Student Experience

You wouldn’t know it, but there was a time when Mandie Barnes came to class then simply went home. Once she started to get involved, she couldn’t stop. The 2012-13 WSU Student Association leadership vice president has her hands in many projects, but one of her favorites is the American Democracy Project (ADP).

ADP is focused on higher education’s role in preparing the next generation of informed and engaged citizens. The goal is to produce graduates who are committed to being active, involved citizens in their communities. Mandie is the founder of the ADP National Student Advisory Council. With input from the Student Senate and others on campus, she has helped organize many activities centered on democratic engagement, including voter registration, Constitution Week and Deliberative Democracy Day events.

“It is very important that we are informed and involved, and that should start now,” Mandie said. “At Weber State, we have so many opportunities to become civically engaged, whether it’s registering to vote, or attending a panel about a political or social issue, or celebrating and learning more about our Constitution. The more we participate now, the more we grow, and the more prepared we are to serve our communities.”

Democratic engagement involves students in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and civic action to make a meaningful difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and nonpolitical processes. – The American Democracy Project
Faculty Experience

In Patricia Cost’s office, there are binders upon binders of student projects from her community engaged learning (CEL) class, “Needs Assessment & Planning Health Promotion Programs.” One featured a partnership between three students and Clean Start to develop the “Recycling Hope” plan for raising awareness about the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy. Another showcased a student who partnered with Hooper, Utah, to establish the city’s community research in organizations and agencies that need the information to solve a pressing community problem or create change. ~Strand, et al, 2003

Mission

Engage students, faculty and staff members in service, democratic engagement and community research to promote civic participation, build community capacity and enhance the educational process.

Goals

• Create and support engaged learning opportunities — inside the classroom and out — for students to develop the lifelong knowledge, skills and values necessary to enable change through the social and political processes.
• Provide training, professional development and funding opportunities to faculty, staff and community partners to help them effectively participate in community engaged learning experiences.
• Distribute information and resources to assist students, faculty, staff and community organizations in developing successful community partnerships.
• Recognize the outstanding service, democratic engagement and community research contributions by students, faculty, staff, community partners and alumni.

Community Engaged Learning

Community-engaged learning involves the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional, state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

At WSU, community engaged learning takes on many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem, or interact with elected officials and governing bodies.

Three particular tracks of community engaged learning are promoted at WSU:

1. Service;
2. Democratic engagement; and
3. Community research.

Through their community engaged learning experiences, students should gain a combination of four learning outcomes:

1. Civic knowledge;
2. Civic skills;
3. Civic values; and

Outcome definitions and measurement benchmarks can be found at weber.edu/CCEL.
**COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**CEL Designated Classes**
Community engaged learning encourages students to apply the knowledge and analytical tools gained in the classroom to the pressing issues affecting local communities. They are then able to contribute the practical, real-world experience they’ve gained in the community to the classroom setting. This structured approach to learning and teaching connects meaningful community experience with intellectual development, personal growth and active citizenship.

Community engaged learning is not specific to any one discipline; in fact, CEL designated classes exist in many disciplines in all seven colleges at WSU. CEL courses are listed in the class schedule published online each semester; a full list of CEL courses can be found at weber.edu/CCEL.

**Civitas**
Civitas is a community engaged scholar program that helps students utilize community engaged experiences from their college career to demonstrate their competencies in civic knowledge, civic skills, civic values and civic action. A one-credit hour Civitas course is required to learn the fundamentals of building a Civitas portfolio. Students graduate with “Non Sibi, Sed Civitas” (not for self, for community) noted on their transcripts, as well as wear honor stoles and pins at graduation.

**Engaged Learning Series**
The annual Engaged Learning Series features speakers, exhibits and events on and off campus. The series engages students, faculty and community members in exploration of an important social issue and provides opportunities for them to develop plans for addressing the issue, implement those plans, and assess Weber State’s impact on improving the issue over time.

**Living Learning Community**
Wildcat Village, WSU’s newest residential complex, is home to the Community Engaged Living Learning Community (LLC). An enhanced undergraduate experience, the LLC gives like-minded students the opportunity to live and study together, as well as participate in civically engaged and service-oriented activities. Each year, students will work to find and implement solutions to a specific issue facing our communities, such as air quality and food security.

**Community Engaged Leaders**
The Community Engaged Leaders program gives students opportunities to make positive contributions to the community through participation in student-led service programs, including Alternative Spring Break, Boys and Girls Club, environmental projects, Best Buddies, Head Start, children-at-risk extended schools, Special Olympics and more.

**American Democracy Project**
The American Democracy Project (ADP) is focused on higher education’s role in preparing the next generation of informed and engaged citizens. Programs that are hosted by ADP at Weber State include, but are not limited to:
- Deliberative Democracy Day;
- Issues forums;
- Constitution Week;
- Debate Watch; and
- Congress to Campus.

**WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY**
Center for Community Engaged Learning
801-626-7737  ccel@weber.edu  weber.edu/ccel
CEL Fellows Program

Created to train faculty/staff members in community engaged learning pedagogies, the CEL Fellows Program extends over two semesters. The fall semester is used to train fellows in the pedagogy and assist them in course and program construction via structured workshops. The newly enhanced course/program is then taught in the following spring semester.

Workshops and training sessions
(campus, statewide, national and international)

Numerous workshops, training and information sessions are offered annually on campus to better prepare faculty, staff and community partners engaging students in service, democratic engagement and community research. Topics include: Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships; Managing Risk; Introduction to Service Learning; Reflection; Recruiting, Motivating and Recognizing Volunteers; and more. Additionally, funding is provided to send faculty and staff to state, national and international conferences on service.

CEL Supplemental Instructors (CEL SI)

The CEL SI program provides supplemental instructors for community engaged learning faculty. Each CEL SI attends the CEL-designated class and holds additional sessions for students outside of class to facilitate the learning through service, democratic engagement or community research component of the course. CEL SIs provide assistance with project planning and facilitation, reflection sessions, guidance through CEL assignments, community partner site visits and more.

Volunteer Management Training

The Volunteer Management Training program is designed to provide volunteer managers in nonprofit organizations the tools necessary to help them effectively manage their volunteers and volunteer projects. Training topics include: recruiting volunteers, placing and supervising volunteers, evaluating volunteers and more. Volunteer managers who participate in at least four of the five sessions receive a certification from the Utah Commission on Volunteers.
RESOURCES AND SERVICE RECOGNITION FOR GETTING ENGAGED IN THE COMMUNITY:

Community Partner Directory
This database lists volunteer needs and contact information for the more than 100 community organizations with whom CCEL partners. Students, faculty and staff use the database to find appropriate community partnerships.

Hall Endowment for Community Outreach Grants
These grants provide funding for faculty, staff and/or students taking part in community engaged learning projects throughout Ogden and the surrounding communities.

Resources and Recognition

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES:

John A. Lindquist Award
– Faculty/Staff award
This honor is given annually to recognize a WSU faculty or staff member who has demonstrated sustained and outstanding commitment to mentoring WSU students in learning through community engagement.

Utah Campus Compact Awards
– Community Partner, Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni
Each year, the Utah Campus Compact (UCC) recognizes the work of outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners in the state. As a UCC member campus, WSU selects an outstanding individual in five categories: Civically Engaged Scholar (faculty); Civically Engaged Staff Member; Civically Engaged Student; Committed Community Partner; and Civically Engaged Alumnus.

Excellence in Service Recognition
– Students
Excellence in Service recognizes graduates who promote service to the community while maintaining academic excellence. Graduates receive bachelor’s degrees, have grade point averages of 3.5 or higher and have contributed a minimum of 300 hours of service to a nonprofit community organization(s) during their college careers.

Annual campus-wide recognition event
An annual community engaged learning recognition event celebrates and recognizes campus members and community partners who have provided extraordinary service, democratic engagement and community research to the community in a given year.
SCHOLARSHIPS:

AmeriCorps
The AmeriCorps Education Award program allows students to perform community service in exchange for an education award.
• 300 hours in 1 year = $1,175*
• 450 hours in 1 year = $1,468*
  *2012-13 figures

Adrian L. Maxson Scholarship for Social Justice
The Adrian L. Maxson Scholarship assists students who are engaged politically, socially and creatively in the community. Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to social justice through, but not limited to, advocacy and political activism locally, nationally or globally.

Cody Ray Odekirk Humanitarian Scholarship
The Cody Ray Odekirk Scholarship assists students who are engaged in the spirit of service locally and internationally. Applicants must demonstrate a history of participation in local, national or global humanitarian projects and active community service.

Ronald M. & Nora L. Axton Scholarship
The Ronald M. & Nora L. Axton Scholarship assists students who are engaged in the community and have strong commitments to learning, moderate political ideals and a lifestyle of nonviolence and peace. Applicants must demonstrate a history with these ideals.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

CCEI formally partners with more than 100 nonprofit and government organizations in Ogden and the surrounding areas. Registered partnership organizations offer quality community engaged learning opportunities to WSU students, faculty and staff that are safe and stimulating learning environments.

Tiered Partnerships
Registered community partners receive benefits from their partnerships with CCEI based on the length of their partnership and the level of involvement they choose to have with WSU. The center makes available three tiers from which partners may choose: Cubs, Wildcats and Purple Pride. Tiered partnerships are designed to be reciprocal; thus, there are corresponding qualifications and benefits with each level. This allows the center to be much more intentional with the overall experience of community partners, students, faculty and staff alike.

To learn more about tiered partnerships, visit weber.edu/CCEL.
DONATE TO CCEL

In 2012-13, more than 7,900 students engaged in service, contributing more than 147,921 hours of service. That equals 16 years, 10 months and 15 days, and translates to a $2.7 million* investment to communities.

When you support the Center for Community Engaged Learning, you are not only helping students become thoughtful citizens and inspiring leaders, you are also helping build communities that thrive.

Gifts help students participating in:
• International, national and/or local service projects;
• WSU Day at the Capitol, where they share lessons learned through community engagement;
• Professional development opportunities, locally and nationally
• Community Engaged Learning Scholars, a program where they develop an electronic portfolio telling their community engaged stories

Donations also help the center:
• Develop community engaged learning (CEL) courses/opportunities for students
• Train community engaged citizens
• Create scholarships for community engaged students
• Support lecture series
• Attract knowledgeable CEL professors

To give, visit weber.edu/give, or call WSU’s gift processing office at 801-626-6138.
To discuss methods of giving, call the Development Office at 801-626-6073.
To donate your time working alongside students, serving on committees or volunteering as a guest speaker, contact the center:

Telephone: 801-626-7737
Email: ccel@weber.edu
Location: Shepherd Union, Suite 327
Website: weber.edu/CCEL

* as figured by Independent Sector
1) **Named Scholarship Endowment**  
With an initial gift of $25,000 or more, you can establish a named scholarship endowment, which allows you to honor your family, a colleague, a mentor, a friend or anyone of your choosing.

An endowment is a permanent fund. The original gift is never spent, and it exists as long as WSU exists. The fund is invested with the university’s endowment pool, and a portion of the earnings is used to award a yearly scholarship or scholarships. Any remaining earnings are reinvested to help the endowment grow with inflation over time. Once established, additional contributions to the endowment may be made at any time in order to accelerate its growth.

2) **Named Scholarship Fund**  
You can create a named scholarship fund by making annual gifts that will be awarded in full each year. Like an endowment, it can be named for anyone you choose. To be named, the award amount must be at least $1,000 per year with a pledge of at least three years. Awards of $1,000 per semester up to full tuition and fees for one or more students can be made from your named annual scholarship fund.

3) **Annual or Periodic Gifts**  
You can make annual or periodic gifts of any amount to existing endowed or annual scholarships funds, or to specific departmental funds.

4) **Deferred or Planned Gift**  
As part of your financial plan, you can make a deferred or planned gift to establish a new scholarship fund or add to an existing fund. These gifts may be in the form of bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, property, retirement plans, life insurance policies, and many more options.