

N Northeastern **City and Community Engagement**

Summer 2021 Newsletter



LOOKING BACK - Highlights from late Spring Semester

CCE Awards \$29,000 in Community Grants and Neighbors Award Funds to Local Organizations

In May, City and Community Engagement was pleased to announce the recipients of our annual Community Grants initiative as well as our new initiative - the Neighbors

Uplifting Neighbors Award. This year, CCE awarded a total of \$29,000 in funds to 29 organizations - 21 of which were recipients of a Community Grant and 8 were recipients of the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award.

The Community Grant funds were first made available to community partners in response to the Community Advisory Board's recommendation. Building upon City and Community Engagement's Community Grant program for local nonprofit organizations in our surrounding communities, we were excited to launch the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award this year. This new initiative is intended to financially support active resident-led initiatives in our local neighborhoods of Fenway, Mission Hill, Roxbury, and the South End who are nominated by residents of these neighborhoods.



CCE's primary focus in 2021 was to fund proposals with an emphasis on equity and justice for community organizations, nonprofits, or schools serving in the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Fenway, Mission Hill, and/or the South End. This year, CCE received 28 grant applications and 12 Neighbor Award nominations. The proposals and nominations were reviewed by CCE staff, student leaders, and members of our Community Advisory Board. [Read the full list of grantees and neighbors award winners here!](#)

2020-2021 Community Service Leadership Award Winners 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 were recognized at NU's annual [Student Life Awards](#) on April 29th. Learn more about each award recipient in the full [announcement](#).



CCE and Fenway Civic Association host 46th Annual Fenway Flower Share

On May 15th, we were proud to sponsor the 46th Annual Fenway Flower Share in partnership with the Fenway Civic Association. Since 1975, Northeastern University has teamed up with the [Fenway Civic Association](#) to spread spring cheer to our Fenway neighbors and help the FCA with their membership drive. This year, a portion of the flowers were also donated to our neighbors in Roxbury and were planted in the flower bed of the Alice Taylor Apartments sign. A beautiful day for a long-standing tradition with our wonderful neighbors!





MPF Graduation

On July 1st, the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship proudly gathered its 22nd cohort to celebrate the completion of their year of AmeriCorps service. By Fellow request, the cohort opted to gather for an informal picnic on the cohort's final day of service in lieu of the traditional formal graduation ceremony. Leading up to the graduation day, speeches were shared on Mass Promise's social media to honor the class and the host sites, supervisors, and youth who made this year possible. As programming was largely virtual this past year, many members met in person at the gathering for the first time. Fellows celebrated as a community with games, lunch, and concluded with the MPF tradition, Pass the Wagon - an opportunity for members to offer their reflections on their service while passing MPF's symbol, the red wagon. Congratulations to the Mass Promise Fellowship Class of 2021 on completing an especially challenging and unique year of service!



Watch MPF's *Speaker of the Year Series* at the links below!

- [Fellow Speaker of the Year, Siva Narasimhadevara](#)
- [Alumni of the Year, Georgia Lederman](#)
- [Supervisor of the Year, Journey Chen](#)
- [Host Site of the Year, Youth Enrichment Services](#)

ACES Suit Awards

On Sunday, May 2nd, we brought together current ACES, ACES alumni, and staff to celebrate our 2020-21 NUIACES Suit Award Recipients! The Suit Awards recognize students in NUIACES who have demonstrated exceptional service. Like the suits of a card deck, there are four types of Suit Awards. The highest honor is the Ace of Spades: Global Citizen Award, which is reserved for students who have dedicated time throughout their college careers to becoming more engaged citizens and community members. This year, we celebrated students who received all four levels: Ace of Clubs, Ace of Diamonds, Ace of Hearts, and finally Ace of Spades. Although the celebration was over zoom, we had celebrity surprise guests to introduce each award and congratulate all of our recipients thanks to the awesome website Cameo. To congratulate our 13 Ace of Clubs Recipients, we had American singer-songwriter, CeeLo Green!



Our 17 Ace of Diamonds Recipients were recognized by The Office actress Kate Flannery (Meredith)! We had 8 Ace of Hearts Recipients who were introduced by the pro skateboarder Tony Hawk, and finally our 10 Ace of Spades Recipients were congratulated by the Impractical Jokers comedian James Murray! Congratulations again to all of our recipients, and thank you for your commitment to learning, serving, taking action and building the alliance in our community and beyond!



Service-Learning Summer Course Highlights

While a majority of the service-learning course partnerships supported by the Community-Engaged Teaching and Research team run during the Fall or Spring semesters, we can't forget about the faculty members, student leaders, students, and community partners who are collaborating all year long! This summer, we have 7 summer courses utilizing service-

learning and here are some highlights from those courses:

*This summer in **Emily Mann's Science of Play** students engaged with community partners to provide information and insight for their culminating research projects. Community partners included a guest lecture from *You're With Us and Kaboom!* as well as a panel of three organizations (*Peace Through Play, Boston STEM Lab, and Dance4All*). Through these partnerships and meetings on Zoom, students were able to complete research projects on their chosen topics related to play and the impacts of COVID-19.*

***Julia Garrett's Interdisciplinary Advanced Writing** uses writing as an opportunity to address the impacts of food insecurity on communities. The class has partnered up with *Lifeboat Boston* and *Northeastern Mutual Aid (NUMutualAid)*. Students volunteer every Tuesdays and Thursdays to help support *Lifeboat Boston* and distribution of food to the 6 community fridges that the organization is currently supporting. In addition, students who work with *NUMutualAid* have been helping with the organization of resources and stocking the on campus fridge, as well as supporting new projects such as updating the websites, highlighting housing information and more!*

*This semester, **John Bleakney's Engineering Project Management's** students have been engaging with their Community Partners through weekly meetings to discuss project management, goal completion, and community development. Our students are focused on utilizing the project management skills they learn in class to help our Community Partners achieve their goals and better serve the people who rely on their program's services.*



YDIP Graduates Final Cohort

This June, the Youth Development Initiative Project of CCE proudly graduated its final cohort. Since 2006, YDIP has committed to taking on the challenge of impacting and changing the lives of inner-city youth from the surrounding neighborhoods of Northeastern University. For 15 years, the program has aimed to prepare youth for not only college access but college success and completion through 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. This year, we were proud to graduate all 4 members of our final cohort and we are excited to see them continue on their academic paths. Congratulations to the following students on this great accomplishment!

Roslie Valdez - Northeastern University

Kevin Travieso - Northeastern University

Jean Marie Kasongo - Northeastern Foundation Year

William Oppenheimer - Curry College

**CCE Co-sponsors Inaugural Roxbury
Poetry Festival**

In June, CCE was proud to sponsor the very first Roxbury Poetry Festival. Led by the City of Boston's Poet Laureate, Porsha Olayiwola, a team of writers organized the inaugural festival which was held virtually with the exception of two evening events and featured several award-winning writers, panelists, and curators, with a keynote address from 2020 Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Jericho Brown.

To celebrate the festival's first year, CCE also partnered with the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the Academy of American Poets to facilitate the Poem for Roxbury Contest. Two winners were selected, Rashawnda Williams and Durane West, who recited their poems at Northeastern's Writers' Week Spring 2021. Learn more about the Roxbury Poetry Festival [here!](#)



Winners of the 2021 Poem for Roxbury Contest, Rashawnda Williams and Durane West recite their poems, "Roxbury Love" and "617 Roxbury" to celebrate the inaugural Roxbury Poetry Festival.



An update on the CCE team

On May 10th, the Community-Engaged Teaching and Research team, led by Dr. Becca Berkey, and the Community Service and Civic Engagement team, led by Hilary Sullivan, transitioned to new leadership in the Educational Innovation team in the Office of the Chancellor. This reorganization closely aligns our public engagement in the broader community with our other experiential learning programs—all driving toward the goal of achieving a more comprehensive and integrated approach to our experiential learning opportunities for students.

At Northeastern, experiential learning is the transformation that happens when the learner comes in contact with the world. Both of these teams drive transformative learning experiences—the Community Service and Civic Engagement team as it connects students, faculty, and staff with project-based learning opportunities for service, and the Community-Engaged Teaching and Research team as it supports university-community partnerships through service-learning.

This reorganization will create new synergies across all dimensions of our experiential learning offerings and evolve our collaboration and partnership models with neighbors, organizations, and employers. We look forward to building upon the rich and diverse network of connections and opportunities that these teams have established as we expand opportunities for our students and partners alike.



LOOKING FORWARD - Upcoming Engagement Opportunities & Events

Community-Engaged Teaching and Research Seeking Partnerships for Fall 2021

Community-Based Organizations are invited to submit volunteer requests, research questions, or capacity-building project ideas that could be supported through a partnership with one or more of our service-learning courses during the Fall 2021 semester. Non-profits, schools, resident-led initiatives, and neighborhood associations are encouraged to submit to our Request for Partnerships process. Submissions are matched with courses on a rolling basis, and we welcome them until the best matches are made, though we would love to make connections mid-July so the sooner you submit, the better! Information about how to submit and sample partnership opportunities are available [HERE!](#)

N Northeastern University

SERVICE-LEARNING REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIPS NOW OPEN FOR FALL 2021

Submit volunteer requests, development projects, or research questions!



The Community-Engaged Teaching and Research team at Northeastern University seeks **community-based organizations: non-profits, schools, and/or resident-led initiatives** that are interested in partnering with a service-learning course to meet their organizational goals. Courses are supported by a faculty member and teaching assistant.

We look forward to collaborating in support of community-identified goals.



Scan the QR code to visit bit.ly/Fall2021partnerships
Email questions to Chelsea Lauder at c.lauder@northeastern.edu



Please reach out to CETR Program Manager, Chelsea Lauder, with any questions at c.lauder@northeastern.edu

WE'RE HIRING!

Come work with us! Our office is currently hiring an **Assistant to the Vice President** of City and Community Engagement, John Tobin. Apply or share with your networks!

Apply here!

ACES Applications are OPEN for Fall 2021

We are pleased to announce that the

application for incoming first year students to apply to the Northeastern Alliance of Civically Engaged Students (NUIACES) is now open! Our website is currently under construction so please reference the application itself or [this FAQ document](#) to learn more about the ACES program and what it entails.

[Click here](#) to be taken to the application! Applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the summer. The final deadline to apply is Sunday, August 8th. If you have any questions regarding the program or the application process please email civicingagementneu@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your applications and seeing you in August for the ACES Welcome Program!

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Apply to
ACES!

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. MPF 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!



IARSLCE

International Association
for Research on
Service-Learning &
Community Engagement

Register for a free IARSLCE Membership

The International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement is taking new members. Membership is free and grants access to resources and professional development opportunities. Northeastern is an Alliance member which means that individuals in our network will have the annual \$100 membership fee waived.

Before completing your registration you will be able to select that you are an Alliance member and input the code ALLIANCE. The fee will then change to \$0.00 and you can complete your registration. [Register here!](#)

NORTHEASTERN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

NORTHEASTERN DONATES \$280K IN SURPLUS PANDEMIC SUPPLIES TO WHITTIER ST HEALTH CENTER IN ROXBURY

"The items include more than 400,000 nasal swabs that will be delivered over the next few days, says John Tobin, vice president for City and Community engagement at Northeastern. The university and Whittier have a decades-long relationship aided by their close proximity..." [Read more](#)



FACILITIES AND CAMPUS PLANNING TEAM UP FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT AT TOBIN SCHOOL

"They weeded flower beds, pruned trees, and rooted out invasive species. It was all in a day's work for members of the Northeastern community who dug deep to spruce up the grounds of the Maurice J. Tobin School Tuesday morning in Roxbury..." [Read more](#)



NORTHEASTERN'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE DOG GETS A NAME

"Cooper will be on the Boston campus and ready to offer a soft paw or a warm snout as a community resource dog in the fall. He's training with his handler, Northeastern University Police Department officer Joseph Matthews, at a company called Golden Opportunities for Independence in Walpole, Mass., that provides service dogs and community resource dogs..." [Read more](#)



HUSKIES CO-OP AT SOUTH END'S BEST BEES

"Elena Getsios, who just finished her third-year behavioral neuroscience and philosophy major at Northeastern, got a taste for beekeeping after attending an event about the craft a few years ago. She jumped at the chance to learn more when she saw that the university offered a co-op

at Best Bees, an urban beekeeping company located in Boston's South End neighborhood. The company, founded by [Noah Wilson Rich](#) who graduated from Northeastern in 2005, also provided Getsios with something a little different than the normal 9 to 5 office job." [Read more](#)



SERVICE-LEARNING FACULTY MEMBER RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

"'Being a successful teacher in biology means teaching students how to learn,' she says. 'Teaching isn't magic. There's evidence behind effective teaching strategies. Realizing that really opened up the world for me.' McElligott prioritizes the skills students will need to continue learning throughout their lives, a requirement for any career in biology." [Read more](#)



RECENT GRAD CONTINUES VOLUNTEER WORK WITH LOCAL WRITING NONPROFIT, 826 BOSTON

"Sasha Shenk knew she wanted to contribute to the community surrounding Northeastern's Boston campus even before she arrived from Seattle to start her health sciences major—but she never expected the volunteer work to be so beneficial for her." [Read more](#)



MORE NEWS, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM NORTHEASTERN AND BEYOND

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES:

[Sign your child up for Northeastern's Youth Police Academy, July 12th - 16th!](#)

[Register for the Mass Electric Vehicle Expo hosted at Northeastern on July 22nd](#)

[Apply for a Boston Area Research Initiative \(BARI\) Research Seed Grant by July 19th](#)

[Myra Kraft Open Classroom Announces Theme for Fall 2021 series: Repairing a Divided America](#)

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

[Explore Northeastern's fresh herb gardens - for student and local community use!](#)

[Support South End Soccer's Swings for Unity Golf Tournament 2021](#)

NEWS:

["The death of George Floyd was this century's Selma moment."](#)

[Northeastern's 2021 Juneteenth Celebration Festival](#)

[Northeastern Library Archivists work with BPS students to learn how to conduct research using primary sources](#)

[Can Community Journalism be saved?](#)

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!](#)