



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING

Mission

The Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) prepares students for lifelong civic and social responsibility.

Vision

CCEL envisions community-engaged learning as core to the MSU mission and that all Spartans contribute to a culture of social good.

Guiding Principles

As part of Michigan State University, CCEL embodies the core values of the university. In addition, we believe that to build an equitable society, we contribute to social justice through:

- **Partnership** — Encouraging the development of authentic relationships focused on assets, reciprocity, and a shared commitment to social justice
- **Community Building** — Fostering connections, collective space, and experiences to encourage authenticity, acceptance, and belonging
- **Leadership Development** — Collaborating with students as they grow in their civic identities and their capacity to intentionally contribute to a common good
- **Critical Reflection** — Guiding community-engaged learners as they make meaning of experiences and expand understanding of their roles in social change
- **Social Innovation** — Embracing inclusive and collaborative approaches that lead to systemic, social, and environmental change



Spartan Point of Pride

MSU is ranked #2 among all public institutions in service-learning by *US News & World Report*.

What is Community-Engaged Learning?

Community-engaged learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community partnerships with instruction and critical reflection to enrich the student learning experience, teach civic and social responsibility, and strengthen communities.

The Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) is committed to supporting students, faculty/staff, and community partners in the following ways:

- Advocacy — Communicating support of an idea or cause and collecting evidence to support one's position
- Community Conversations — Exchanging and weighing different ideas, perspectives, and approaches in a civil way
- Community and Economic Development — Acting locally to provide economic opportunities and improve social conditions in a sustainable way
- Community-Engaged Research — Conducting research in partnership with members of a community with the intention of benefiting the community
- Democratic Engagement — Using the formal structures of the political system to attempt to change society
- Philanthropy — Offering charitable aid or donations to social change-focused, community-based organizations to combat social problems
- Volunteering — Donating time or talent over the short- or long-term to directly support the activities of a community-based organization
- Service-Learning — Using a teaching method that combines academic coursework with the application of institutional resources (e.g., knowledge and expertise of students, faculty and staff, political position, buildings and land) to address challenges facing communities through collaboration
- Social Innovation — Participating in the process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress

Students

The Center links students to curricular community-engaged learning (CEL) and opportunities beyond the classroom. It also cultivates and maintains relationships with community partners to connect community needs with student interests. Services and programs offered to students may include:

- CEL workshops and resources to help students gain a better understanding of how to become an engaged citizen
- College and CEL support (Service-Learning Honors Option, Social Innovation Track for Entrepreneurship)
- America Reads/America Counts community work-study programs
- Community Engagement Scholars Program
- Alternative Break programs, Days of Service programs, and support for community service-focused registered student organizations (RSOs)
- Preprofessional CEL opportunities (hospital positions)
- MSUvote Initiative and democratic engagement
- Serves as an AmeriCorps VISTA site focused on increasing youth community engagement

Community Partners

Community partners play a key role as co-educators in community-engaged learning. The Center has a long history of cultivating and facilitating sustained, reciprocal relationships with partners through engagement, convening, workshops, and dialogue.

The Center elevates and highlights these partnerships in the annual Community-Engaged Learning Index available for download from the Center for Community Engaged Learning website.



ccel.msu.edu



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