

2020-2021

Annual Report

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL CHANGE



Center for Community Engagement & Social Change
Lawrence University
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A Word from the Interim Director



The Center for Community Engagement and Social Change (CCE) plays an important role in advancing Lawrence University's mission to "prepare students for lives of achievement, responsible and meaningful citizenship, lifelong learning, and personal fulfillment." The CCE has historically provided students opportunities for engagement, service, and advocacy in the greater Fox Cities community and beyond.

This past academic year presented many challenges for our team as the pandemic affected the needs of our partners and prompted many students to study remotely. We shifted almost all of our programs to virtual formats and all on-campus students were encouraged to limit their off-campus engagement. Our efforts were further complicated by staff turnover in the

CCE. Our former director transitioned to a new role early in the academic year, and I stepped into the space as Interim Director.

However, despite the many challenges, I can say without a shadow of a doubt that the 2020-2021 academic year was a resounding success for our team. In the midst of a global pandemic, we engaged 300 students in over 2600 hours of service, fostered new community partnerships, transitioned our flagship tutoring program (VITAL) to a virtual format (and grew participation to record highs), launched a first-generation mentorship program, created an entirely virtual and student-led MLK Day of Service, held 3 CCE awareness events, orchestrated multiple multiple donation drives for local community partners, ran VASE (Viking Ambassadors in Service & Engagement) programs in each of our 6 Service Corps areas, and more. We also advertised and promoted many virtual volunteering opportunities through our GivePulse platform. I am incredibly proud of the work we accomplished and how our team supported each other and stayed resilient.

Within this report, you will see more examples of the challenges and successes of the CCE during the 2020-2021 academic year. It is my hope that you will also see the perseverance, creativity, and dedication of the CCE team shining through. We accomplished amazing things in unprecedented times - it was my honor and privilege to be a part of this incredible team and I am so looking forward to the many great things to come as the CCE moves towards resuming full operational status under the direction of our new CCE director, Garrett Singer.

Yours in Service,

Teri Mueller

Impact - At a Glance

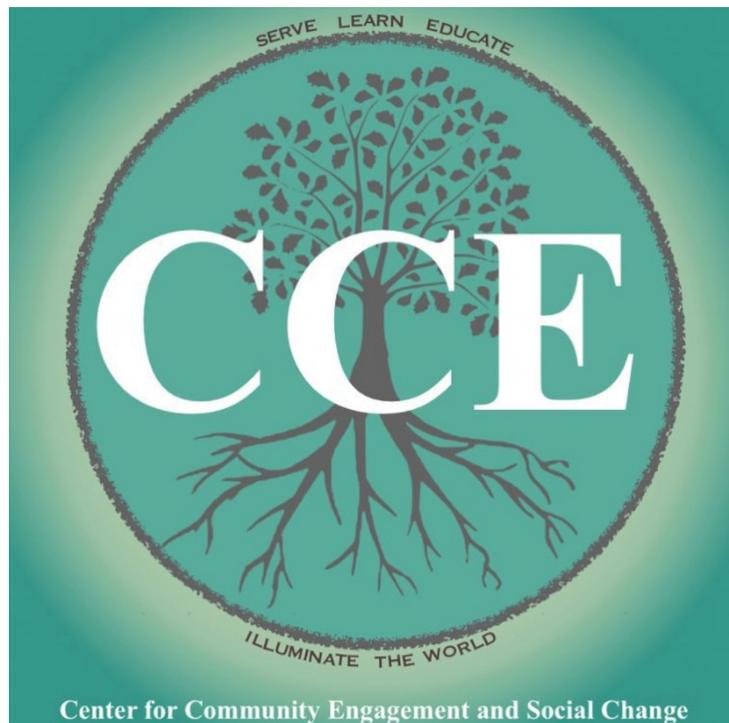
Our Mission: To encourage advocacy, service, and learning on the Lawrence campus, connect Lawrentians to needs in the surrounding community, and create an environment of mutual learning and growth, while providing service to local organizations and individuals. Working collaboratively with the community, the CCE aims to create civically-minded students by building relationships, establishing partnerships, and providing meaningful service.

The CCE accomplishes this mission by:

- Serving as an entry point to the volunteer needs of the Fox Cities and providing service to and learning from the community
- Developing and sustaining programs that address systemic issues
- Supporting the professional development and leadership needs of service-minded student leaders

\$74,410

**ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE
FOX VALLEY**



300

VOLUNTEERS

2,607

HOURS SERVED

57

ACTIVE PARTNERS

4

**NEW PROGRAMS &
INITIATIVES**

Highlighted Programs

VITAL

VOLUNTEERS IN TUTORING AT LAWRENCE

VITAL matches Lawrentians with K-12 students in the Appleton Area School District - this year, all matches met virtually. Despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, **the VITAL program grew by nearly 300%!**

- Total # of matches: 134
- Total # of tutors: 82
- Total tutoring requests: 191
- 91% of requests were filled

FOM

FIRST OF MANY

First of Many matches first-generation Lawrentians with first-generation students at Kaukauna High School, creating genuine connections and acknowledging barriers faced by first-gen students. This was the inaugural year of the program, and it was featured in a Times-Villager article as well as a segment with the WBAY local news channel. In addition, Kaukauna High School received the Community Partner Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award. Due to its incredible success, there are plans in place to continue this program next Winter Term.

LARY

LAWRENCE ASSISTANCE REACHING YOUTH

The Lawrence Assistance Reaching Youth (LARY) Buddy mentorship program - founded in 1989 - is led by the Child Advocacy Service Corp Leader and is charged with matching Lawrence students with Edison Elementary students. Due to Covid-19, this program was operating virtually. **22 Lawrentians were matched with Edison Students.**

Virtual Service

PROMOTED ON GIVEPULSE

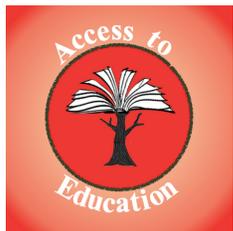
Lawrence University was not able to safely promote in-person service opportunities in our community this year due to COVID-19. The CCE compiled **66 virtual volunteer opportunities** for students to safely volunteer during the pandemic. As a whole, these opportunities have a grand total of **190 registered users**, with a collective amount of **1,606 service hours** logged in GivePulse.

Highlighted Programs, cont.

VASE

VIKING AMBASSADORS IN SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

VASE programs are 8-week service-learning experiences designed to help students get involved in service and advocacy work, connect with peers in their cohort, and learn about a service area of interest (below) and how it impacts the Fox Valley area.



7



7



4



4



13



4

39 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

MLK Day of Service

MLK Day was made virtual this year, and the CCE played a supporting role to allow Lawrence students to have a more active voice in planning events and activities for the day of service. There were four events in which Lawrentians could participate on January 18th:

- a community book read discussion of "The Radical Possibility and Democratic Necessity of Navel Gazing."
- a community discussion on disability policy and advocacy where participants learned how to contact elected officials to advocate for disability rights-related legislation. They also discussed the difference between advocacy and lobbying and looked at current pieces of relevant state and federal legislation.
- an anti-racist strategies and solutions workshop. This workshop discussed action plans for individuals, collectives, and institutions to combat discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.
- a concert hosted by Music for All in collaboration with Riverview Gardens.

Community Partners

HOW WE SUPPORT OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

- GivePulse & Social Media Marketing
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Connecting partners to Student Organizations
- VASE (Viking Ambassadors in Service & Engagement) Collaborations
- Marketing Employment Opportunities
- Other Creative Forms of Support

57
ACTIVE PARTNERS

NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

The academic year was challenging, but we were able to make exciting progress on several new initiatives.

CCE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

An Outreach Committee was piloted in 2021 to identify gaps in CCE programming and more closely align our efforts with community needs and student interests.

FOX VALLEY WORLD RELIEF

2021 is the inaugural year of a partnership with World Relief, a federal refugee resettlement agency, to promote service-learning and volunteer opportunities.

KAIROS ALIVE

The CCE partnered with Kairos for the first time this year, publicizing virtual volunteer opportunities and facilitating Spring and Summer internships in coordination with the Career Center.

KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Access to Education Service Corps area piloted First of Many, a new mentorship program focused on supporting potential first-generation college students, in collaboration with KASD. Lawrence students served as mentors for the program and the school district helped recruit potential first-generation students from the district. The CCE looks forward to continued partnership with KASD in coming years.

**INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH THE CCE?
CALL OR EMAIL TODAY!**

**920-832-6644
COMMUNITY.ENGAGEMENT@LAWRENCE.ED**

Looking to the Future:

Opportunities for Growth

Five growth opportunities were identified in the 2019-2020 CCE Annual Report; our team made progress in many of these areas and has refined our vision for the future.

- Further connect learning to service and provide online resources: We adapted our training and programming to virtual formats and implemented additional learning opportunities to supplement remote community engagement initiatives. Ethical Volunteering guidebooks were published online and virtual volunteer opportunities were advertised on GivePulse. VASE programs were conducted in all six service areas and curricula were adjusted to include more education and advocacy. Student staff completed antiracism trainings and self-selected professional development to further their own learning. **Moving forward, we must focus on systematizing education, reflection, and evaluation. Partnerships with faculty to create curricular service-learning experiences are necessary to successfully align academic content and community engagement.**
- Remove barriers to service: We reflected critically on whether existing programs promote an antiracist culture on- and off-campus. Discussions led by our student staff revealed the ways in which our space fails to meet the needs and interests of Lawrence's diversifying student body. An Outreach Committee was created to address these opportunity gaps and to develop a more representative portfolio of community partnerships. **It will become ever more important to develop a consistent mechanism for soliciting feedback from our students and our partners to ensure that we are best supporting their efforts and amplifying their very good work in the Fox Valley.**
- Sustain long-term partnership by developing memorandums of agreement (MOAs): It was challenging to make significant progress in this area as the needs of our partnerships shifted in response to the pandemic. **As we - slowly - return to relative normalcy, it will be important to redefine key relationships and codify shared understandings through signed partnership agreements.**
- Increase collaboration between the CCE and the Career Center: In 2021, we ran a joint Welcome Week session with the Career Center, coordinated newsletters to publicize events/opportunities in our respective spaces, and partnered to help students learn to better leverage their service in the job search. **We will maintain these collaborations and will hopefully partner to provide community partners with resources/funding for internships.**
- Improve the image/branding of the CCE: We held three events to grow our presence on-campus: Duck, Duck, Service; CCE Bingo Night, and a community appreciation event. We also created a VASE logo for more consistent branding. **Raising awareness of our space and programs will continue to be an area of focus, especially as we orient new and returning students to campus.**

Meet the Team



Garrett Singer, Director

I am honored - and humbled - to be joining this incredible team and am deeply excited to be a newly minted member of the greater Appleton community. As we turn our attention to the future, my focus will be ensuring that our team and campus community are serving our partners to our fullest capacity, building new relationships throughout the Fox Valley, and more intentionally aligning our students' academic and service experiences.

Our Team:

Michelle Buchinger,
*Coordinator of Career Center & Center for
Community Engagement & Social Change*

Student Staff ('20-'21):

Papo (Carlos A.) Morales,
Office Manager, Resource & Outreach

Lili (Shirley) Xu,
Program Coordinator, Fair Housing & Hunger

Lexie Livingood,
Program Coordinator, Access to the Arts

Morgan Fisher,
Program Coordinator, Child Advocacy

Ellen Teerink,
Program Coordinator, Sustainability

Molly Ruffing,
Program Coordinator, Access to Education

Anna White,
Program Coordinator, Animal Welfare

Maya Lines,
Office Manager, Campus Outreach

Carmen Magestro,
Office Manager, Marketing & Communications

Amellalli Herrera Alvarez,
Office Manager