The Center for Community and Civic Engagement

Carleton College

The CCCE Newsletter

Fall 2015

The Center for Community and Civic Engagement
At the CCCE, our work isn’t just about “doing good” in the world. Since our office started as ACT in 1985, we’ve focused just as much on the relationships we build and what we can learn from members of our community. Through thoughtful action and reflection, we’re committed to creating sustainable opportunities for meaningful engagement that focus on both broadening knowledge and building genuine relationships with partners in our community. In other words, we believe in reciprocity.

To help foster these relationships, the CCCE serves as a central hub and resource for students, staff, and faculty who want to partner with local communities. We also work with community members who feel their work could be strengthened through partnering with Carleton. We bring passionate people together.

In the past year, nearly half of Carleton’s student body engaged with the community through the CCCE, helping the College realize its goal of connecting coursework with the real world. Through volunteering, civically engaged coursework, community based work study, and fellowships that allowed students to develop sustained relationships with the community, Carleton students logged over 39,000 hours of community engagement last year.

Our office is growing and we’re excited to be supported by not only Carleton students, faculty, and administration, but also a broad network of dedicated alumni who believe we can all benefit from engaging with the community.

Thank you for making this work possible!

LAURA RIEHLE-MERRILL
DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP
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THE CCCE IN NUMBERS

992 STUDENTS
Involved in the CCCE

54 COURSES
Academic Civic Engagement

39,774 HOURS
of Service and Learning

53 PROGRAMS

519 VOLUNTEERS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

LISTED FROM LEFT:
KELLY SCHEUERMAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PATHWAYS
DARIA KIEFFER INTERIM COORDINATOR, ACADEMIC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
JULIE BUBSER COMMUNITY-BASED WORK STUDY COORDINATOR
LAURA RIEHLE-MERRILL DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP
CINDY PLASH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
STACEY JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATE FOR CCCE AND HHMI GRANT
DEBBY WALSER-KUNTZ BROOM FELLOW FOR PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP, FACULTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
ADRIENNE FALCÓN DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (ON LEAVE 2015-16)
More students than ever before participated in this year’s Summer BLAST program, a partnership between Northfield Middle School and Carleton College’s Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) aimed at helping middle schoolers working to improve in math, reading, or science. An average of over 50 middle schoolers participated daily, marking a 35% increase since the program moved to Carleton in 2013.

The move made sense for both the middle school and the college. “As with everything the CCCE does, reciprocity is a key component,” explained Laura Riehle-Merrill, the CCCE Director for Community Engagement and Student Leadership. “[At BLAST] Carleton faculty and students gain valuable teaching experience, while BLAST students benefit from hands-on curriculum which allows them to live their learning.” Summer BLAST students joined one of many clubs, three of which were led by Carleton professors. Students “munched microbes” with Professor of Biology Debby Walser-Kuntz, placed field cameras in Carleton’s arboretum with Biology Professor Dan Hernandez, or made their own ultra-violet light bracelets with Assistant Professor of Physics Marty Baylor. In Baylor’s club, students applied sunscreen to UV-light bead bracelets to test how effectively it blocked sunlight.

Carleton faculty and community partners were excited about connecting science to the middle schoolers’ everyday lives. “Suddenly, kids are finding out that science or math is all around them,” explained coordinator for Northfield’s Connected Kids Linda Oto. “And that it may actually be interesting and fun. [At BLAST] students are getting tangible exposure to subjects to help them gain success.”

“The club is hands-on because the students really like getting to do the activities themselves. They get excited when I pull out the slinkies and laser pointers, and I enjoy using that enthusiasm to help these kids get excited about science.”

Marty Baylor, Assistant Professor of Physics
ISSUE AREAS IN PICTURES

EDUCATION

POLITICAL

ENGAGEMENT

ARTS & HUMANITIES

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FOOD

1. TORCH Tutoring at Carleton
2. Debating for Democracy Workshop
3. Hope Center’s “5K for Hope”
4. Students perform at Three Links
5. Special Olympics basketball tournament
6. First year students plant trees in the Arb
7. Carleton students present at AASHE 2015 Sustainability Conference

Fall 2015
Engaging through the CCCE to expand access to sexual health education helped alumnus Phoebe Chastain ’14 follow her passions and find a path to a meaningful professional life after Carleton.

Phoebe started recognizing significant gaps in health education as a middle schooler in rural Wisconsin. She remembers a teacher telling class “that condoms weren’t 100% effective, so it was best just to not have sex. A student asked: well what about wearing 3 or 4 or 5? And the teacher said, still, it’s not 100% effective” instead of explaining that it was actually far less effective to use more than one condom.

In high school, Phoebe worked as a peer sex educator with Planned Parenthood in Minneapolis. She continued to support efforts related to reproductive health at Carleton as a member of the Community Board for Sexual Misconduct and CAASHA (Campus Advocates Against Sexual Harassment and Assault).

These interests united when Phoebe enrolled in Biology 101: Human Reproduction and Sexuality with Professor Matt Rand. The course’s significant Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) component allowed Carleton students to create a website that provided sex-education information to students at Northfield High School. Inspired by this project, Phoebe applied to the Phillips Scholar’s program which allowed her to work on teen pregnancy prevention with HealthFinders Collaborative, ultimately helping them develop a new teen clinic in Faribault.

After graduation, she interned with Chris Purdy ’88, Vice President at DKT International, a nonprofit health organization that uses social marketing to promote family planning in over 20 countries across the world.

Opportunities to engage with the community helped Phoebe discover her passion and find a way to continue working to improve sexual education after Carleton. Her advice to new students who have yet to find their path is to “find joy in the journey.”

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Professor Devashree Gupta’s seminar Social Movements “[bridges] the worlds of scholarship and activism” by encouraging students to put their ideas into action through Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) supported by the CCCE. In the class, she asks students to “try their hand at organizing something that fits in with issues they are passionate about.”

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ACE DIRECTOR IN ECUADOR

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Adrienne Falcón, Director of Academic Civic Engagement

PAPER AIRPLANES, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Last year, Professor Gupta’s course encouraged Bailey Ulbricht ’15 to pursue her passion and found an organization that increases education opportunities for Syrian refugees. The course pushed Bailey to think about what makes a movement successful and how she might act on her longstanding interest in Syria. She ultimately decided that American students could build relationships with Syrian refugees by tutoring English.

Building on work done for Professor Gupta’s ACE course, Bailey founded Paper Airplanes Tutoring, an organization that aims to help Syrians aspiring to attend university through one-to-one English tutoring while raising awareness about the violence and crisis in Syria. The organization has now spread to other campuses with over 65 student-tutor teams who meet twice a week over Skype.

This program not only helps Syrians reach the test scores required to attend college in the U.S. More meaningfully, it has “created lasting relationships between Syrian and American students, helping bridge cultural borders in pursuance of a more peaceful world.”

Bailey believes these relationships were possible, in part, because of the questions Professor Gupta encouraged her to ask about what makes a genuine social movement. You can learn more about Bailey’s organization at www.paperairplanestutoring.org.

Adrienne Falcón ‘89, Carleton’s Director of Academic Civic Engagement (ACE), is at Ecuador’s Universidad de Cuenca for the year as a Fulbright Fellow. She is researching how institutions of higher education have developed civic engagement efforts in response to a new law mandating that they engage with their communities.

As an ethnographer, Falcón joined a research team that works closely with the University. Although she is still finding her way around the city, she has been warmly welcomed. Falcón was especially excited to participate in a national gathering of government leaders and directors of civic engagement from across the country in Portoviejo, Ecuador. There she learned about the vision of both those who are designing these new policies and the founders of a new national network of community engagement.

The new law requires universities to work on projects that align with the national ideology of “buen vivir,” or good living, and work to create a just, equitable, and sustainable nation. Although Falcón is familiar with many of the ideas about civic engagement, she is inspired by this national vision and curious about how it translates into concrete local programs. Falcón will interview national education leaders, directors of programs, and faculty leaders about their experiences, while also “learning through doing” with applied research groups at the University. Ultimately, she plans to compare the Ecuadorian and U.S. experiences with higher education and civic engagement.
“Our relationships with community partners are built on the idea that we can learn from each other. We are grateful for all our community partners for making this work possible.”

KELLY SCHEUERMANN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PATHWAYS

ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Accelerate Northfield
- American Red Cross
- Arcadia Charter School
- Bon Appetit
- Books for Africa
- Bridgewater Elementary School
- Celiac Center of Minnesota
- City of Northfield
- Community Action Center
- Dakota Prairie Adult Basic Education
- Early Childhood Family Education
- Faribault High School
- Faribault Middle School
- Greenvale Park Community School
- Growing Up Healthy
- Haiti Justice Alliance
- HealthFinders Collaborative
- HOPE Center
- Just Food Co-op
- Laura Baker Services Association
- League of Women Voters
- Little Berry Farm
- Main Street Project
- Millstream Commons
- Minnesota Youth Soccer Association
- Northfield ALC
- Northfield Arts Guild
- Northfield Community Services
- Northfield Day Care Center
- Northfield Enterprise Center/SPUR
- Northfield Family YMCA
- Northfield Healthy Community Initiative
- Northfield Historical Society
- Northfield Hospital
- Northfield Middle School & Youth Center
- Northfield Public Library
- Northfield Senior Center
- Prairie Creek Community School
- Prairie’s Edge Humane Society
- Project Friendship
- Rice County Chemical Health Coalition
- Rice County Mental Health Collective
- Rice County Public Health
- Ruth’s House of Hope
- SEEDS Farm
- Sibley Elementary School
- Special Olympics
- Spring Wind Farm
- St. Olaf College
- The Northfield Union of Youth
- Three Links Care Center
- TORCH
- Whispers of Hope
- WINGS

If you are interested in supporting the work that we do in the CCCE, please contact the Development Office directly at 507-222-4200.