

# **N** Northeastern **City and Community Engagement**

Winter 2021 Newsletter



*Sunset over the pedestrian bridge between the Fenway and Roxbury neighborhoods  
Photo by Matthew Modoono/Northeastern University*

Happy New Year to our community partners, students, residents, and faculty! As we continue navigating our current reality, the City and Community Engagement team remains committed to fostering collaborative relationships and partnerships that connect, educate, and engage our network while protecting our community's health. Explore the many ways Northeastern engages with our local communities in the newly released [2020 Community Benefits Annual Report!](#)

*In the newsletter you will find:*

- Looking Back - Highlights from the Fall & Early Spring Semester
- Looking Forward - Upcoming Engagement & Event Opportunities
- CCE in the News
- More Events and News from Northeastern



## LOOKING BACK - Highlights from the Fall and Early Spring Semester

### CCE and Mass Promise Fellowship Honor Legacy of MLK Jr. with Engagement and Learning Programming, ACES Students Play Key Roles in University-wide MLK Jr. Day Events

MLK Day is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." For the month of January, the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship staff organized three virtual events to honor the legacy of Dr. King by promoting community action and wellness. Fellows and members of our community kicked off our MLK Day programming with a Virtual Wellness 5k January 8th - 10th. On MLK Day itself, we were joined by [Improbable Players](#) and [Victory Programs](#) to lead "Community Activism & The Opioid Crisis", a combination panel discussion and harm reduction training. The final event to close out the Learning and Engagement month of programming will take place January 26th - and has already sold out! We are excited to partner with [TRILLFIT®](#) to offer a free signature class meant to empower individuals, parents, and caregivers through positive wellness experiences.

CCE was also proud to see two of our ACES students, Torch Scholars Damian Lee and Tyreke Gaston, play key roles in Northeastern's university-wide MLK Day events.



Damian opened "A Tribute to the Dream: The Need for 'Good Trouble'" with a stunning rendition of *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Tyreke, an aspiring medical doctor shared his story and his thoughts on the meaning of "Good Trouble", a phrase popularized by the late public servant and civil rights activist, Congressman John Lewis: "Good trouble means to me just simply taking action that you believe will have a positive change so the way to cause good trouble is not only to take action but to have a group of people who are like-minded as you who also want to take action."

Watch Damian and Tyreke, and faculty and guests speak to the legacies of Dr. King and Congressman Lewis in "[A Tribute to the Dream: The Need for 'Good Trouble'.](#)"

• Highlights of Virtual 5k •



with the MPF  
community



## Annual Food and Toy Drives for Local Communities Continue Amid Pandemic

On behalf of families in Mission Hill and Roxbury and the Grant Manor Tenants' Association, THANK YOU to all our colleagues who supported our Annual Food and Toy Drives this year! With your help, we raised over \$2,000 in food donations, gift cards and many wonderful toys, games, and books for the children in our communities. Every year, these donations make a difference for local families in need. This year, amid ongoing health and economic challenges we are especially grateful for your generosity.



## CETR Team Launches Fall 2020 Virtual EXPO

The Community-Engaged Teaching and Research team was proud to launch the Fall 2020 Service-Learning Virtual EXPO on December 22nd. Every semester, the Service-Learning Virtual EXPO hosts digital artifacts that showcase the collaborations happening between faculty members, community partners, Service-Learning (S-L) students, and S-L student leaders. The Virtual EXPO is meant to provide a space so these collaborations can be documented and shared, even after the semester is over. This past December we shared nearly 100 digital artifacts from the Fall 2020 semester.



View this video preview of our Virtual EXPO [here](#) and visit our Virtual EXPO site [here](#)!

## Huskies Team up on Series of Fall Faculty-Led Service Projects

While the pandemic disrupted many facets of normal life, it did not extinguish the spirit of service among our students, faculty, and



community partners this Fall. Thanks to our valued community and faculty partners, many of our students were able to provide service to several organizations while learning about asset-based community development and the important work of these local non-profits. Northeastern students partnered with [About Fresh](#) and the [Huntington Ave. YMCA](#) to distribute food to local residents while learning about food access in our communities. Students also volunteered with [Off Campus Housing and Support Services](#) to pick up trash in our surrounding neighborhoods while learning about the history of Mission Hill and the Fenway during OCHSS's weekend "Breakfast Club" events. We also had students offer college essay writing support to youth in partnership with [826 Boston](#). CCE extends a special thanks to faculty partners Dr. Becca Berkey, Dr. Lori Gardinier, and Professor Rebecca Riccio, as well as our colleagues in



Off Campus Housing and Support Services, for offering their expertise to our students and engaging in the service-learning space. We also thank our community partners at About Fresh, 826 Boston, and the Huntington YMCA, in particular Director of Food and Nutrition Karibe Ibeh, for granting our students the opportunity to contribute to the great work of their organizations. Finally, we thank all the students who served in our surrounding neighborhoods this Fall and who stay safely engaged with our communities!

## Northeastern Celebrates National Day on Writing with Writers' Week Fall 2020

In recognition of National Day on Writing (October 20), City and Community Engagement, the [Northeastern Department of English](#), and the [NU Writing Center](#) expanded from an annual to a bi-annual event with its first Fall NU Writers' Week series. The week-long celebration was held October 19 – 24 to connect Boston's writing community, to celebrate the power of words, and to recognize writers' ability to rewrite, re-envision, or radically transform the world with a stroke of a pen or the tap of a key. Throughout the week, NU Writers' Week series provided many points of engagement for over 80 Boston writing enthusiasts, activists, residents, professionals, and scholars to converse, challenge and create. Writers' Week featured a diverse array of programming - master classes with national and local award-winning writers like Boston's poet laureate Porsha Olayiwola or New York-based author Adjua Gargi Nzinga,

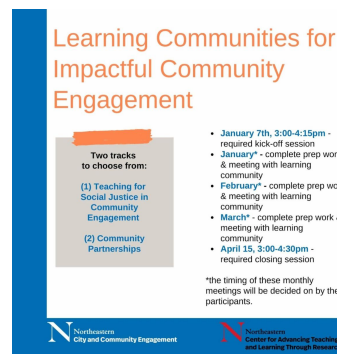


*Local writers Cagen Luse, Jacquinn Sinclair, and Tyler Stitt participate in the #WhyIWrite social media campaign for National Day on Writing*

digital conversations on #WhyIWrite and opportunities for future community engagement, spotlights on writing projects and initiatives at Northeastern and within the Boston community, and a week-long writing event to help the Northeastern and Boston communities achieve their writing goals. It was an inspiring, inclusive, and interactive week that pushed the boundaries while opening the doors for understanding, raising awareness and collective action.

## Learning Communities for Impactful Community Engagement

On January 7th, Community-Engaged Teaching & Research in partnership with the [Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning Through Research](#) kicked off their second round of Learning Communities for Impactful Community Engagement. These communities are open to faculty members, staff, and community partners. The Fall 2020 cohort consisted of 14 participants from both the university and our community partners. For Spring 2021 we are welcoming 15 participants filling two tracks: 1) Community Partnerships and 2) Teaching for Social Justice in Service-Learning and Community Engagement.



Learning Communities for Impactful Community Engagement

Two tracks to choose from:

- (1) Teaching for Social Justice in Community Engagement
- (2) Community Partnerships

- January 7th, 3:00-4:15pm - required kick-off session
- January\* - complete prep work & meeting with learning community
- February\* - complete prep work & meeting with learning community
- March\* - complete prep work & meeting with learning community
- April 23, 3:00-4:30pm - required closing session

\*the timing of these monthly meetings will be decided on by the participants.

Northeastern City and Community Engagement

Northeastern Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Through Research

If you are interested in participating in Learning Communities for Impactful Community Engagement in the future, please contact Chelsea Lauder at [c.lauder@northeastern.edu](mailto:c.lauder@northeastern.edu).

## Dr. Becca Berkey Named Board Chair of IARSLCE

Dr. Becca Berkey has been named Chair of the Board for the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement ([IARSLCE](#)). Serving as the Director of Community-Engaged Teaching and Research at Northeastern since 2013, Becca is also a faculty member whose scholarly research is at the intersection of leadership, change, and environmental justice with a specific interest in the justice issues facing farmworkers. She has served on the Board for IARSLCE since 2017 and in 2019 was named Vice Chair. Congratulations to Dr. Berkey on her new leadership role as she continues her work with IARSLCE as Chair of the Board!



Learn more about Becca and the important work of IARSLCE [here!](#)

## ACES Kicks Off Virtual Programming for Spring Semester

The Alliance of Civically Engaged Students (NUIACES) held its first ever Foundation of ACES training to welcome its 5th cohort of first-year students. 50 students participated in a 3 day virtual training with workshops, group reflections, networking events and more. The students learned more about the history of Boston, the current inequalities the city faces, and the many ways to get involved and engaged in addressing these inequities. All participants have committed to weekly community service at a partner organization for the rest of the semester, as well as attending civic learning meetings twice per month.



To learn more about NUIACES visit our [website](#) and follow the work of our ACES students on social media (@northeasternaces)!

## Afro Flow Yoga Wraps Second Season of Virtual Classes with CCE



In collaboration with City and Community Engagement the dynamic Afro Flow Yoga duo, Leslie Salmon Jones and Jeff Jones, completed their 8th installment of free yoga classes for the Greater Boston community. [Afro Flow Yoga®](#) is an embodied practice that infuses dance movements of the African Diaspora with a meditative yoga sequence and live healing music.



This fall, over 150 attendees from across the city of Boston and country logged into the bi-monthly flow sessions. One third of the participants attended Afro Flow Yoga for the first time. Many attendees reported that the sessions provided a source of refuge and restoration during these challenging times. One participant shared that “This is the most amazing and uplifting yoga experience. I am so grateful to have these classes during these times to keep me grounded mentally, physically & spiritually.

Leslie, Jeff & the entire Afro Flow Yoga team are providing such a beautiful service through these classes. I wish everyone could experience these classes”. Afro Flow Yoga continues to deliver a unique community-bridging and community-building experience. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in the new year.

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## CCE Welcomes New Cohort of Co-ops!

Meet our 4 new co-ops, working with CCE January - June 2021

**Lexi Feldman** is a current second-year student at Northeastern University pursuing a combined major in International Affairs and Cultural Anthropology with a Spanish minor. Her first semester at Northeastern was spent studying abroad in London, and she has made sure to keep that sense of adventure and an open-mind as she's continued getting to know her Boston community. She loves reading, walking with friends, traveling, and playing the piano! Lexi has previously worked as a Northeastern Peer Tutor and a Piano Instructor for children.



With her meaningful experience volunteering as a tutor at SquashBusters throughout her time spent in Boston, she hopes to build upon her passion for community service during this co-op.

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**Alison Jones** is a second year master's student in the international affairs program. She is extremely excited to work with other CCE staff on community service projects and student engagement. Her current research looks at social movements in the Andean region and their effects of democracy. She is also interested in exploring the idea of social movements as transnational networks and their effects within the sphere of international relations. She hopes to pursue a career as an educator where she can bridge the gap between theory and application to help students apply their knowledge beyond the classroom through service-learning.



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**Caroline Swenson** is a third year student studying Psychology and Health Science with a minor in Spanish. She has worked in CCE with

ACES, the Mass Promise Fellowship, and Community-Engaged Teaching and Research, and is excited to continue working as a co-op this semester! She has volunteered with a few places in Boston, including the Boys and Girls Club, the Rafael Hernández School, and 826 Boston. She hopes to continue working with some of these organizations this semester and in the future. In her free time she enjoys reading, hiking, snowboarding, rock climbing, traveling, and playing on the club rugby team here at Northeastern. She also has three dogs at home and she's hoping to foster in the fall!



**Devanshi Thakkar** sparks joy in marketing digitally! For her, results are the key. Serving the digital space for more than 4 years, she has found where her passion is. From working for various brands in B2B, B2C, and NGO segments, she has always been keen on how communication to the right audience brings results. Her ultimate goal is to reach the zenith of this in this Digital Space and connect the world seamlessly. She has a set of experience in managing live events, interviewing people, and handling digital marketing for NGOs. Her academic and professional interests includes marketing, social media, web design and more. Devanshi is also a certified dancer and her interest lies in dance and creativity.



## LOOKING FORWARD - Upcoming Engagement Opportunities & Events

### MLK 2021: A Month of Engagement and Learning - Redefining Wellness

According to [TRILLFIT®](#), classes foster community - community that supports safe space to thrive and make long lasting positive health decisions; community that redefines wellness to include social connection; community that is actively

Virtual class will be held on January 26 at 6:30 pm. This opportunity is currently at capacity for sign ups, but we encourage our community to visit TRILLFIT's [website](#) to learn more about their class offerings!



changing the face of the boutique fitness industry by modeling radical inclusion, acceptance, self love, and shared support to transform our attendees' confidence, advance well being, and ultimately promote "front row freedom". Help the Mass Promise Fellowship and CCE close out the month of January by attending a free signature TRILLFIT class meant to empower individuals, parents, and caregivers through positive wellness experiences.



## Community Volunteers Program Recruiting for Spring 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.

CVP is now actively recruiting volunteers for the spring 2021 cycle! Visit our [website](#) for more information about the service opportunities and to **apply before January 29th!**



## Host a Mass Promise Fellow at Your Organization! Proposals due January 29

Looking to build capacity at your organization? Want to bring an emerging leader and youth worker onto your team? Applications to host an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow are now open! Nonprofits, city agencies, and schools committed to serving youth in grades 6 -12 may apply to host a Fellow for the 2021-2022 year. Applications are due January 29th at 5pm EST.

For more information about hosting a Mass Promise Fellow and how to apply click [HERE](#).

Contact Mass Promise Director Lauren Currie at [l.currie@northeastern](mailto:l.currie@northeastern) with questions.

### Host an AmeriCorps Mass Promise Fellow

THE MASSACHUSETTS  
PROMISE FELLOWSHIP IS  
ACCEPTING PROPOSALS  
FOR 2021-2022

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- MA Schools, Nonprofits, & City Agencies committed to serving youth in grades 6-12
- Opportunities for Fellows to serve the same group of students weekly
- A focus on on-time graduation through academic enrichment and college and career exploration programming

Proposals due January 29th at 5pm

Contact Lauren Currie at [l.currie@northeastern.edu](mailto:l.currie@northeastern.edu) with questions

For more info visit [masspromisefellows.org/how-to-host](https://masspromisefellows.org/how-to-host)



**Volunteer or Partner with Jumpstart!**

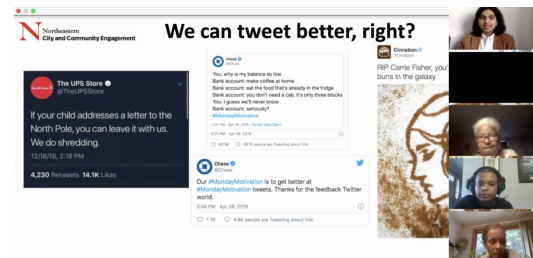


Northeastern student participants in the [Jumpstart](#) program are gearing up for the second semester of engaging virtual programming for preschool children age 3-5. Jumpstart's goal is to serve children who live in predominantly low-income neighborhoods. We are actively recruiting new college student participants, as well as seeking community partners who serve children and the families age 3-5. To learn more, contact our site manager Lisa Gozbekian at [e.gozbekian@northeastern.edu](mailto:e.gozbekian@northeastern.edu).



## CCE to Re-run Digital Marketing Workshop Series

This past summer, City & Community Engagement launched the 'Upskill' workshop series to offer digital marketing skills development and support to our community members navigating the current virtual environment. Led by CCE's Sanjeet Chowdhury, this workshop series aims to help all members of the community acquire handy digital marketing techniques that they can apply in their professional and personal lives. As the series proved to be popular - with over 50 students, community members, and staff registering for our latest installment "Upskill with Adobe InDesign" - CCE will be re-running the whole 'Upskill' series this Spring semester.



*Stay tuned and check our [events page](#) as workshops will be scheduled soon!*

## CCE IN THE NEWS

### Vote on Tuesday-And Next Year, And The Year After, Too

"Turnout among eligible student voters at Northeastern was slightly below the national average in 2012, and on par with the national average in 2016, according to data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement. Northeastern Votes hopes to beat those numbers this year, says co-chair Hilary Sullivan. One change that may help? The university is working with the City of Boston to convert Matthews Arena into a polling place for Nov. 3." [Read full article](#)



### Northeastern Introduces New NUPD Feedback System

"In an effort to facilitate dialogue and enhance policing on campus, the Northeastern University Police Department, in partnership with the NUPD Community Advisory Board, has created

a new feedback system designed to make information and the flow of communication more accessible for community members. The system will streamline the process for submitting complaints, recommendations, compliments, and questions, which the police say has been historically piecemeal. The new approach will also enable the department to fine tune its training and policing procedures in response to the information it receives." [Read full article](#)



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

### EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES:

[Northeastern University BPDA Task Force Meeting - Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:00 - 8:00 PM](#)

[Myra Kraft Open Classroom, Spring 2020: Creating Beautiful, Just, and Resilient Places in America](#)

[Lifelong Learning: On Demand – Innovative Uses of Artificial Intelligence](#)

[BARI Conference 2021: Building Back Smarter - Call for Proposals due 1/22](#)

[Pathways to Science and Engineering \(PSE\) After-School High School Program starting 1/26](#)

[Northeastern University Young Scholars Program Applications due 3/15](#)

### NEWS:

[Alum and YMCA Executive Helps Distribute More than \\$3m in Meals to Families in Need](#)

[These Northeastern Students made sure that COVID-19 Victims' Stories were told in \*The Boston Globe\*](#)

[Watch Matthews Arena Transform from Hockey Rink to Polling Place in 60 Seconds](#)

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

### LOCAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

[COVID-19 Resiliency Grants - Request For Proposals due to Mass Service Alliance Feb 5](#)

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

[Watch VP John Tobin's "Meet the University" presentation](#)

Follow us on social media!



[Visit our website!](#)

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

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



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](#).