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Office of City and Community Engagement at Northeastern  
Summer 2020 Newsletter

**Northeastern Announces New Initiatives  
to Confront Anti-Black Discrimination**

Earlier this month, President Aoun announced actionable steps that Northeastern will undertake immediately to confront anti-Black discrimination:

"One week after we paused to grieve and reflect on the brutal killing of George Floyd, and the systemic racism and injustices that exist in our society, I have had the opportunity to hear from and meet with many of you—students, faculty, staff, and alumni. You have urged Northeastern to take a deep and honest look at itself, to do more to confront anti-Black discrimination, and to achieve our ambitions for diversity, inclusion, and equality on our campuses." [Read the President's full message.](#)

[City and Community Engagement's message to our community shared on June 10.](#)



**Thank You Community Partners & Residents!**

While the Office of City & Community Engagement was unable to hold our annual Pancakes & Partnerships celebration due to COVID-19 this spring, we want all of our community partners and residents to know how much we greatly appreciate and value your partnership, collaboration, and energy that you share with our university community every day of the year. We're committed to our continued partnerships and relationships as they've evolved and shifted over the past several months. We're looking forward to when we can gather together again at in-person events and programs.

**LOOKING BACK - Highlights from the Spring**

**CCE Grants \$20k in COVID-19 Relief Funds to Community Organizations**

In April, **City and Community Engagement awarded over \$20,000 in grant funds to our community partner organizations through the Community Service Grant initiative.** These grant funds were first made available to community partners in response

to the Community Advisory Board's request during the fall of 2017 for access to less restrictive funding to support mission-centered organizational goals.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, CCE adapted the purpose and scope of the Community Service Grants initiative to respond to the emerging challenges affecting organizations and the communities surrounding Northeastern's Boston Campus. In total the Community Service Grants awarded \$20,905 of direct funding to our partners as they continue to support their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read the full list of Community Service Grant awardees.](#)

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## CCE Honors 45-year Partnership with Fenway Civic Association Flower Share

Since 1975, Northeastern University has teamed up with the [Fenway Civic Association](#) for the annual Fenway Flower Share. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event was in talks to be cancelled. However, our staff felt that if the event could be re-imagined to ensure the safety of local residents the university could honor this 45-year tradition and bring a little cheer to our communities in challenging times.



Our staff worked with the FCA to spread this year's flower share across 3 locations and institute safety protocols for the event. Equipped with masks and gloves, a select few of our staff delivered the flowers to each location and assisted with the distribution. The drive was limited to pre-registered residents to keep visitors to a minimum throughout the event. "With the COVID pandemic affecting the health, financial stability, and general happiness of residents, we wanted to bring a little hope to our communities while ensuring their safety and honoring this partnership the university has had with the Fenway Civic Association for over four decades."  
- Assistant Vice President of City and Community Engagement, Dave Isberg



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## Northeastern and City Councilor Kenzie Bok Partner on Fresh Food Delivery to Mission Main Tenant Task Force

In May, CCE staff were proud to team up with Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Chartwells at Northeastern to deliver fresh produce to the Mission Main Tenant Task Force. Chartwells generously donated and helped our team deliver over 20 boxes of food to Mission Main's offices near Northeastern.



This delivery was part of [a larger effort to](#)

[deliver boxes of fresh food to Boston's District 8](#) that was started by Councilor Bok in April as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to Councilor Bok, Chartwells, and the volunteers who helped make this delivery happen!



## Writers' Week 2020 Goes Virtual with Focus on Anti-Racism & Community Building

Now in its fourth year, Northeastern's Department of English, the NU Writing Center and Northeastern's City and Community Engagement collaborates annually **to convene** a dynamic multidisciplinary space for Boston's writing community; **to celebrate** the power of words; and **to recognize** writers' ability to right the wrongs of the world with a stroke of a pen or the tap of a key in order to provoke deeper thinking and generate concrete ideas on anti-racism and community-building.

This year, the week-long series was rebranded as one of the university's first engagement responses to the COVID-19 crisis. In an effort to maintain their commitment to community building, the co-sponsors felt it was a necessary act of service to host the series as a virtual experience to help bolster spirits through writing by keeping minds active and engaged during the pandemic.



*It was so great to have an outlet to share my frustrations and thoughts and my work during the pandemic in a safe space with other writers who understand what I'm experiencing.*

-Writers' Week Panelist



Over 160 of 200 registered activists, creatives, entrepreneurs, educators, residents, scholars and professionals participated in a lively, interactive social mixer, four workshops facilitated by incredibly talented roster of Northeastern faculty and staff, and locally and nationally-based out-of-work writers, and a week-long writing event to help the on and off campus community achieve their writing goals with the support of Northeastern writing specialists.

## 2019-2020 Community Service Leadership Awards Honors 24 Graduates

Since 2006, City and Community Engagement has hosted the Community Service Leadership Awards. This award recognizes graduating seniors who over multiple years have made lasting contributions to our office, campus, and local communities. Nominations were submitted by City and Community Engagement staff and local non-profits where students have served.

The recipients were recognized at the [virtual Northeastern Student Life Awards on April 30th](#) hosted by the Center for Student Involvement and the Office of Student Affairs.

### Community Service Leadership Awards

Jillian Connolly  
Elisa Figueras  
Zoe Karavolis  
Michael Tormey

Dante Del Priore  
Erykah Gomes  
Nancy Ho  
Asta MacKie  
Tyler Nicholson  
Benjamin Sanders  
Lauren Silva  
Amanda Tompkins

Abigail Cahill  
Jacqueline Addona  
Makaila Cerrone  
Madeleine Hahn-Smith  
Jamie McGloin

Kevin Hassenfratz  
Alec Newell  
Rodford Ripert  
Daniel Ostberg  
Grace Tanguilig  
Jean Paul Torre

**Congratulations!**

**#NUSLA2020**

[Read the full list of awardees and the organizations who nominated them.](#)

## Alternative Spring Break Program sends over 130 Volunteers on Service Trips

When the Alternative Breaks team began planning for the 2020 program cycle over a year ago, they were shocked to learn that trips would be departing on February 29th this year! However, the academic calendar worked in our favor and allowed the Office of City and Community Engagement to be one of the only universities across the country that was able to successfully run its Alternative Break program before COVID-19 called for travel restrictions, state-wide lock downs, and social distancing.

Building upon a 17-year history, **the Alternative Break program supported 12 immersive service trips across 8 states, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador during spring break.** Through meaningful action, reflection, and education, teams engaged in direct service to understand how communities respond to a critical social issue.



This year 24 Team leaders supported 110 volunteers as they engaged on topics including environmental sustainability, education, food insecurity, LGBT+ advocacy, and public health.

[Read more about Alternative Spring Break 2020 here!](#)



## Community-Engaged Teaching & Research Launches Spring 2020 Virtual EXPO of Service-Learning Coursework

The Spring 2020 Service-Learning courses, faced with difficult and new challenges, completed some amazing accomplishments working with our community partners. At the end of each semester, we like to acknowledge and showcase that work through a Virtual EXPO. The Spring 2020 Virtual EXPO launched on April 28th.



[Visit the Virtual Expo now to see the students' work!](#)

## Northeastern Alliance of Civically-Engaged Students to be Recognized

## by the National Braille Press

On June 25, 2020, NU|ACES will be recognized at the National Braille Press Virtual Annual Meeting as their Volunteer Group Award Recipient. National Braille Press has been a partner since the first NU|ACES class entered in 2017 and was previously a partner with the Civic Engagement Program (CEP), the predecessor program of NU|ACES.



Julian Peña, ACES Leader, student at D'Amore-McKim School of Business and National Braille Press Volunteer

ACES supported the production of braille publications including *Navigating Healthcare When All They Can See Is that You Can't*, and *Dinner Delivered: Accessible and Easy Ways to Receive Meals Direct to Your Door* and kids books like *Totally Silly Jokes*, and *Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman*.

In January, the National Braille Press dedicated their book *What's New in iOS13: A Guide to Blind Users* to their ACES volunteers. The inscription in the book read "This book is dedicated to our friends of the Northeastern University ACES Program who continue to provide amazing volunteer support to NBP." [Read more about the NU|ACES and National Braille Press partnership here!](#)

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## After Pandemic Ends Jumpstart Programming Early, Team Leader Makes Homemade Cards for Parker Hill Pre-Schoolers, Site Manager Selected for Virtual Story Time

With the abrupt end to the Spring semester many members of Jumpstart were left feeling unsure and saddened by not being able to finish their time in the preschool classroom and say goodbye to the children they have been working with. Lindsay Parcell, serving her second year in Jumpstart, is a Team Leader of the Jumpstart group who worked with Parker Hill Headstart. In the midst of moving home and trying to finish the semester, Lindsay had decided to make a card for each preschool child her team worked with. With a large bilingual Spanish speaking class, Lindsay wrote cards in both English and Spanish. She highlighted a positive contribution that each child made, making sure they knew how much Jumpstart appreciated the joy and connection the children brought to the space.

Our Northeastern Jumpstart Site Manager, Lisa Gozbekian, was selected by Jumpstart to record herself reading a children's book that has been shared widely across their national network. Lisa was also selected to record herself reading their newly chosen Read for the Record book for next year as well. [Check out Lisa reading "Jabari Jumps" by Gaia Cornwall!](#)



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## Youth Development Initiative Project Celebrates Graduating Seniors

On June 18, the Youth Development Initiative Project of CCE was proud to host a virtual celebration of its graduating seniors. Since 2006, YDIP has committed to taking on the challenge of impacting and changing the lives of inner-city youth from

This year, YDIP was proud to honor seven graduating seniors who will be attending the following universities: Northeastern University, Denison College, MassBay Community College, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Suffolk University, and

the surrounding neighborhoods of Northeastern University. The program aims to prepare youth not only for college access but for college success and completion. YDIP provides classroom instruction, after school and Saturday tutoring sessions, mentoring and support services, and building a sustainable working relationship with a point person from the student's school and their parent. Through this collaboration, YDIP creates strategies to promote academic achievement.

Bunker Hill Community College. Congratulations to our seniors on this great accomplishment!

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROJECT (YDIP)

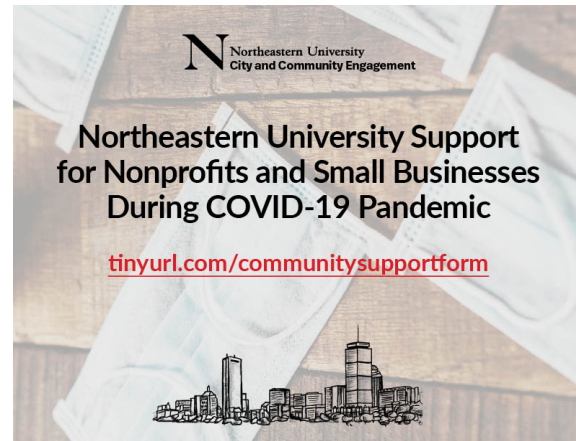


## LOOKING FORWARD - Engagement Opportunities & Events

### Northeastern Support for Nonprofits and Small Businesses During COVID-19 Pandemic

Northeastern University is offering a variety of resources to help small businesses and nonprofits in our neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, the South End, and Roxbury respond to real-time needs and build resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a non-profit or small business and would like to be connected with a Northeastern staff or faculty member with expertise relevant to your organization [please complete this form](#).

If you are a Northeastern faculty or staff member who would like to offer support to a local nonprofit or small business [please complete this form](#).



Please send any questions to [communityengagement@northeastern.edu](mailto:communityengagement@northeastern.edu)

### Last Chance! Boston FREE Flow with Afro Flow Yoga to Host Last Virtual Class of the Season on 6/24

Virtual Boston FREE Flow, a program of Northeastern Crossing to hold its 6th and last virtual flow Wednesday, June 24 from 6-7PM with partner Afro Flow Yoga. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/afroflow6](https://tinyurl.com/afroflow6)!

[Read News@Northeastern's highlight of the partnership between Boston FREE Flow and Afro Flow Yoga !](#)



NEWS.NORTHEASTERN.EDU

Here's how Afro Flow Yoga is providing exercise and dialogue in a pandemic

### Upcoming Graduation for Class 21 of the Mass Promise Fellowship!

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is excited to celebrate the graduation of our 2019 – 2020 cohort! Join us for our virtual Zoom ceremony as we close out the year with messages from an alumni member, an MPF youth participant, and a current Fellow. Our Fellows have worked so hard this year to support their youth, achieve goals in pursuit of

[Mass Promise is NOW HIRING its 2020-2021 cohort of Fellows!](#)

their professional development, and persevere in the wake of global strife. Please join us as we recognize their achievements and send them off into their futures.

[Register here for the Virtual Graduation Ceremony on Friday, June 26th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.](#)



## Community-Engaged Teaching & Research Going Virtual, RFP Now Available

### Service-Learning will be Digital/Virtual in Fall 2020!

In case you missed our email on June 1st, the Community-Engaged Teaching and Research Team made the decision to have all service-learning partnerships and student engagement happen digitally/virtually for fall 2020.

[Read our message here to learn what that means for you as a community partner or faculty member.](#)

The **Service-Learning Request for Partnerships** is now available for community-based organizations who are interested in collaborating with a service-learning course during the Fall 2020 semester. Priority submission deadline is June 30th. [CLICK HERE for more information and to submit!](#)

**FALL 2020 SERVICE-LEARNING REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIPS** Partner with us!

Open to community-based organizations!

Visit [bit.ly/fall20RFP](https://bit.ly/fall20RFP) for more information

Submit by June 30th

Northeastern City and Community Engagement

## Mass Promise Fellowship to Co-Host LGBTQ+ Youth Panel, "Elevating Youth Perspectives: Pride Edition" on Facebook Live

On June 30th, Mass Promise will be partnering with [Empowering People for Inclusive Communities \(EPIC\)](#) and [Zia Young Adult Access Center](#) to host Elevating Youth Perspectives: Pride Edition. Our goal is on the last day of Pride Month to have a panel of LGBTQ+ youth from across the state sharing their leadership and thoughts on what they want to see for Queer /Trans Rights, on what role the LGBTQ+ community should be playing in the BLM movement, and other topics that are important to them as youth in the LGBTQ+ community.

**Elevating Youth Perspectives: Pride Edition**

Live on Facebook June 30th at 6:00pm

Join Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) and Zia Young Adult Access Center for a statewide virtual event. This event will feature a panel of LGBTQ+ young adult speakers across Massachusetts discussing changes they would like to see in our society beyond Pride Month

epic young leaders with ability

ZIA Young Adult Access Center

[Follow Mass Promise on Facebook for more info!](#)

## MORE NEWS & EVENTS FROM NORTHEASTERN

[Northeastern's COVID-19 Research in the Press](#)

[Northeastern Announces New Initiatives to Confront Anti-Black Discrimination](#)

[Northeastern Partners With American Red Cross to Host Much-Needed Blood Drives](#)

[Boston Sorts and Disinfects Donated Art Supplies for Public School Children at Northeastern Matthews Arena](#)

[News@Northeastern Highlights CCE's Partnership with Afro Flow Yoga, "Boston Free Flow"](#)

[BARI Spring Conference 2020: The Smart, Equitable Commonwealth: Co-Creating the Society We Want](#)

**Want to learn more? There are a number of ways to get engaged with Northeastern and our communities.**

**Follow us on social media!**

**Facebook: @NUengaged**

**Instagram: @nuengaged**

**Twitter: @NUegaged**

Search or Submit to our Service Finder!

Sign up for the Student Weekly Volunteer Digest!

New Website Coming Soon!