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OUR MISSION

Davidson creates student scholars as well as active, educated citizens who are involved in the community. The Center for Civic Engagement offers many fellowships, internships, grants, trips and service opportunities to connect students with local and global communities in meaningful ways. Through the Center for Civic Engagement, students, faculty and community members gain access to resources, programs and events promoting service learning and positive, community-driven change.
The 2013–14 academic year was an eventful one for the center. In addition to our foundational programs and events, we focused on presence, capacity building through partnership and professional development, and assessment. Last summer, we relocated to our newly renovated space, exclusively dedicated to civic engagement, in the Knobloch Campus Center. Throughout the academic year, our staff worked to build an awareness of the center in our new location by hosting open houses and numerous events.

Our partnership development efforts focused on deepening our relationship with nonprofit partners to build community and organizational capacity. We held a series of roundtables during the summer to not only share information about the programs, events and resources in the center, but to also talk about ways to develop position descriptions for student leaders that increase the capacity of their organizations. We continued to offer the Building Skills for Social Change workshop series, which engaged 118 participants this year and continues to grow.

Our professional development efforts also focused on building our own capacities in ways that could extend to the community in and around campus. The center often contracts individuals or groups to deliver workshops around a range of issues related to our work. During our spring strategic planning meeting connected to the High Impact Initiative, we discussed ways in which our staff can be seen as experts in areas surrounding civic engagement. During the fall semester, three of our staff became certified trainers in the Bridges Out of Poverty program. As trainers, we can offer the training to students, colleagues and nonprofit partners. We will continue this focus into next year as we offer programs that focus on poverty and explore other professional development opportunities, including the possibility for facilitative leadership training.

Because the majority of the goals from our 2010 strategic plan have been realized, we are working to delineate our next strategic steps. Assessment has played a central role in understanding our culture for civic engagement and the effectiveness of our programs and events. We received data from our administration of the PSRI and the National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement that will help us better understand our culture for engagement, including perceptions of institutional support for such work. Throughout the year, staff in the center conducted assessments of their respective programs and resources. In addition, following IRB approval, we distributed a survey to all former grant recipients to understand the impact of their service experience. We will use this data as we move forward with strategic planning in the center.

Regards,

Stacey Riemer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Students and Director of Civic Engagement

2013–14 STATISTICS AT A GLANCE
• 21 community-based learning courses
• 26 student organizations that focus on direct service, social justice or advocacy
• $42,000 in grants awarded to 19 projects
• 137 public and nonprofit community partners
• For the 7th consecutive year, Davidson College honored with the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll distinction
The Scholarship of Engagement is teaching, research and service that “engages faculty in academically relevant work that simultaneously meets campus mission and goals as well as community needs.” In essence, it is “a scholarly agenda that integrates community issues” (www.scholarshipofengagement.org). In addition to offering courses with community-based learning components, many Davidson faculty present and publish on community-based learning pedagogy or the larger social issues connected to their disciplines. A central goal for the 2013–14 academic year was expanding the number and visibility of community-based offerings.

Collaborative Poster Session
The Community-based Learning Poster Session provides an opportunity for students and faculty to showcase their community-based learning work with the larger community. Due to the growing number of community-based learning classes, a second poster session was added to the schedule. The fall session featured 46 projects from six classes. The spring session featured 57 projects from eight classes. More than 250 community members, students, faculty and staff attended each event that celebrated powerful learning through community work.

Curriculum Development Grants and Consulting
The Center for Civic Engagement offers curriculum development grants and consulting to support faculty who wish to integrate community-based learning components into existing courses. Seven curriculum development grants were awarded for the 2013–14 academic year. Grant recipients received a $1,500 stipend for summer curriculum development work and worked through the center to identify community partners and projects. Eleven additional faculty worked with the center to sustain an existing community-based learning course, to integrate community assignments without grant support or to explore other ways to advance their community-based scholarship.

Community-based Learning Courses
- ANT 267–Food & Sustainability
- ANT 340–Medical Anthropology
- ART 305–Advanced Printmaking
- COM 230–Organizational Communication
- COM 495–Communication Theory and Research
- EDU 242–Educational Psychology & Teaching Exceptionalities
- EDU 250–Multicultural Education
- ENG 271–Disability in Literature and Art
- ENV 232–Intro to Environmental Health
- ENV 373–Urban Geography
- ENV 499–Environmental Studies Capstone
- MAT 110–Applications of Finite Mathematics (2 classes)
- MAT 210–Mathematical Modeling
- MAT 341–Mathematical Statistics
- MHU 380–Issues in Medicine
- MHU 390–Research Ethics
- PSY 355–Seminar on Parenting and Literacy
- PSY 276–Cognitive Psychology (public scholarship)
- PSY 402–History & Systems in Psychology (public scholarship)
- SOC 331–Theoretical Explorations of Community Engagement
- THE 362–Theatre for Social Justice: Bullying Prevention Program

“The entire experience—what the Davidson students learned about schools, performance, collaboration and much more; and hopefully what the audiences experienced—was extraordinary.”
— Sharon Green
Professor of Theatre and CBL Faculty
PARThERNShIP DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING

The center works collaboratively with community partners and other campus offices to offer programs and resources that increase community capacity, educate our community about the range of ways to be civically engaged and provide students with the opportunity to affect positive social change through service in the greater Charlotte area and beyond.

Building Skills for Social Change

For the seventh consecutive year, the center offered the Building Skills for Social Change workshop series, made possible through the generosity of the Bonner Foundation. Sessions are open to nonprofit professionals as well as faculty, staff and students, and are intended to build the capacities of our community organizations and to provide networking opportunities across organizations. Nearly 120 people attended workshops on the following topics: Controlling Your Workday by Maximizing Efficiency, Characteristics of Strong Fundraising, Social Media Strategies for Nonprofits, Perspectives on Poverty, Documentary Story Telling Featuring Andrew Jenks and Tools for Innovation: The Assessment Matrix.

College Advising Corps

Through the generosity of the John M. Belk Endowment, Davidson College is partnering with the College Advising Corps to hire recent Davidson graduates to work full time in rural public high schools in Western North Carolina to increase college awareness, preparation and enrollment in postsecondary education. The College Advising Corps is an independent, nonprofit organization that “works to increase the rates of college enrollment and completion among low-income, first-generation college and underrepresented high school students. To do this, the College Advising Corps places well-trained, recent college graduates, from partner institutions of higher education, as full-time advisers in the nation’s persistently lowest-performing schools.” The program is administered through the Center for Civic Engagement. A program director oversees program operations and supervision of nine advisers during 2014–15 with planned growth to 20 advisers in the following two years. Advisers take part in a four-week local training in July before they begin their work in their host schools.

PolicyOptions

The PolicyOptions news bureau is a student-powered, community information hub, designed to be sustained by a team of college students and a faculty or staff adviser. Stemming from our work with the Bonner Foundation, the PolicyOptions.org network seeks to establish a network of local “community information hubs” that will make policy information, news and research available on websites, develop weekly email news digests and provide policy analysis. This past year, the center formed a leadership team to launch Davidson- and Charlotte-based bureaus, and held an introductory training webinar with the president of the Bonner Foundation.

Projects for Peace

As a Davis United World College Scholars partner institution, Davidson College was excited to announce a call for “Projects for Peace” proposals. Davidson students were able to apply for a $10,000 grant to support projects that promote peace and address the root causes of conflict. Projects for Peace encourages student initiative, innovation and entrepreneurship focusing on conflict prevention, resolution or reconciliation. One project and one alternate were selected by a review committee of professionals from the Center for Civic Engagement, the Dean Rusk International Studies program and the Office of Admission and advanced to Davis UWC Program in February. George Mukosera ’15 was selected as the Davidson College finalist for his aquaculture project, which utilizes fish farming as a methodology for advancing economic peace in rural Rusape, Zimbabwe.
The Bonner Scholars Program is a four-year scholarship program that centers on a team of students working to bring about positive community change through service, research and action. The program continually explores ways that scholars can use their service as an extension of their education both on and off the Davidson College campus.

**Curriculum**

Bonner Scholars continue to have input in the planning and implementation of their class meetings. Student-initiated meeting topics ranged from teen pregnancy to modern-day slavery to economic resources.

The fall semester kicked off with a gathering for all Bonner Scholars that was centered on a team bike-building project. At the end of the day, students were able to donate 10 bikes to a local nonprofit for children. Group service continued the following weekend with the opportunity for 15 Bonners to participate in a mobile food pantry project as a part of the United Way Day of Caring.

**Campus-Wide Meetings**

Bonner Scholars often have the opportunity to meet and learn from strong leaders for positive change in the community. The desire is for everyone on campus to have those same opportunities. To that end, the Center for Civic Engagement partnered with other departments to bring to campus
Cornerstone Activities

Class projects were developed to enhance the Bonner experience. First-year students spent spring break with The Timothy Project in Asheville, N.C. The second-year exchange was held near Pfeiffer University and allowed the 20 sophomores to work on Habitat homes together while also learning about another community and Bonner program. Recommitment was originally planned to include sports and picnicking in the park, but weather moved the group to bowling and conversation indoors. Seniors joined recent alumni in Charlotte for a “Lives of Leadership and Service” dinner at a nonprofit restaurant. For the Senior Presentations of Learning, students chose a team theme with matching jerseys, produced a video about service in relation to mascots, named most valuable players (offense/defense) and enjoyed themed food.

Mentoring Program

This year the Bonner Congress representatives launched a mentoring program for first-year Bonners to be paired with a more “senior” Bonner Scholar. Pairs were encouraged to spend time getting to know one another and to navigate Bonner together. In addition, excursions such as bowling and miniature golf were planned.

Bonner Community Fund Grants

The Bonner Community Fund is derived from our endowment from the Bonner Foundation and distributed via a grant applicant process. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to meeting a need in the local community and grant recipients must submit a reflection on the experience at its conclusion. The Community Fund supported four projects this academic year. In the fall semester, the community fund provided funding for a new growth management system at Sow Much Good. In the spring semester, funding was granted to expand the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event that was funded last year, as well as to fund two projects with Speak Up magazine. Speak Up has become a popular organization with students, and the grants will allow them to create much-needed videos, and even a documentary, for the organization, as well as to develop and print a Davidson version of the magazine.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

- Fall: 71 Scholars on campus and 5 studying abroad; 8,053 service hours (6,268 direct service and 1,785 training and enrichment hours)
- Spring: 65 Scholars on campus and 4 studying abroad; 8,708 service hours (7,332 direct service and 1,376 training and enrichment hours)
- Summer 2013: 38 Scholars participating in a summer of service in 11 different states
“My time as a Bonner has made me realize my passion for social justice. The program has defined my experience as a servant-leader and will shape my personal and career aspirations forever.”

“Bonner has allowed me to think critically about issues that I knew about but didn’t completely understand.”

“Bonner has given me the opportunity and the privilege to develop my passions and utilize them to do meaningful work. I’ve gained skills for community work, and I’m leaving Davidson with a renewed sense of purpose and determination.”

High-Impact Project Initiative

During the summer, a team of seven students, staff, faculty and community members traveled to Siena College to launch the first year of a three-year initiative. Each participating institution develops an initiative that will provide an opportunity for deep learning on campus and in the community. The Davidson team developed three ideas and began to move forward with a “community action board.” This summer, one of the students on the team spent time researching next steps. The team will be reconfigured to include people with great interest in this, and potentially another, project.
Alternative Breaks

The Center for Civic Engagement continues to advise the popular Alternative Breaks Program. This unique program enables students to act as servant leaders on several levels. Two student coordinators work with the group adviser to shape the program logistics, budget, student learning activities and assessment, and sustain relationship with community partners. Two group leaders per trip work with student team members to meet the goals of their trip and lead group reflection.

Alternative Break coordinators continued to build on the good work of their predecessors by deepening existing partner relationships. Groups continued to work with the National Coalition for the Homeless (Washington, D.C.), Long Branch Environmental Education Center (N.C.) and Habitat for Humanity (Ga.). New partnerships also were cultivated; groups worked with the following new partners: The Medici Project (Ga.), KIPP Schools (N.C.), Mountain Justice Spring Break (Va.) and the Chautauqua Learn & Serve Charter School (Fla.).

The infrastructure of the Alternative Breaks Program also continued to grow and change. The group will transition from two coordinators to a four-person board model in the 2014–15 academic year. The addition of two leadership positions will allow for more time to focus on planning quality trips with community partners, recruiting strong trip leaders and participants, and planning on-campus events to raise awareness about the program.

Civic Engagement Council

The Civic Engagement Council (CEC) is the student-governance organization for student-run service groups that offer events and direct service opportunities for the campus community in partnership with local nonprofit organizations. CEC organizations focus on a range of areas, including health, housing, youth programs, families in crisis, hunger and relief work.

The CEC Executive Board supported service groups with publicity for events, as well as co-sponsorship. One focus for the year was to help existing organizations increase awareness and attendance. For example, the board partnered with other organizations for National Volunteer Week on events including a new and well-attended clothing swap with the Environmental Action Coalition. The group also sought to visually represent community engagement and did so with “The Butterfly Effect,” a large mobile that hung in the atrium and consisted of butterfly cutouts on which students wrote about acts of community they had been a part of or witnessed.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

- 48 participants
- 14 trip leaders
- 7 community partners in 5 states
Student-Led Service Organizations

Staff members in the Center for Civic Engagement continue to advise the groups within the Civic Engagement Council. Each group coordinator works with a community partner to identify current needs and then mobilizes student members to address those needs. All groups have a focus on service or social action, and all employ different ways of operating toward that focus, such as direct service, philanthropy, advocacy and/or education.

Groups continued to implement traditional and new programs this year. For example, the newly developed group YouthMAP hosted two galas in the Belk Visual Arts Center to showcase photography created by youth from Barium Springs, and the Davidson College Chapter of Habitat for Humanity built upon a strong “Act, Speak, Build!” Week to incorporate an on-campus framing project so that their peers could drop in and help with the project.

Federal Community Service Work Study

Davidson offers students who have applied for need-based aid and are eligible for federal work-study the chance to do community service as a way of fulfilling their work-study commitment. The program allows students to form valuable partnerships with off-campus agencies.

In the 2013–14 academic year the Federal Community Service Work Study program continued to strengthen partnerships with the Ada Jenkins Center and the HealthReach Community Clinic. The program included monthly student workshops focusing on a variety of topics, including reflection on experiences, community asset mapping and an exploration of social issues in the Charlotte area. These monthly meetings also serve to strengthen relationships among all students involved in the Federal Community Service Work-Study program. At the conclusion of this year’s program, students articulated that through Federal Community Service Work-Study experience they learned about nonprofits and the greater Davidson community, built strong relationships and enjoyed the opportunity to get off campus.

Service Leaders Institute

The fourth annual Service Leaders Institute was implemented in the fall to very positive reactions. For the first time, the institute consisted of an off-campus, overnight experience. In total, 19 leaders joined us for the institute. The theme of the 2013 institute was “Dig In,” challenging student leaders to dig into their social issue and make connections in their work. The institute included conversations on goals and motivation as well as breakout sessions that addressed common challenges such as logistics and event planning, leadership and social issue education. Due to the extended amount of time together, there were formal and informal avenues for student leaders to learn more about each other and their organizations, and build community and brainstorm opportunities for collaboration and next steps. As this was a successful endeavor, in September 2014 the center will again host an overnight, off-campus Service Leaders Institute.

“I had no idea what to expect from this and was extremely impressed by how much I gained from the sessions. Hearing how other groups approached issues that we experience gave me new ideas and goals for the year, as well as methods to accomplish those goals.”

—Service Leaders Institute

“I really appreciate the relationships I’ve been able to develop at Ada, and I love the opportunity to interact with a population that is so much different than on campus.”

—FCSWS Student

“I am so glad to have worked in my position. I learned so much about service and poverty on both a community and national scale.”

—FCSWS Student
Community Engagement Fellows/Cook Family Community Engagement Fellows

The Community Engagement Fellows program places students in different not-for-profit organizations in the local community for an internship experience. Through a combination of direct service, community living and shared readings, each intern explores what it means to be an engaged and informed citizen as a member of a larger community. Due to the generosity of the Cook Family, two additional students participated in the Community Engagement Fellows program in 2013, working with organizations that have a Christian-focused mission.

Community partners for the summer of 2013 included Barium Springs Home for Children, Urban Ministry Center, Town of Davidson, Speak Up magazine, Sow Much Good and Inspire the Fire. A new process was used to identify the partners by sending out a call for proposals to our partner database. This approach helped to ensure that students were meeting a true community need and provided meaningful and positive experiences for all involved.

The fellows met Friday afternoons for enrichment activities and to learn about the organizations in our local community. Those sessions included a cooking class at the Community Culinary School of Charlotte and a viewing of issue-based videos at Silent Images. Fellows each prepared a project at the end of the summer to communicate their work and how they had developed knowledge and professional skills. They presented these, along with a general reflection of the summer, during an evening with other fellows, supervisors from the nonprofit partners and staff from the Center for Civic Engagement.

Community Research Fellows

The call for proposals for the Community Engagement Fellow program returned more responses from partners than the program could accommodate. Because a few of the proposals were rich with opportunities for student learning and potential to make a real impact with new organizations, the center hired three students as Community Research Fellows. These fellows from the Center for Civic Engagement work on projects with three local partners: Eliminating the Digital Divide (E2D), Feed the Mind and Autumn Rain. The students participated in end-of-summer presentations alongside the Community Engagement Fellows.

“I learned that citizens are both the ‘architects and a reflection’ of the civic culture. We can set the weather.”

—Community Engagement Fellow

“Seeing the struggles of others helps me find a truer version of myself. I can discover how people of very different circumstances live out their humanity.”

—Community Engagement Fellow
Freedom Schools

The Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools program at Davidson College provides summer enrichment for children between kindergarten and eighth grades that fosters a love for reading, increases self-esteem and generates positive attitudes toward learning. The program is grounded in a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: high-quality academic enrichment; parent and family involvement; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health. Six Davidson College students are selected to serve as Servant Leader Interns. They take part in an in-depth training program prior to implementing a curriculum developed by the Children’s Defense Fund. Further, they take part in the national Ella Baker Child Policy Institute, which not only focuses on the program’s integrated reading curriculum but also provides child advocacy leadership training.

Davidson College was honored to be selected by the Children’s Defense Fund to participate in their national assessment efforts during the summer of 2013, including the administration of the Basic Reading Inventory. The survey helps assess reading achievement among Freedom School participants, including vocabulary and reading comprehension. Based on results from pre-/post-testing, 95.7 percent of scholars involved with the Freedom Schools program at Davidson maintained or gained in instructional reading level and did not experience summer learning loss. The average gain in reading level was 12 months. Additionally, the scholars demonstrated positive changes in their behaviors and attitudes, including increases in the number of books read, confidence levels, their attitudes about the value of education and desire to take part in social action activities.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

- 50 Scholars served
- 5 Classrooms
- 6 Davidson College Servant Leader Interns
Service Odyssey

The Service Odyssey program uses intensive community service to build relationships among first-year participants, increase social awareness and challenge individuals to work constructively within a group. Twenty-three incoming first-year students participated in one of the four sessions in summer 2013.

In the third summer, under the leadership of the center, the program continued as a strong introduction to the Davidson and greater Charlotte communities, as well as Davidson College. The student leaders were trained by center staff to facilitate the four sessions and work collaboratively with our community partners. During the summer the leaders met with local community partners to identify needs and connect the work to opportunities and resources at the college. The student leaders also prepared reflection activities to process not only the activities of each day but the social issues that were encountered as well.

Summer 2013 community partners included A Child’s Place, Alexander Youth Network, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Charlotte, Elizabeth’s Caldwell House, Camp Dogwood, Charlotte Family Housing, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Friendship Gardens, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Haven, Inc., Loaves and Fishes, Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, Mooresville Soup Kitchen, Second Harvest Food Bank, Sow Much Good, Supportive Housing Communities and the YWCA.

Recreational activities included a day at the National Whitewater Center, concerts at Summit Coffee and lots of games!

New this year, one of the four sessions was held off campus at Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. The congregation of Caldwell not only shared their space with the group, but also organized a service project on their campus as well as two dinners with members of the congregation. One dinner featured four Davidson alumni speaking about their experience at Davidson and their involvement in the community.

Spring 2014 brought about even more exciting new changes in Service Odyssey program development. Looking forward to summer 2014, three sessions will be offered and all will be off campus to increase the total immersion into our community. In addition to Caldwell Presbyterian Church, the Service Odyssey program will be staying at Warehouse 242 in Charlotte and Davidson United Methodist Church in Davidson. The trip leader experience also was changed to provide a more structured summer experience for our Service Odyssey trip leaders and Center for Civic Engagement summer interns.

Service Odyssey trip leader

“Recreational activities included a day at the National Whitewater Center, concerts at Summit Coffee and lots of games!”

“I was hoping to gain better awareness of social issues within my community, event planning experience and communication skills. I gained all I wanted and more from this experience.”

—Xzavier Killings ’16
Service Odyssey trip leader

Spring 2014 brought about even more exciting new changes in Service Odyssey program development. Looking forward to summer 2014, three sessions will be offered and all will be off campus to increase the total immersion into our community. In addition to Caldwell Presbyterian Church, the Service Odyssey program will be staying at Warehouse 242 in Charlotte and Davidson United Methodist Church in Davidson. The trip leader experience also was changed to provide a more structured summer experience for our Service Odyssey trip leaders and Center for Civic Engagement summer interns.

Summer Experience Poster Session

Students participate in amazing learning experiences through service and community engagement each summer and often do not have an opportunity to share those experiences with the campus community. In fall 2013, the Center for Civic Engagement hosted a poster session for participants to talk about their experiences and share information about the summer opportunities and possibilities available to students.

Participants included Community Engagement Fellows, Community Research Fellows, Civic Engagement Grant Recipients, Education Scholars and Sustainability Scholars.
The Davidson College Center for Civic Engagement offers grant programs that award financial support to student-authored proposals for service initiatives. Students interested in community internships, starting a program or going on a service related domestic or international trip write proposals for four different service grants. Applying for grants offers students experience with grant writing, the philanthropic process and the development of personal learning goals related to community work. The program enables students to develop an experience that allows them to explore in-depth social issues and their roles as local and global citizens.

In summer 2013, grantees completed an assessment of their experiences to help staff in the center better understand how the project experiences influenced their learning and perspectives. Staff in the Center for Civic Engagement offered individualized consultations to students interested in applying for grants, assisting students to think more critically and analytically about their service experiences to come.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE
• 39 grant requests: $101,232
• 18 grants allocated: $32,503

SUMMER AND FALL 2013 ROBERT T. STONE ’62 MEMORIAL GRANTS
• Abby Slattery ’16, Friend of the Earth
Service experience in support of positive social and environmental impact in Jordan
• Aly Dove ’16, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
Service experience farming for sustainable change in Hawaii
• Elizabeth Welliver ’16, Ada Jenkins LEARN Works Tutoring Program
Purchase and installation of an educationally focused garden for youth in Davidson
• Liz Edwards ’14, Davidson Farmer’s Market Internship with the Davidson Farmer’s Market
• Renae Cairns ’14 and Julia Singley ’15, Sow Much Good
Purchase and installation of a sustainable planting system in Huntersville
• Stephanie Schauder ’15, Danish Citizens
Examination of bicycling as a means for improving communities in Denmark
SUMMER 2013 GRANTS MADE POSSIBLE BY PAUL ’62 AND JUDY LEONARD

- Jessica Ewing ’14, 1,000 Shillings
  Service experience empowering women through social entrepreneurship in Uganda
- Marin Williams ’16, Manna Project International
  Internship teaching English to youth in Ecuador
- Veronica Hudson ’15, La Asociación de Enfermos y Familiares de Parkinson
  Investigation of international healthcare, treatment of those with degenerative illnesses abroad and medical Spanish in Spain

SUMMER 2013 GRANTS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CLASS OF ’89

- Haley Sanner ’15, various Multiple Sclerosis organizations and HelpAge International
  Examination of strategies and approaches for addressing social isolation in aging and MS communities throughout Europe
- Naomi Coffman ’16, Jesuit Refugee Services
  Service experience connecting with the refugee community in Jordan

“...I feel like I learned so much about writing grant proposals in the past year, and I was rewarded for the work and research that I did because I received grant money. I hope to apply for more grants in the future.”
—Veronica Hudson ’15, La Asociación de Enfermos y Familiares de Parkinson

SUMMER 2014 PARTNERSHIPS

- Aquaculture Zimbabwe
- Camino Seguro
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Community Refugee and Immigration Services
- Davidson College Farm
- Davidson Farmer’s Market
- Foundation Claude Monet
- International House
- International Volunteer HQ
- Planting Hope
- Pwoje Espwa Sud Orphanage
- REACH Vietnam
- Uganda Rural Fund
- Village Schools International
- World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
- Youth With a Mission
Social innovation has re-emerged in campus programming and curriculum due in part to a renewed nation-wide focus on civic engagement and the range of ways higher education institutions and students can work toward systemic change in communities. During 2013–14, the center offered programming and resources that featured the work of social entrepreneurs, engaged students with social innovators in Charlotte and provided seed funding for student innovators working to put their ideas into action.

SEED20
Social Venture Partners (SVP) in Charlotte hosted its third Annual SEED20 competition designed to spotlight and fund nonprofits in the region focused on creative ideas for social change. Each of 20 Davidson students was paired with a nonprofit team as a student ambassador. The students supported the team by conducting research and providing feedback on pitch presentations.

"Ideas of March" Competition
The Ideas of March is the center’s idea competition that provides seed funding to students for a program or enterprise rooted in social change. Six teams of students participated in this year’s competition. The teams registered their ideas and then presented them in five-minute pitches at an event that was open to the community. The audience provided written feedback and also had an opportunity to vote for a winner.

The first-place winner, Haley Rhodes, received $5,000 to fund nutrition/cooking classes in partnership with the Ada Jenkins Center. The second-place winner, YouthMAP, received $3,000 to expand the photography mentoring sessions offered to youth at Barium Springs Home for Children and LEARNWorks. YouthMAP also won the $1,500 “audience favorite” prize.

The funding to make this event possible was generously donated by MSC Industrial Supply Co, Inc.
Orientation Service Walk

The Orientation Service Walk is an annual half-day introduction to civic engagement for incoming students at Davidson College. The walk introduces new students to Davidson’s mission of “assisting students in developing humane instincts and creative minds for lives of leadership and service” through a five-kilometer walk throughout the Town of Davidson. The event serves as an introduction to the geography of the town, venues for community service and the range of ways that students can become civically engaged at Davidson College.

This year, the morning began with a presentation highlighting the ways in which the Davidson community responds to a variety of issues, culminating in a keynote address from Joe Morrison ’14, who spoke about the power of making service a worldview. The walk featured opportunities for student involvement in the Davidson area, with each kilometer signifying money raised for this year’s beneficiary, the E2D Initiative.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

- Raised $4,738.86 for the E2D Initiative
- 90% of first-year students participated in the walk
- 174 students, or 35%, raised or donated funds in support of the walk
- 53 faculty, staff, community members, students and alumni served as walk leaders
Community Involvement Fair

The Community Involvement Fair is held each fall in the Brown Atrium of the Knobloch Campus Center to facilitate relationships between students and community organizations. Student participants had the opportunity to connect with both peers and partners, enjoy a cup of Dippin’ Dots ice cream and had a chance to win Beats Headphones and an iTunes gift card. The event encouraged hall participation as well, with 1st Cannon hall receiving a pizza party for having the highest percentage of attendees. Furthermore, after this year’s fair, the center followed up with the students who attended the fair with a weekly newsletter to publicize service opportunities.

Celebration of Service

The Celebration of Service is an annual awards ceremony that recognizes students, faculty, staff and community members for their contributions to service. This ceremony features a dinner, an awards presentation and a slideshow of photos and achievements from the year.

This year’s event, our 17th annual, featured collaboration between the Center for Civic Engagement and the Civic Engagement Council in honor of the Year in Civic Engagement. The night saw participation from both incoming and outgoing student leaders, as well as community members.

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

• Approximately 130 guests in attendance
• 5 awards of distinction
• 1 community partnership award for an outstanding nonprofit partner
• 14 individual student awards
• 3 organization/group awards
• 1 engaged scholarship award for a faculty member

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

• 255 students visited the fair
• 39 community organizations were represented
**King Day for Kids**

Each year as part of Davidson College’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, the Center for Civic Engagement hosts King Day for Kids. The program, geared toward area youth in grades K–5, combines three areas of focus: literacy, social justice and community involvement. Youth worked in small groups, facilitated by Davidson College students, to read about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy, create their own “I Have a Dream” speech and “I Am” poem, and participate in the mock march. Members of the Ada Jenkins Center LEARN Works Cheer Squad, Davidson College’s Virtuous Praise Gospel Choir and Free Word Slam Poetry Troupe performed pieces representative of Dr. King’s legacy. Participants received an educationally themed goodie bag for their participation.

**Service Saturdays**

Service Saturdays is a local community experience organized one Saturday per month. A group of up to 10 students work together on a service project while learning about a local nonprofit organization. Each trip is led by a student leader and focuses on a different social issue. Following the service project, the group discusses the experience over a meal.

The trips over the course of the 2013–14 academic year continued to highlight social issues, such as environmental stewardship, the digital divide and human trafficking, through service and intentional pre- and post-trip reflection. Facilitation of these trips is shared between community partner hosts and student trip leaders.
The Center for Civic Engagement is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for making our programs possible:

- The Bonner Foundation
- College Advising Corps
- The Cook Family
- Paul ‘62 & Judy Leonard
- Scott D. MacDonald
- Jill W. MacDonald
- John M. Belk Endowment
- Kathryn W. Davis UWC Scholars Program / Projects for Peace
- MSC Industrial Supply, Inc.
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrator’s (NASPA)
- North Carolina Campus Compact
- The Class of ‘89
- The Family of Robert T. Stone ’62 in his memory
- The Office Support Staff (OSS) at Davidson in memory of JoAnne Shackelford
- The Corporation for National and Community Service

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