled in MSU courses the following semester. **This represents an overall semester-to-semester retention rate of 91%** for students who completed academic service-learning courses.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Lowenthal-Hershey was a recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Service-Learning Award for academic year 2019. She earned the recognition for her work as an integrated service-learning instructor for CIS 200 in the College of Business. She has consistently gone above and beyond expectations, offering her students as close to real-life education experiences as possible. Her successes are evident, as some her student groups have been asked by members of the community to present their data and findings for program implementation.

Though she was assigned to CIS 200 after it was integrated with service-learning, Lowenthal-Hershey responded to the designation and the challenge on a personal level, “For me, I really wanted to make this project something the students could sink their teeth in and run with... And I don’t just want to teach; I want to give back to the community. I want to do something with this, I grew up in southwest Missouri – I want to see things continue to increase and get better.” Using a project-based method, Lowenthal-Hershey builds her coursework in a way that helps students connect in-class lessons with broader objectives and outcomes. Students are encouraged to consider their project as having a real-world viability – something that the community can use to enact positive change.

In order to generate projects that will have the greatest impact on the community, she tasks her students with selecting a “red flag issue” from the Community Focus Report and developing solutions for it. For instance, transportation is a red flag in Springfield, so one student group did a study on the efficiency of bus routes in the area.

But often the first challenge she encounters is confidence, “So many students don’t believe that any one will listen to them. They don’t believe they have it in them and I’m going, ‘Yes you do, you can really do this. I have faith in you, and I will help you step-by-step through this project.’”

When asked about whether it was a challenge to integrate service-learning into coursework for a class that emphasizes business and technology, she’s confident that the relationship is mutual, “I need the integrated stuff to be able to do the CIS 200, at least in my opinion,” she says. “It needs to be together, because I can’t imagine it working without it.”

“In the College of Business in Glass Hall, we have these monitors and it talks about student testimonies and what they feel like. And they talk about getting real-world experience and how much that means to them. I feel like a service-learning based course gets them real-world experience, so I feel like they walk out feeling like they gained something that they didn’t get with every other course”

At the Center for Community Engagement, we are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Jennifer Lowenthal-Hershey for the example she sets both as a faculty member and as a Citizen Bear.

SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

As a commitment to research and resources for faculty and staff, CASL provided the following opportunities:

- Created educational handout for new faculty to educate them on service-learning options
- Provided one-on-one training for new faculty engaging in use of the service-learning teaching methodology
- Engaged in and worked collaboratively with faculty on research studies centered on service-learning topics
- Co-hosted the Community Engagement Conference in the spring of 2019 in conjunction with the office of Public Affairs Support.



Students on the Immersion Trip to Asheville, NC promote community health with the YMCA Mobile Pantry.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Mission

The mission of the office of Community-Engaged Learning is to promote positive change through experiential learning opportunities and foster understanding of Missouri State University's public affairs mission.

Vision

By promoting a campus culture that inspires community engagement, Community-Engaged Learning aspires to 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.

Programs

Community-Engaged Learning includes a set of programs involving and 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:

- Bear Service (Ongoing service experiences, large-scale service events)
- Immersion Programs (Learning and serving alongside communities across the US and abroad)
- Introduction to Service-Learning courses (connecting hands-on learning to majors and career).
- Education and Outreach (Connections to local agencies and issues; workshops and consultation for student groups, faculty, and staff; and support of MSU students through Food Pantry)

Bear Breaks Immersion students serve alongside "Sustain the 9" in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward.

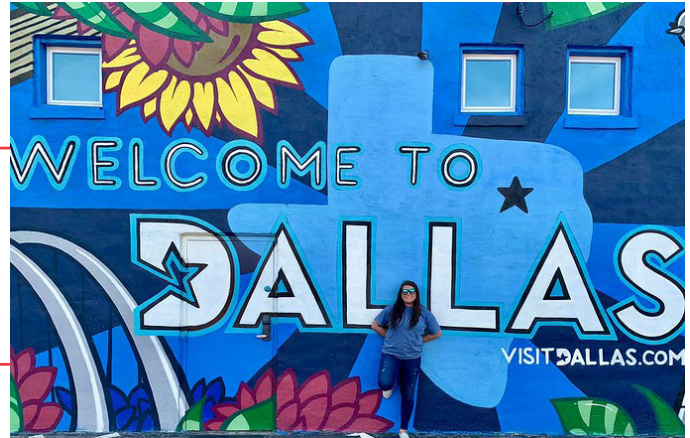




A Bear Breaks Immersion participant poses for a picture while serving with Grow Dat Youth Farm in New Orleans.

Bear Service included more than **103,000 hours of service worth \$2.4 million** to community

Immersion Programs (Learning and serving alongside communities **across the US and abroad**)



Before addressing homeless youth in Dallas, a Bear Breaks participant smiles by community art.



Service-Learning students learn about Active Citizenship and social change.

Introduction to service-learning courses provide **opportunities for hands-on experiences** connected to students' majors

Education and Outreach (**Connections to local agencies; workshops and consultation** for student groups, faculty, and staff; and support of MSU students through Bear Pantry)



Bear Breaks Trip Leaders have fun learning from sociology professor, Lyle Foster, during a weekly Trip Leader training.

Bear Service

Bear Service is a set of programs and reciprocal partnerships connecting the Missouri State community with meaningful service opportunities. We organize Bear Service into three main parts: Bear Service Days, which are one-time large days of service; the Bear Service Team, which is a student organization dedicated to service-learning; and the exploration of service in Springfield, MO, for student organizations. Bear Service promotes positive social change through the following service-learning elements:

Education

The first goal of a Bear Service experiences is to learn more about the issue of focus, the community agency/learning partner, and our goals for making a positive difference. Our learning partners and staff use local data from initiatives, such as Community Focus Report, Impacting Poverty Commission, and Zone Blitz, to educate volunteers about issues facing the community.

Engagement

Bear Service promotes experiential learning opportunities. The more we engage with each other and our neighbors, the more we will learn about ourselves and the expertise in the community. We work alongside the community through direct service, indirect service, and advocacy.

Reflection

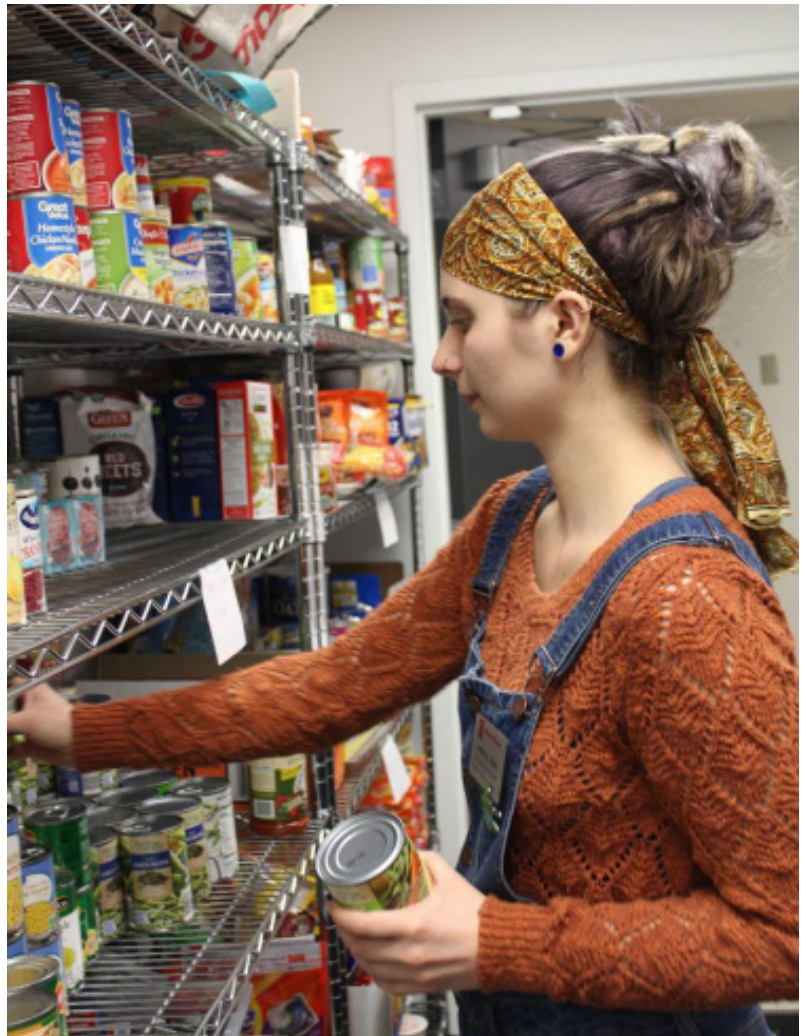
Structured reflection encourages us to learn more about ourselves and our communities. Thinking critically about service experience is a key step toward active citizenship and better understanding of Public Affairs. Our staff provides reflection activities and materials for all service opportunities. Students tracking hours reflect on their experiences as well.





Bear Pantry

This new resource was created in January of 2019 to serve MSU students, faculty and staff facing food insecurity. The CCE collaborated with the Drew Lewis Foundation to serve food and resources. In its first semester, the Bear Pantry had **63 unique users**.



CCE graduate student and Bear Pantry coordinator, Jessica Allen, stocks shelves with new food donations.

Education and Outreach 2018 - 2019

Program	Type	Collaborators	Results
Fall 2018 Community Engagement Fair	Outreach	Career Center, CASL, PA Support	50 community agencies
Community Engagement 101	Education	First-Year Programs	More than 2,500 First-Year Bears learned about MSU's Community Engagement pillars
Hunger & Homelessness Awareness	Outreach and Education	Eden Village	Donation Drives and service opportunities
URSA Community Engagement	Education	New Student & Family Programs	150 students created a plan for positive change in the community
Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness	Outreach and Education	Isabel's House, CASA, Harmony House, Child Advocacy Center	Campus Campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness

Immersion Programs

Immersion programs are opportunities for students to spend their breaks (spring, summer, winter, and fall) learning and serving in communities locally, nationally, and globally. These experiences allow students to learn more about a community, immerse themselves in the culture and social issues of a community, and grow as volunteers toward becoming active citizens. Bear Breaks is a student organization within the Center for Community Engagement dedicated to developing and leading immersion experiences for their Missouri State peers. This group is advised by Center for Community Engagement staff and collaborates with MSU faculty on trip implementation.

Student Trip Leaders met with our staff every week throughout the fall and spring semesters to learn about community issues, best practices for reflection, facilitation and reorientation.

Every Immersion Trip participant engaged in focused journaling, which can be found at blogs.missouristate.edu/immersion.

Highlights of 2018 - 2019



MSU Elementary Education Major conducted a Spring Break Camp in West Dallas during an Immersion Trip

Seven First-Generation students received financial assistance for their Immersion Trip fee through a partnership with First-Year Programs.

Bear Breaks and Immersion Programs received Mark of Distinction Award at university-wide STAR Awards for excellence in programming, leadership development, and connection to public affairs.



Bear Breaks addresses homelessness and hunger in Chicago during Spring Break trip

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.

MSU Alumni were included in Immersion Programs through collaboration with MSU Alumni Association. Alum joined students in St. Louis, MO, during Fall Break.



Introduction to service-learning students serve with Springfield

MSU Students represented Bear Beaks Immersion Trips at national BreakAway conference. Missouri State Immersion Programs are part of a nation-wide alternative break movement called BreakAway.

Incorporated local community leaders as Learning Partners for Trip Leader Workshops to give students a direct connection to issues and resources in Springfield for reorientation. This increased awareness about immersion in the community.

13 Cohort members of the Ningxia campus were sponsored to participate during Spring Break 2019 trip across the U.S.

IMMERSION TRIPS

Milwaukee, WI
Growing Power

Indianapolis, IN
Going Green:
Social and
Environmental
Justice Through
Sustainability

Aurora, CO
Children's Health in
Color: Using
Therapeutic Play
to Engage with
Children in
Hospitals

St. Louis, MO
Sustainability:
Consensus and
Consequences

Asheville, NC
Asheville's Healthy
Minds, Bodies, and
Spirits

Dallas, TX
The Power of
Education:
Overcoming
Poverty and
Homelessness

Atlanta, GA
Children's Health in
Color: Using
Therapeutic Play
to Engage with
Children in
Hospitals

New Orleans, LA
Building for
Change: New
Perspectives in
New Orleans

Springfield, MO

1. Spread the Love, Share the Knowledge: Teen Homelessness and the LGBTQ+ Community
2. Mind and Body: Understanding Health and Wellness in Our Community

EJOURNAL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The eJournal completed its seventh year of publishing in the past year and began its eighth year:



Volume 7, Issue 2 || Setting the Stage for Highlighting Cultural Competency Pedagogy



Volume 7, Issue 3 || Intro Essay: Special Issue on First-Generation College Students



Volume 8, Issue 1 || Innovative Civic Engagement Pedagogy at CLDE 2018

Highlights of 2018 - 2019

Migrating to new publishing software

Enhancing the eJournal website

Monitoring growth with analytics

Book review repository

Crossref integration with Digital Commons

Adding calendar for civic engagement events

Change "Features Section" to "Tell Your Story"

2020 Pre-election issue planning

Special issues and special themed topic expansion

Editors attended, presented, and promoted the eJournal

Networking site visits with four other universities

Updated reviewers and board members

New Managing Editor and Copy Editor

Revised eJournal of Public Affairs logo

Give 5 video project with Greg Burris

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT

One of the major events of the 2018-2019 academic year was the successful migration of the Public Affairs Conference to the fall semester. The conference, Unity in Community, was very well received despite having had the spring 2018 conference earlier in the year in April. Jenna Bush Hager brought our opening keynote address to an audience of over 1,700. The plenary and panel sessions had excellent attendance with the total conference attendance of 5,775. This represents a **19% increase in attendance over the spring 2018 conference.**



5,775
in attendance

Public Affairs Highlights

- The public affairs theme for 2019-2020 was selected. The Power of Voice is the theme selected and Dr. Amanda Brodeur will be the Provost Fellow for Public Affairs.
- Facilitated the appearance of Fredi Lajvardi. Attendance at the convocation event was 750 at Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts.
- Facilitated the Hunger Banquet in November 2018 with over 140 students in attendance.
- Reinstated the Community Engagement Conference in partnership with the Center for Community Engagement. The Spring 2019 conference entitled, Collaborative Connections for a Resilient Future, had 127 attendees, with 74 of those attendees being community members.
- Completed and submitted the application form for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Elective Community Engagement Classification.
- The Excellence in Community Service Awards were awarded to two faculty and two staff. The Board of Governors Excellence in Public Affairs Award were awarded to three faculty and three staff members.



DEMOCRACY WEEK

Public Affairs Week was restructured around the events associated with Constitution Day, September 17. The week was rebranded as Democracy Week.

- MSU Talks, Marijuana Legalization, **147 attendees.**
- Conducted 40 hours of voter registration, **150 cards processed.**
- Hosted third Naturalization Ceremony: included **86** applicants representing 32 different countries. **450 total attendance.**

SERVICE-LEARNING

CAREER CONNECTION

Missouri State OFFICE of CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE-LEARNING

MATCHING NACE CAREER-READINESS COMPETENCIES, WITH SERVICE-LEARNING OUTCOMES

SERVICE-LEARNING OUTCOMES

NACE CAREER-COMPETENCIES



Critical Thinking

- (1) identify problems/issues
- (2) understand the root cause of the problem/issue
- (3) generate alternative solutions

- ✓ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- ✓ Leadership



Career and Teamwork

- (1) demonstrate strong leadership skills
- (2) be able to work well in teams and with others
- (3) obtains the skills to work in a career
- (4) recognize your work might have implications beyond local communities

- ✓ Career Management
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Professionalism/Work Ethic
- ✓ Teamwork/Collaboration



Communication

demonstrate the effective use of oral, written and listening communication skills

- ✓ Oral/Written Communications
- ✓ Digital Technology
- ✓ Leadership



Public Affairs Mission

- (1) recognize the importance of contributing knowledge and experiences to your community
- (2) recognize the importance of scientific principles in the generation of sound public policy
- (3) recognize and respect multiple perspectives and cultures
- (4) articulate your values, act ethically within the context of society, and demonstrate engaged and principled leadership

- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Professionalism/Work Ethic
- ✓ Global/Intercultural Fluency



Sustainability

understand how your work is connected to sustainable efforts (socially, economically and environmentally)

- ✓ Global/Intercultural Fluency
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

Career-readiness is the attainment and demonstration of requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.

Learn more about NACE and how service-learning experiences connect with career goals:



417-836-5774



PSU 131



MissouriState.edu/casl



servicelearning@missouristate.edu



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Visit: Plaster Student Union 131

Write us: @MoStateCCE | CCE@MissouriState.edu

Call: 417-836-5774

Learn more: www.missouristate.edu/cce