



# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM**



Center for Community  
Engaged Learning  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# WHO ARE WE?

The MSU Community Engagement Scholars Program is offered by the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL). The mission of the center is to advance community engaged learning at Michigan State University and prepare students for lifelong civic and social responsibility in an increasingly diverse and complex global society.

Scholars work collaboratively with community partners, local organizations, and their fellow cohort members over the course of an academic year. The scope of each project varies by the partner. All projects are focused on community and/or economic development.

In this brochure, you will find more information about the 2019/20 Community Engaged Scholars, the partners that they worked with and the projects that they worked on.



# FORD GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Ford Motor Company Fund & Community Services seeks to build relationships with organizations like Michigan State University that have a well-defined sense of purpose, a demonstrated commitment to maximizing available resources, and a reputation for meeting objectives and delivering high quality programs and services. Like Ford Motor Company Fund & Community Services, Michigan State University places priority on promoting diversity and inclusion.

The Ford Fund supports five CESP students. Those five students are recognized as the Ford Global Scholars in this publication, as designated by the Ford logo next to their photographs.



# The 2019-2020 Community Engaged Scholars



SR.

**Sarise Hammad**  
Global and  
International Studies



SO.

**Deandrea White**  
Social Relations and  
Policy



SR.

**Munzer Elsir**  
Applied Engineering  
Sciences



JR.

**Bre Richard**  
Social Work



SO.

**Sean Evers**  
Finance



JR.

**Maddie Elliott**  
Social Work





**JR.**

**Claire Marks-Wilt**  
Residential College in  
the Arts and Humanities



**SR.**

**Sydnie Burch**  
Environmental Studies  
and Sustainability



**JR.**

**Samyuktha Iyer**  
Economics



**SR.**

**Lexie Smith**  
Comparative Cultures  
and Politics



**SR.**

**Brooklyn Rue**  
English and Global Studies in  
the Arts and Humanities



**SO.**

**Anna Rose Benson**  
Business Marketing  
and Spanish



**SR.**

**Audrey Von-Maszewski**  
Psychology





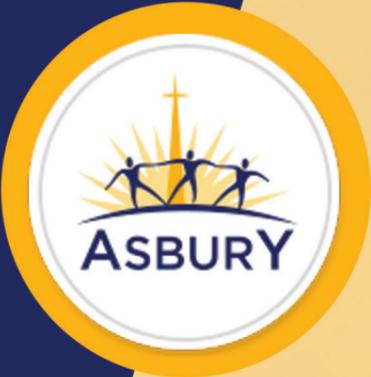
## DETROIT MAYOR'S OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

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The Department of Neighborhoods works with the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) on their mission to return the city's blighted and vacant properties to productive use. Scholars at the Department of Neighborhoods work in partnership with the DLBA to support the implementation of the Building Blocks Program, an initiative focused on supporting Detroit residents in their homeownership and renovation efforts across the city.

*"With this being my second year with this community partner, the impact has been substantial. I have learned the value of engaging directly and indirectly within my community."*

**Deandrea White, Sophomore**

The logo for Asbury Community Development Corporation is circular with a white center and a yellow border. It features a stylized sunburst with a cross at the top, and three human figures holding hands in a line below it. The word "ASBURY" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font at the bottom of the circle.

# ASBURY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

In their own words, the main focus of the Asbury CDC is “Connecting Neighbors.” Their ongoing service project is focused on connecting the residents of the Eastside of Flint by identifying assets within the community. This is accomplished by surveys that gather information about the abilities and assets of residents and their willingness to utilize their talents to build a better community, including further developing the local food system.

*“Being a part of this program has allowed me to connect with people from all walks of life and understand how even though we may be different in some respects we share more common things.”*

**Munzer Elsir, Senior**



# NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT HUB

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The Neighborhood Engagement Hub works with the residents and neighborhood organizations of Flint to help improve access to community building resources. Scholars assist the NEH in the ongoing Neighborhood Mapping Project, a collaborative effort of many organizations throughout the city. The primary goals of the project are to increase the ability of agencies to proactively serve community groups and address geographic gaps in community organization.

*“Not only have I been able to further engage with the community of my hometown Flint, but other communities as well.”*

**Bre Richard, Junior**

# CAPITAL AREA UNITED WAY

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Capital Area United Way  
Clinton | Eaton | Ingham

Capital Area United Way is serving as a partner in the Serve Lansing collaborative to provide the volunteer component for community engagement. Their scholar serves as a liaison for this project with a focus on strategic outreach to build volunteerism, as well as developing outreach and engagement plans to support the BeCountedMI2020 effort for the 2020 Census.

*“By leading volunteer events, working with Capital Area United Way on the census project, and reflecting with my fellow scholars, my viewpoint of society has completely changed.”*

**Sean Evers, Sophomore**



Andy Schor, Mayor

## LANSING MAYOR'S OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (DNCE)

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Scholars with the Lansing Mayor's Office work directly with the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods & Citizen Engagement on the 2020 Census. Additionally, their work also includes the SERVE Lansing Service Plan. SERVE Lansing is an effort to coordinate, promote, and facilitate coordinated community volunteer programs with the goals of increasing citizen engagement (including Census 2020), neighborhood beautification, and emergency preparedness and response.

*“[Working with the] DNCE has greatly improved my communicative abilities, broadened my understanding of community engagement, and most importantly; strengthened my affirmations that Lansing has some of the best restaurants.”*

**Claire Marks-Wilt, Junior**



# MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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The MEC has been driving the environmental agenda in Michigan since 1980. Their work with the scholars is focused on disrupting the white racialization of the environmental movement by promoting diversity statewide through reforms in their own organization as well as their 70+ member groups. The scholars have been helping to collect data on the racial make-up of boards and staffs of environmental groups alongside designing and implementing recruiting strategies to draw organizations into the movement, including formalizing a network of student organizations and faculty at Michigan's 15 public universities.

*“Because of my time at MEC, I have changed my after-graduation plans to include working at an environmental non-profit organization”*

**Sydney Burch, Senior**



refugee  
development center

# REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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The Refugee Development Center has been providing engagement, education and support for refugees since 2002. Scholars with the RDC help to extend the reach of the center through marketing and resource development. Scholars develop cultural and global perspectives while gaining experience in marketing, including event planning and social media, to develop and maintain community partners and relationships for the RDC.

*“Being in the program has allowed me to dedicate more time to community engagement in a way that is supported by the information I am learning in my courses and by my cohort of fellow scholars and colleagues.”*

Brooklyn Rue, Senior



# YMCA OF METROPOLITAN LANSING

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Scholars at the Lansing Y help in their work with Evidence-Based Health Intervention Programs, their Anti-Hunger Initiative, and SPARK—a gym program for Lansing elementary schools aimed at promoting an active lifestyle to children from preschool to third grade. The scholars support the marketing of these program and are actively involved in their implementation.

*“This program reminds me that although everyone has different physical abilities, a little enthusiasm and encouragement will go far.”*

Audrey Van-Maszewski, Senior

# CESP LEADERSHIP



The CESP is led by the director of the center and MSU graduate students. The leadership team coordinates with community partners, facilitates training sessions and workshops on community engagement scholarship, professional development, partnership practice, and more.

Pictured here are:

**Renee C, Brown, MA**

Director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning

**Jake Kailahi, MA, Student Affairs Administration**

CESP Coordinator

**Adriel Antoine, MA, Student Affairs Administration**

CESP Coordinator



# FLINT SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

During the Summer 2019 semester, the Community Engagement Scholar Program (CESP) engaged with partners Flint, Michigan as part of a partnership with the MSU College of Social Science Study Away Flint Program. Students in this program lived in Flint for the summer and were embedded in local organizations in projects that aimed at enhancing community assets.

Pictured (from left): Adriyonna Fields, Ben Hendrickson, Munzer Elsir, Monica Villareal (Flint Community Initiative Program Coordinator and MSU Instructor), Francesca Del Monte, Lexie Smith, Maddie Kuhn, Maddie Elliott, and Shelby Brejnak



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