

# N Northeastern City and Community Engagement

Spring 2021 Newsletter



Photo by Ruby Wallau/Northeastern University



## LOOKING BACK - Highlights from the Spring Semester

### Alternative Spring Break becomes Alternative Weekends amid COVID, Students Serve Safely and Locally

Cautious optimism was the guiding phrase used by the Alternative Breaks planning team this year. Having no concept of what March 2021 would bring, the Alternative Breaks leadership team pared down the number of trips to 7 and selected a new



cohort of 14 Team Leaders in hopes of engaging students in our traditional week-long service trips. As we proceeded into the fall, we consciously pivoted to focus the program on regional trips throughout New England. When the university made the decision to eliminate spring break from the academic calendar, we created the third and final iteration of this year's program model – Alternative Weekends.



Our task was to intentionally compress the week-long experience of Alternative Spring Break into safe and socially distant hybrid opportunities for service and learning. In pairs, the Team Leaders selected a critical social issue that could be explored by their team through education, action, and reflection. Over the course of the year, our leaders connected with community-based organizations to identify service projects, coordinated presentations, and gather resources to further understand the impact of their trip topic on communities in Massachusetts.



These trips occurred each weekend throughout the month of March. Each trip kicked off with a Friday evening activity to create connection among the team and set the tone and context for their weekend of service and learning. From Boston to Cape Cod to Peabody to Athol, the Team Leaders led their groups of 4-5 volunteers through a variety of service projects focused on food security, opioid prevention, healthcare access, and housing security. Volunteers prepared meals with the Truro Community Kitchen, supported construction with Habitat for Humanity, prepared produce bags with Fair Foods, participated in an opioid prevention training through Health Resources in Action, and more!

As we look toward the 2021-2022 school year, the Alternative Breaks program hopes to identify new opportunities to engage students through Alternative Spring Break and Alternative Weekend trip options.

[Learn more!](#)



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## **Announcing the 2020-2021 Community Service Leadership Award Winners to be recognized at the Northeastern Student Life Awards**

Congratulations to the 18 graduating students who were nominated by our staff and community partners for the continuous engagement throughout their time at Northeastern while making an impact on the communities and programs they served. The winners will be recognized at NU's annual Student Life Awards on April 29th.

Athena Barrett, NU|ACES  
Gisselle Rodriguez Benitez, NU|ACES  
Julia Borgida, NU|ACES  
Helena Dworak, Aashka Company  
Michael Fialkoff, NU|ACES  
Sara Flynn, CETR  
Ava Gallo, CETR  
Wanjiku (Shiko) Githere, CETR  
Umin Jalloh, NU|ACES  
Megha Koul, NU|ACES  
Adriell Louis, BalletRox  
Maria Morel, Boston Housing Authority  
Sasha Shenk, 826 Boston  
Francheska Torres, National Braille Press  
Mary Tresvalles, ASB  
Sierra VanSuch, NU|ACES  
Sarah Whiteman, EVkids



### Community Volunteers Program Places 50+ Students in Local Organizations for Spring Cycle

Building off the success of the inaugural program cycle, the Community Service & Civic Engagement team continues to pilot and refine its new Community Volunteers Program. During the spring cycle, CVP has placed 57 Northeastern students at one of our program partners to provide consistent volunteer support throughout the semester. The CVP program welcomed its sixth partner organization, Boston Building Resources, further expanding the types of service opportunities offered to students. Through in-person and virtual options, our volunteers are actively engaged in tutoring and mentoring youth, preparing nutritionally appropriate meals for community members with chronic illness, creating digital physical education content for families, and helping manage inventory of home resources to increase the efficiency and value of homes in Boston. A central component of the CVP program includes attendance at one of three program-wide reflection sessions. These reflection events allow students to examine their service through different lenses to cultivate a holistic understanding of community engagement. In our first reflection session, we used an excerpt from *Emergent Strategy* to think about how we can conceptualize our role as volunteers in community-based organizations.



In this book written by Adrienne Maree Brown, *Emergent Strategy* shows how humans can influence and curate positive relationships with our continuously evolving world. In our second reflection session, we introduced the Social Change Wheel. This tool helped CVP students consider the wide array of actions required to effect social change, the methods they've engaged with in the past, and how the community based organizations we partner with used a variety of methods to affect change in their communities.

*Applications to join the CVP program during the Summer I program cycle will open April 12, 2021 with weekly service beginning the week of May 17, 2021.*

**Learn more about CVP!**

### MPF Announces 2021-2022 Host Sites

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship was proud to announce its host site

partners for the 2021-2022 year in March and is thrilled to continue its partnership with 18 amazing returning sites as well as welcome 12 new organizations into the MPF community. MPF will place its 23rd cohort of Fellows at the following organizations: Apprentice Learning, Artists for Humanity, Asian Community Development Corporation, Barnstable Public Schools, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Boston Day and Evening Academy, Boys and Girls Club of MetroWest, Christa McAuliffe Charter School, East Boston Social Center, Enroot, Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools, Inc., Framingham Public Schools, Freedom House, Girls Incorporated of Lynn, Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School, Haverhill Public Schools, J. Henry Higgins Middle School, La Vida Scholars, Margarita Muñiz Academy, MGH Center for Community Health Improvement,

## 2021-2022

HOST SITE PARTNERS

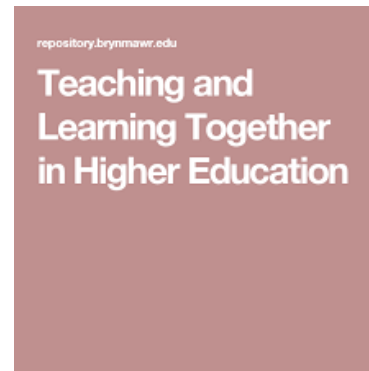


More Than Words, Northeastern University Marine Science Center, SquashBusters Boston, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, Summer Search, The LEAH Project at Health Resources in Action, Town of Stoughton-Prevention Department, Waltham Boys and Girls Club, The Welcome Project, and Youth Enrichment Services. Congratulations to all new and returning host sites!

**Mass Promise Fellow applications are now open - read more in "Looking Forward"!**

### Community-Engaged Teaching and Research Faculty, Staff, and Students Published in Higher Ed Journal

In February, we were proud to see the research of several members of our Community-Engaged Teaching and Research community published in the latest issue of *Teaching and Learning Together in Higher Education*; Dr. Becca Berkey, Director of Community-Engaged Teaching and Research and student Ava Gallo, faculty member Gail S. Begley and student Nadia Sahli, faculty member Patty Goodman and former student Zirui Yan, and faculty member Lorna Hayward. Teaching and Learning Together in Higher Education (TLTHE) serves as a forum for the reflective work of college faculty and students working together to explore and enact effective classroom practice.



Published three times per year, the journal is premised on the centrality to successful pedagogy of dialogue and collaboration among faculty and students in explorations and revisions of approaches to teaching and learning in higher education. [Read the full issue here!](#)

### Northeastern named Voter Friendly Campus

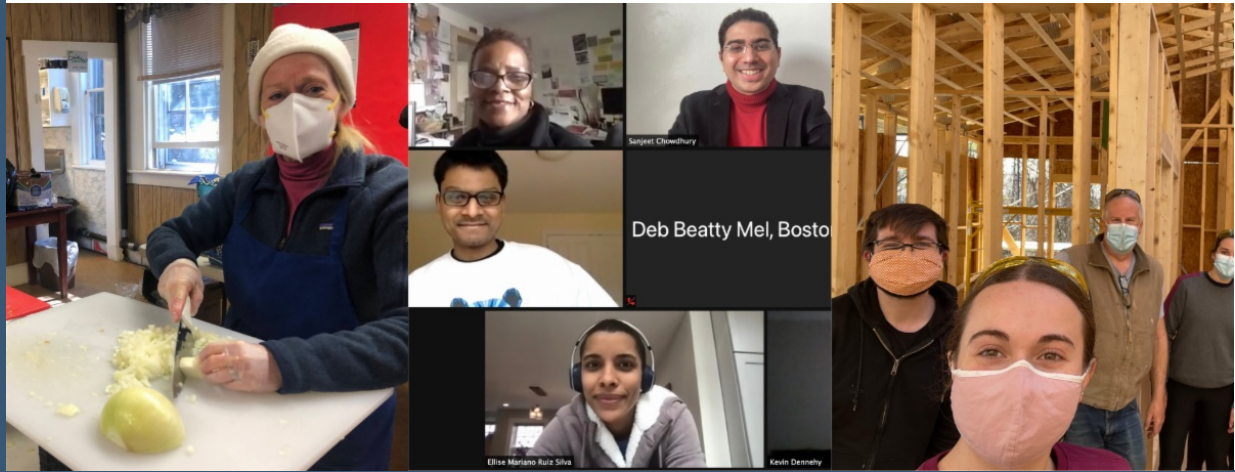
We are excited to announce that Northeastern University has been designated as a Voter Friendly Campus for 2021 - 2022 by NASPA and Campus Vote Project. As stated by Campus Vote Project, "In the face of upheaval, these institutions





had campus representatives who participated in trainings to develop, implement and report results for engagement programs that encouraged their students to register and vote. Campus administrators, faculty, and students rose to the challenge of a drastically changed engagement landscape with

remote and hybrid learning environments and rapidly changing election laws, to quickly adapt efforts to support their students through a very confusing election cycle." [Read more and view full list of Voter Friendly Campuses here](#)



## LOOKING FORWARD - Upcoming Engagement Opportunities & Events

### Apply for a 2021 Community Grant

City and Community Engagement at Northeastern University is proud to launch the 2021 Community Grants application! Any Boston-area based community organization, nonprofit, or school that is currently engaging or has previously engaged with Northeastern University students, staff, or faculty in partnership with City and Community Engagement in the last three academic years is eligible to apply. We are looking to fund proposals with an emphasis on striving towards equity and justice. As Northeastern aims to be a good neighbor to the communities in which we reside,



we will focus funding for community organizations, nonprofits, or schools serving in the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Fenway, Mission Hill, and/or the South End.

**Learn more and apply!**

### Nominate a Local Resident-led Initiative for the first Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award

CCE is excited to announce a new initiative - the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award! Building upon Northeastern University's Office of City and Community Engagement's Community Grant program for local nonprofit organizations in our surrounding communities, we are excited to

### Northeastern Seeking Nominations for the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award



As such, the initiatives must be led by and

pilot this new initiative to financially support resident-led initiatives in our local neighborhoods. We are seeking nominations from local residents to help us identify resident-led initiatives that are having a local impact.

primarily serving residents in one or more of the four neighborhoods Northeastern is a part of: Fenway, Mission Hill, Roxbury, South End.

**Submit a nomination!**

## **Writers' Week Spring 2021 - April 5 to April 10**

We invite our Boston and Northeastern communities to join us for an exciting series of activist-led, poet-led, writer-led, and artist-led programming for the Spring 2021 edition of Writers' Week: Writing/Righting the World!

Events will feature workshops and performances from prominent figures of the Boston writing and artist community - to name a few; Boston Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola, 2014 Boston Poet Laureate Danielle Legros Georges, 2016–2017 City of Boston Artist-in-Residence and author Jennifer De Leon, and multimedia artist and filmmaker Daniel Callahan. This week of social justice-centered programming celebrates writing as a means of making our worlds, showcasing our experiences, and demanding change.



Northeastern University

**Writers' Week Spring 2021: Writing/Righting the World**

Monday, April 5, 2021 - Saturday, April 10, 2021

Register at [tinyurl.com/writers-week-events](https://tinyurl.com/writers-week-events)

WRITERS' WEEK IS SPONSORED BY THE NORTHEASTERN HUMANITIES CENTER, THE OFFICE OF CITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, THE NORTHEASTERN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT & THE NU WRITING CENTER

**Sign up for Writers' Week events!**

## **Art at the Crossroads of Health and Racial Justice: A keynote and community panel with filmmaker Andre Robert Lee**

**Wednesday, April 7 12 – 1:30 PM (EST)**

CCE is a proud co-sponsor of **Art at the Crossroads of Health and Racial Justice: A keynote and community panel with filmmaker Andre Robert Lee**, presented by the Innovators in Health Equity and Racial Justice Health Sciences Webinar Series. Join award-winning filmmaker André Lee, Northeastern faculty, and community leaders for a keynote address and panel discussion highlighting the power of bringing public health and the arts together to advance health equity and racial justice. André Lee's film *Virtually Free*, which won the Jury Award for Impact at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Impact Media Awards, will be available for screening to all participants.



[Learn more and register for Art at the Crossroads of Health and Racial Justice here!](#)

## Become a Fall 2021 Service-Learning Student Leader!

Our Service-Learning Student Leader applications are now available to students for the Fall 2021 semester. We are actively recruiting for Service-Learning Teaching Assistant (S-LTA) and Street Team members. Explore these resources and learn more about the openings before you apply:

[S-LTA Job Description, Fall 2021](#)  
[Street Team Job Description, Fall 2021](#)  
[@NUSlearning on Instagram](#)  
[Community-Engaged Teaching & Research on Facebook](#)  
[Service-Learning Blog \(SLOG at NU\)](#)



Preview the application and apply at the link in the job description. Please note that we ask students to submit separate applications if they are interested in both openings. Email Chelsea Lauder at [c.lauder@northeastern.edu](mailto:c.lauder@northeastern.edu) if you have any questions. Applications are due Friday, April 16th!

Access the Street Team app here!

Access the S-LTA app here!

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## Community Volunteers Program Recruiting for Summer 2021 Cycle

This fall the Community Service & Civic Engagement team launched the newly redesigned Community Volunteers Program (CVP). This semester-long volunteer program provides consistent, weekly service opportunities for students at local nonprofit organizations. In this first semester, CVP exceeded its recruitment goals by placing 66 student volunteers with 5 non-profit organizations. Through both virtual service and in-person engagement, our Community Volunteers contributed over 1,200 hours of service through tutoring and mentoring youth, preparing nutritionally appropriate meals for community members with chronic illness, and creating digital physical education content for families.



Applications to join the CVP program during the Summer I program cycle will open April 12, 2021 with weekly service beginning the week of May 17, 2021.

Learn more about CVP!

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## Apply to Serve as an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow!

Are you looking to support youth in reaching their full potential while serving



along side a community invested in social justice and education equity? You may be a Mass Promise Fellow in the making.

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship at Northeastern University is a state-wide AmeriCorps program. **Our mission is to recruit, train, and support 40 AmeriCorps Fellows who commit to a year of service and work towards reducing the dropout rate and promoting on time graduation for youth in grades 6-12.** Fellows lead engaging academic enrichment and college and career exploration programming, acting as caring adults for the youth they serve. MPP has successfully adapted to hosting 37 members



that engage in virtual, hybrid, and in person programming with youth at 28 host organizations, providing critical out of school time support during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about our current members here!](#)

**Apply to be a Mass Promise Fellow!**

## Spring 2021 Service-Learning Virtual EXPO coming May 4th!

View digital artifacts from Community-Engaged Teaching and Research's Spring 2021 service-learning courses that capture the collaborations happening between students, community partners, faculty members, and student leaders. Follow along on our social media and [Virtual EXPO site](#) on May 4th.

*Are you a community partner or faculty member interested in partnering with CETR on a service-learning course? Want to read about more upcoming service-learning opportunities? Email [service-learning@northeastern.edu](mailto:service-learning@northeastern.edu) and [check out the latest CETR newsletter!](#)*



## Virtual Afro Flow Yoga returns for the Spring!

Your health and well-being matters. City and Community Engagement and Afro Flow Yoga® invite Boston residents, organizations, and groups to join us for six virtual classes Thursdays this spring! **All experience levels welcome**, we invite new and returning participants to join our community for a unique experience that includes live music, meditation, yoga, and dance, and an opportunity to connect with “earth, sky, and heart” in an inclusive and diverse circle of non-judgment.



**Sign up for any and all Afro Flow Yoga classes below! All classes held virtually, Thursday evenings 6 - 7pm:**



## NORTHEASTERN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### **Gallery 360's new exhibit, 'Dream Boston,' addresses COVID-19, racial justice**

"When it comes to developing new exhibitions, Gallery 360 curator Amy Halliday says she aims to be timely and responsive to contemporary issues. After what transpired in 2020, it wasn't difficult to discern the two major issues that captured the zeitgeist. Both the pandemic and the heightened attention to the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement all came together at the same time," Halliday says of the works that fall under the title, 'Dream Boston.' "This exhibition really came out of a desire to be responsive to the last year, and particularly to locate it in our local community." [Read full article](#)



### **Nearly a year on, NUPD Advisory Board helps expand transparency and access**

"Northeastern president Joseph E. Aoun announced the formation of the advisory board in June 2020, one of several actions the university would undertake "to do more to confront discrimination, and to achieve our ambitions for diversity, inclusion, and equality on our campuses," he wrote in a message to the Northeastern community. Composed of students, faculty, staff, and community members, the advisory board was charged with increasing trust and communication and creating shared goals between the NUPD and the Northeastern community, including residents of the neighborhoods around the Boston campus..." [Read full article](#)



### **Got Food Scraps? Widespread Composting Sprouts at Northeastern through Local Business Partnership**

"Maya Gaul's fond memories of Northeastern's Boston campus stretch all the way back to childhood. She recalls playing tennis at Carter Field, grabbing snacks at the Curry Student Center, and meeting up with her mother who worked at the nearby Carter School. Now Gaul is happy to be back on the 67-acre campus in another role, working with a neighborhood-focused composting company recently tasked with expanding Northeastern's earth-friendly food waste



program." [Read full article](#)

## MORE NEWS, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM NORTHEASTERN AND BEYOND

### EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES:

[Northeastern University BPDA Task Force Meeting - Wednesday, April 7 6:00 - 8:00 PM](#)

[The Innovators in Health Equity and Racial Justice Series Presents:  
Art at the crossroads of health and racial justice: A keynote and community panel with  
filmmaker Andre Robert Lee](#)

[Beginning April 30 - Boston Area Research Initiative \(BARI\) Conference 2021: Building  
Back Smarter](#)

[Myra Kraft Open Classroom, Spring 2021: Creating Beautiful, Just, and Resilient Places in  
America](#)

[Roxbury Poetry Festival: June 5, 2021](#)

[WISE: FROM PASSION TO PROJECT Boston Campus Program for High School  
Students —July 19 - 23, 2021](#)

### NEWS:

[This Student is Putting in Overtime Administering COVID Vaccines in Roxbury](#)

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

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

[Search or Submit Opportunities  
to our Service Finder!](#)

Follow us on social media!



[Sign up for the Student Weekly  
Volunteer Digest!](#)

[Visit our  
website!](#)

*Stay up to date on the university's pandemic response by visiting the [Reopening Northeastern](#) page. The university's daily testing data can also be accessed via the [Testing Dashboard](#).*