

Center for Community Action and Research

End of Year Report
2016-2017



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The Center for Community Action and Research: Empowering Socially Responsible Thinkers

For more than two decades, the Center for Community Action and Research (CCAR) has supported civic engagement, social responsibility, and reciprocal partnership with the community, resulting in enriched learning for positive change. Housed within the Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, the CCAR's programs serve the entire university through curricular and co-curricular initiatives, coordination of national civic engagement programs, and support of ongoing community partnerships. Hallmarks of the CCAR program include:

- Providing the infrastructure needed for the development and support of Civic Engagement and Public Value courses at Pace which utilize the pedagogy of community-based learning. Students learn about a discipline, apply it to real-world community issues, and reflect upon the notion of citizenship. The CCAR supports faculty collaboration with community organizations, assists students in finding service placements, and connects community partners with Pace students.
- Programming co-curricular service and civic engagement events that provide opportunities for the Pace community to actively engage with timely issues and practice active citizenship through community service, civic action, and social activism.
- Facilitating lectures, round table discussions, and skill development workshops, many of which are open to and in partnership with the community at large.
- Coordinating national service and civic engagement initiatives including Project Pericles, The Jefferson Awards, Campus Compact, and the Corporation for National Service President's Honor Roll for Community Service.
- Spearheading leadership opportunities including the Faculty Assistants for Civic Engagement Series (FACES), Project Pericles' Faculty Development Grants, Service Release Time for Staff, and Alternative Spring Break.

Center for Community Action and Research at Dyson College 2016-2017 Staff

Mary Ann Murphy, PhD, Professor Communication Studies & Director

Heather Novak, MPA, Associate Director, Pleasantville Campus

Daniel Botting, MPA, Associate Director, New York Campus

Ashley Kuenneke, MPA, Program Coordinator, New York Campus

Tyler Kalahar, MS, Program Coordinator, Pleasantville Campus

Cesar Ballesteros, Student Outreach and Media Projects Coordinator, New York Campus

David Lê, Student Volunteer and Advocacy Projects Coordinator, New York Campus

Ariella Riapos, Vote Everywhere Ambassador, New York Campus

Carina Draper, Vote Everywhere Ambassador, New York Campus

Nelli Agbulos, Graduate Assistant, New York Campus

Timothy Martinez, Student Outreach Coordinator, Pleasantville Campus

Natalie Holguin, Student Social Media & Outreach Coordinator, Pleasantville Campus

Anna Magnante, Student Program Coordinator, Pleasantville Campus

METRICS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC VALUE COURSES METRICS 2016-2017
 (CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC VALUE COURSES)

Number of Sections PLV	31
Students PLV	562
Number of Sections PNY & MT	65
Students PNY & MT	1251
Number of Sections WWW	22
Students WWW	408
Total Sections	118
Total Students	2221
Total Community Hours* average service hours 25	55525

OUTREACH METRICS

(INCLUDES TABLING & PRESENTATIONS PROMOTING CCAR)

Number of Outreach Presentations PLV	59
Number of Outreach Presentations PNY	12
Total Presentations	71

CIVIC EDUCATION METRICS

(WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, & DISCUSSIONS PROMOTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT)

Number of Education Events PLV	42
Students PLV	823
Number of Education Events PNY	102
Students PNY	2779
Total Education Events	144
Total Students	3673

SERVICE METRICS

(COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS SPONSORED BY CCAR)

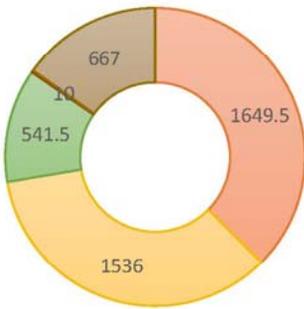
Number of Service Events PLV	13
Students PLV	486
Community Service Hours PLV	2150
Number of Service Events PNY	21
Students PNY	265
Community Service Hours PNY	2254
Total Service Events	34
Total Students	751
Total Community Hours	4404



FOCUS AREAS

IMPACTS

SERVICE (HOURS)



- Community Revitalization
- Disaster Recovery
- Environment
- Hunger & Homelessness
- Youth

\$1,681,608

value of volunteer hours to community organizations

379

students trained in activist and civic engagement skills

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (EVENTS)



- Activist Skills
- Careers
- Disaster Relief
- Diversity & Race
- Gender Equality
- International Affairs
- Labor Rights
- Organ/Blood Donation
- Political & Voter Education
- Service & Activism

100+

children and youth served

11

homes and green spaces revitalized



HIGHLIGHTS



Debating for Democracy (D4D) Legislative Hearing Winning Team

Rowan Lanning ('19) and Christina Thomas ('20) won the "Letter to an Elected Official" competition at the 2017 Project Pericles Debating for Democracy National Conference. Thomas and Lanning's letter, titled "A Letter in Support of Amending the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act to Protect the Hudson and Other American Rivers from the Unwarranted Expansion of Commerce in Bakken Oil," urged legislation requiring that the establishment of anchorage grounds for oil barges on the Hudson River be considered a Major Federal Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and thereby require an Environmental Impact Statement. Pace was one of only 5 national finalists, besting teams from Berea College, Carleton College, Reed College, and Swarthmore College.

Pace Votes

Students, staff, and faculty have worked with the Center for Community Action and Research to provide a plethora of Election 2016 programs on both campuses. The Pleasantville campus provided their annual Voter Van and Meet the Candidates events as well as educational events on Election initiatives. New York City continued a partnership with the Andrew Goodman Foundation for voter registration initiatives. Both campuses hosted Debate Watches and facilitated large scale voter registration events resulting in 655 Pace students registered to vote.



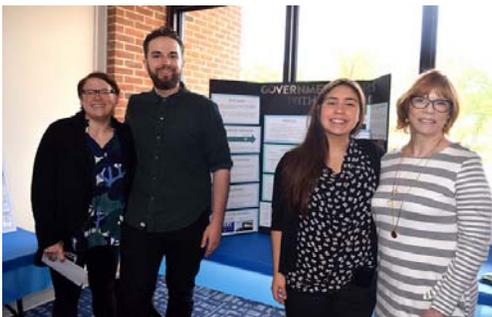


Environmental Justice

The Center for Community Action and Research worked with a sustained commitment towards creating environmental justice programming. The Pleasantville campus hosted conservation events on-campus with Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Environmental Center on the Pace University Pleasantville Campus. Off-campus events were hosted at the Westchester Land Trust. New York City continued to explore urban gardening techniques by helping students garden on campus in Pace’s own community garden, hosted an Earth Day of Service, and an online campaign for #EverydayActivism for environmental justice.

Alternative Spring Break: Rebuilding the Rockaways

Students from both campuses spent four days serving those hit hardest by Superstorm Sandy in the Rockaways. The group traveled to Rockaway, Queens, to work with Friends of Rockaway to help restore and rebuild homes and meet with community members. Following the trip, students wrote and sent letters to elected officials focused on policy and structural change related to their experiences on ASB, addressing issues such as climate change and income inequality.



Winning Undergraduate Student Faculty Research

This year the CCAR team was awarded two Undergraduate Faculty Research grants by Student Success. Dr. Mary Ann Murphy worked with Anna Magnante '17, on “The Impact of Online Service-Learning” and Tyler Kalahar, MS and Heather Novak, MPA worked with Paula Castabello '17 on “Government Begins with You(th)”, a look on how generational shifts impact young people’s thoughts on service and politics. The work on this project resulted in the teaming earning top honors for Pleasantville Research Team Award 2016-2017.



AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS



National Recognitions

In honor of its institutional commitment to service and community engagement, Pace University is a designee of both the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification and the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. The Center spearheaded both application processes with the help of the university community and affirmed Pace's ongoing commitment to educating well-rounded professionals who do not measure their success solely in terms of personal accomplishments but within a larger context of society.

Project Pericles

Since 2001, Pace has been a member of Project Pericles, a consortium of colleges and universities across the country each implementing a unique program of curricular and co-curricular initiatives that prepare and encourage students to become active, responsible citizens. This year Pace University participated in "Creating Pathways to Civic Engagement". This cutting edge, three-year research project studies delivery of Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility (CESR) at member colleges and universities inventorying, mapping, strengthening, and developing more cohesive and integrated civic engagement programs.



Jefferson Awards



Each year, the Jefferson Awards for Public Service looks for the "unsung heroes," the selfless people who make the world a better place through volunteering and community service efforts. The Center for Community Action and Research is pleased to announce that seven Pace University individuals have been selected to receive Jefferson Awards Bronze Medals for 2016-2017. Known as the "Nobel Prize for public service," the Jefferson Awards were established to recognize and honor individuals whose community service efforts best exemplify dedication to enhancing the quality of life in their community. Pace University became a Champion of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service in 2008. Nominations were solicited from the university community and finalists were selected based on their personal, sustained commitment to service, and for the model of spirit and service they provide the university community. This year Dr. Michael Bolton and Dr. Emily Welty were chosen by the Jefferson Awards Board of Directors as the Pace representative to the annual Gala in Washington D.C.



Ms. Tiffany Bermudez is a residence director at Pace University’s Pleasantville campus. She earned her master’s degree in Counseling from Pace University and her bachelor’s degree in Social Science Psychology from Dominican College. Passionate about topics relating to social justice, civility and diversity, Tiffany’s commitment to service began in 2010 at Dominican College. As a Catholic-based institution with a pillar of service, many opportunities existed for Tiffany to give back to her community. She participated in countless service projects with organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Midnight Run, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Since Tiffany began working at Pace, she has organized three Midnight Run trips, which involved leading clothing and food drives and taking students to New York City to deliver essentials for the homeless. Tiffany has also served as a committee member and site leader for Pace Makes a Difference Day. Currently, she is the chair of the Civility and Advocacy committee and has assembled a group of students and staff to organize the Pleasantville campus’ first Civility and Advocacy Week. Giving back to her community is a core passion for Tiffany and it is her mission to educate her students on the importance of doing the same.

Ms. Shari Crandall is the associate director of residential training and development on the Pleasantville campus. Shari’s commitment to service emerged at 12 years old when she became a candy striper. Through this experience, she learned that community makes a difference in peoples’ lives and this motivated all of her future service endeavors. Seeing first-hand that loving parents alone could not meet the needs of their sick child, her mission in life, both professionally and personally, had begun. Shari continues her commitment to service by serving as a site leader for Pace Makes a Difference Day, by participating in local community cleanups, and by volunteering with the local children’s residential facility at JCCA. She also dedicates time to the organization Moms of Multiples, coordinating monthly lectures to help mothers of twins and triplets adjust to their unique and challenging circumstances. She is also an advocate for a variety of social justice issues, such as nutrition, supporting individuals with learning disabilities, and challenging Common Core.



Ms. Angelica Fabian is a senior with a double major in Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications and Arts and Entertainment Management at Pace University. Since elementary school, she has volunteered in her community, primarily in the field of education. Among her greatest achievements during college is the completion of over 900 hours of service to the AmeriCorps Jumpstart program at Pace. During her first 600 hours of AmeriCorps service, she led a team of college peers who helped 3 year-olds prepare for kindergarten, emphasizing language and literacy skills. For the past year, she has served as Volunteer Coordinator, recruiting, managing, and training more than 30 volunteers to serve 100 students in underprivileged neighborhoods. This past summer she volunteered with New York Cares in partnership with the Governors Island Teaching Farm where she completed training in animal care. She is an active Pace University volunteer, contributing to various programs and departments. Angelica is always willing to volunteer for a good cause and manages to do so while working multiple jobs and completing her studies.



Ms. Kenesha Henry is an Applied Psychology and Human Relations major on the New York City campus. Kenesha is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the community of people with disabilities. The history of people with disabilities is frequently one of exclusion, if not isolation, from the community life of society. Kenesha is engaged in helping young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities with inclusion opportunities in the community. She is a counseling mentor to young adults with autism disabilities at the mid-spectrum who do not have diplomas from high schools. Using iPad and smart tablet technologies, her clients focus on life planning storytelling, mapping out who they were, who they are today, and who they would like to be in society. Kenesha is helping young adults with disabilities to participate more fully in society by teaching practical productivity and presentation-specific skills for pursuing semi-professional positions.

Mr. Dylan Jusino is a Finance major on the New York City campus. Since high school, he has dedicated his time to volunteer work throughout New York City, and recently he completed 250 hours of volunteer service in the community. Dylan finds excitement in helping others, and this motivates him. He taught financial literacy to high school students in the Upward Bound program, preparing lessons and teaching on Saturdays. At the same time, he was an SAT Tutor for New York Cares. In the spring, he tutored high school students in math. Additionally, Dylan volunteered with New York Cares in their partnership with Governor's Island Teaching Garden, where he cared for the farm animals. Currently, Dylan mentors a 10-year-old boy through Children of Promise, NYC, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational incarceration.



Ms. Emerald Rodriguez is a nursing student on the Pleasantville campus. Since the age of eleven years old, Emerald has been committed to community service. Her first experience with service was working with Disney volunteers to distribute Thanksgiving holiday food to families in need. Her passion for service developed during college when she was given endless opportunities to help and to give back. For three years, she has participated in Paint-A-School, which has given her the opportunity to give back to schools in the Bronx and Brooklyn by making their classrooms a bit more colorful. During her time at Pace, she has participated in many service projects, such as volunteering for the SLC Winter formal, helping run the Cottage School Halloween Party, staining bird houses for owls at Teatown Lake Reserve, helping plan and lead an Alternative Spring Break, and the numerous other opportunities she could get her hands on.

Dr. Marijo Russell O'Grady, has been the Dean of students for the New York City campus since June 1998 and oversees the areas of Student Development and Campus Activities, Orientation, Housing and Residential Life, counseling services including disabilities and wellness, Multicultural Affairs, the student information desk, and judicial affairs. Currently, she serves as a member of the WTCHR Scientific Review Board and coordinator of the Challenger League. She hails from Western New York, Chautauqua County.





Ms. Natalie Sobchak is the director of pro bono programs at Pace Women's Justice Center. She is responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising an array of volunteers, ranging from attorneys to high school students. Her first position after graduation was with the Office of the Appellate Defender, where she represented indigent convicted felons on appeal. Thereafter, Natalie was employed by the federal court in Manhattan for 20 years, providing assistance to people who litigated their cases without the assistance of legal counsel. She received the Southern District of New York Achievement Award in 2006 and the Second Judicial Circuit of the United States Merit Award in 1991. She was hired as PWJC's first director of pro bono programs in 2011. Under her leadership, the program has grown to include three new volunteer projects, the number of volunteers has grown to a compliment of 45 individuals, and the number of hours donated by volunteers has grown to more than 8,000 hours each year, or the equivalent of \$1.5 million. For the last 15 years, Natalie has fundraised for the Annual MS Walkathon and served at a local Bronx soup kitchen.

Ms. Tracy Van Ness is an assistant clinical professor in the College of Health Professions, department of Physician Assistant Education on the New York City campus. In April 2014, shortly after becoming faculty at Pace, her son, at the tender age of seven, was diagnosed with a rare, life-threatening autoimmune disease called juvenile dermatomyositis. Although there is treatment for this disease, there is no cure. That is when Tracy realized that "I am determined to make a difference for my son and all those affected with this disease". That same year, she joined the Cure JM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on finding a cure for juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM) and juvenile polymyositis (JPM), collectively known as juvenile myositis (JM). Tracy has compiled and distributed information packets about the disease and on resources for those families newly diagnosed with juvenile dermatomyositis. She has witnessed firsthand the delay in diagnosis from the onset of symptoms to the time of diagnosis, which prompted her to compile and distribute information folders to pediatric providers in the New York Metro area to increase awareness of this disease. Tracy has also generated a referral source of physicians with experience and expertise in this disease to local pediatric providers.



Dr. Emily Welty, is an assistant professor of Peace and Justice Studies and **Dr. Matthew Bolton**, is an associate professor of Political Science on the New York City campus. When they got engaged, they agreed that their lives and marriage would be not only to each other but to working to make the world a more peaceful, just, and sustainable place. As former aid workers – who worked for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies responding to the impact of conflict and disasters in countries including Bosnia, Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Northern Ireland, Uganda, Kenya and South Africa – they now serve the diverse student body of Pace University. Dr. Welty and Dr. Bolton both teach classes that prepare students for public service and careers in advocacy, peacebuilding, and international development. Dr. Welty leads the International Affairs Commission of the World Council of Churches, helping faith-based communities engage in peacebuilding and development work, and serves on the board of directors for the Peace and Justice Studies Association. Dr. Bolton has served as an advisor to NGO campaigns conducting disarmament advocacy. Together, they represent the International Peace Research Association at the United Nations, working on banning nuclear weapons and an array of other peace and human rights issues.

Civic Engagement and Public Value Course Faculty Fellowship Grants

Using art to explore communities, and incorporating therapy animals into incarcerated individuals lives are just a couple of the topics around which Pace faculty have created innovative, new courses or retooled past ones. With generous support from the President’s Office Project Pericles’ Fellowship Grants are awarded to faculty members who develop courses that explicitly address the topics of social responsibility and active citizenship and connect that with community work. 2016-2017 Recipients include:

Dr. Jodi Wood, *Art as Social Commentary and Political Progress*, Art

Dr. Walter Morris, *Economics of Poverty and Income Distribution*, Economics

Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox *Strategies in Corrections Administration*, Criminal Justice

Dr. Charlotte Becket, *Public Art in an Urban Context*, Art

FACES (Faculty Assistants for Civic Engagement Series program)

These awards are for undergraduate and graduate students assigned as assistants to faculty teaching a community-based learning Civic Engagement and Public Value course for one semester. Project Pericles covers the stipend for this collaboration.

2016 Fall	Matthew Champagne	PNY	INT299M	Drama of Social Change
2016 Fall	Celene Ennia	PNY	ENV105	Social Responsibility and the World of Nature
2016 Fall	Marrina Gallant	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2016 Fall	Danyelle Lepardo	PNY	POL 297L	Global Politics of Disarmament and Arms Control
2016 Fall	Tiffany Luu	PLV	ENV201	Animals in Society
2016 Fall	Anna Magnate	PLV	POL 110	Leadership & Advocacy
2016 Fall	Rachael Pepper	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2016 Fall	James Wehr	PLV	PSY266	Psychology of Civic Engagement
2017 Spring	Cesar Ballesteros	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2017 Spring	Leonora Berisha	PLV	CHP180	Mindfulness and Cultural Competency
2017 Spring	Antonietta Dalia	PLV	PSY266	Psychology of Civic Engagement
2017 Spring	Carina Draper	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2017 Spring	Julian Gidron	PNY	PSY266	Psychology of Civic Engagement
2017 Spring	Isabella Lupo	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2017 Spring	Shoma Nath	PNY	PJS101	Intro to Peace & Justice Studies
2017 Spring	Anna Magnate	PLV	ECO296V	Economics of Poverty
2017 Spring	Timothy Martinez	PLV	POL110	Leadership & Advocacy

Student Leaders in Service

Student Leaders in Service (SLS) is a program that was initiated in Spring 2016 through the Center for Community Action and Research to develop students as volunteer leaders at Pace. Participants in Student Leaders in Service have the opportunity to work directly with the Center for Community Action and Research, a community partner, and one another to plan and lead their own community service projects. Students are empowered to engage the Pace community in service and in making a difference in the New York City community. This years participants include:

Cesar Ballesteros, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Biology

David Lê, Lubin School of Business, Advertising and Marketing

Isabella Lupo, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Peace and Justice Studies

Joseph Colella, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Political Science

Wilson Lauture, Lubin School of Business, Accounting, (Fall)

Austin Napoleon, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Film Studies, (Fall)

Shoma Nath, Lubin School of Business, Management, (Spring)

Samantha Hickman, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Art, (Spring)

IN DEDICATION

The work of the Center for Community Action & Research at Dyson College would not be possible without the contributions from the students, faculty, staff and community partners we work with. This Annual Report is dedicated to you.



The Center for Community Action and Research

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