

**CESP** 

# ***Reception Program***

Congratulations, Scholars of 2023!



Sunday, May 7, 2023

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.


Coffman Memorial Union's  
Mississippi Room



Community Engagement Scholars Program



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# RECEPTION SCHEDULE

## **Introduction & Welcome**

Laurel Hirt (she/her) | Director of Center for  
Community-Engaged Learning

## **Ethic of Engagement Reflection**

Alexis Friesen (she/her) | CESP Scholar

## **Sense of Self Reflection**

Zeinab Mohamud (she/her) | CESP Scholar

## **Fall 2022 Recognition**

Jessica Proskin (she/her) | Assistant Director  
for Community-Engaged Learning

## **Collaboration & Community Building**

Laurel Hirt (she/her) | Director of Center for  
Community-Engaged Learning

## **Identities, Power, and Privilege Reflection**

Janani Ranatunga (she/her) | CESP Scholar

## **CESP Capstone Course Digital Story**

Jordan Arntz (she/her) | CESP Scholar

## **Spring 2023 Recognition**

Jessica Proskin (she/her) | Assistant  
Director for Community-Engaged Learning

Laurel Hirt (she/her) | Director of Center for  
Community-Engaged Learning

## **Closing Remarks**

Laurel Hirt (she/her) | Director of Center for  
Community-Engaged Learning

Heidi Barajas (she/her) | Interim Associate  
Vice President for Public Engagement,  
Office for Public Engagement





# What does it mean to be a Scholar?

The Community Engagement Scholars Program (CESP) is open to all undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota. It is a place for students to engage with other students who have made a commitment to social change and to reflect and grow in their community engagement together.

## Students complete the following requirements:

- 400 Hours of Community Engagement.
- 8 Credits of Community-Engaged Learning coursework.
- 6 Reflection themes.
- An Integrative Community Engagement Project (ICEP).
- Senior Capstone Course - CESP 3901.

Visit the reception webpage at [ccel.umn.edu/cesp2023](https://ccel.umn.edu/cesp2023).

You can also view scholar digital stories outlining their community engagement experiences and what they hope to do as they transition into a new chapter of life on CCEL's Youtube Channel: [Youtube.com/@ccelumn](https://www.youtube.com/@ccelumn).

# Ethic of Engagement Word Clouds

Scholars were asked to share three words to describe their ethic of engagement before and after joining the program.

## Before:



## After:



# Community Engagement Scholars Program

## Graduating Class of 2023

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**Jordan Arntz** | Psychology, University Honors Program (CLA)

**Rachel Aruldas** | Neuroscience, Human Physiology, University Honors Program (CBS, CLA)

**Jeremiah Cox** | Applied Business and Sustainability (CCAPS)

**Alexis Friesen** | Neuroscience, Psychology Minor (CBS)

**Anastasia Friesen** | Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development (CBS)

**Nimo Gelle** | Nursing, Public Health Minor (College of Nursing)

**Daniel Gerdes** | Biology, Psychology Minor (CBS)

**Hannah Gueller** | Life Sciences, Psychology and Sociology, Leadership Minor (CCAPS)

**Mary Haddad** | Health and Wellbeing Sciences, Public Health Minor (CCAPS)

**Lexi Hopp** | Supply Chain and Operations Management, Public  
and Nonprofit Management, Business Law Minor (CSOM)

**Kallianne Mikesch** | Biology, Society, and Environment (CLA)

**Zeinab Mohamud** | Biology, Society, and Environment,  
Public Health Minor, Sociology Minor (CLA)

**Tam Nguyen** | Biology, Spanish Studies Minor (CBS)

**Alexandra Nicklow** | Biology (CBS)

**Joseph Quick** | Human Physiology, Spanish Studies Minor, University Honors Program (CLA)

**Janani Ranatunga** | Neuroscience, Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development (CBS)

**Isaac Riggins** | Psychology, Family Therapy Minor, University Honors Program (CLA)

**Daniel Rydberg** | Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development, Management Minor,  
University Honors Program (CBS)

**Ri Shankar** | Biology Society and the Environment, Public Health Minor,  
Spanish Studies Minor, University Honors Program (CLA)

# ICEP Projects

As part of their capstone reflection, scholars complete a thesis project with a community partner of their choice to address a community identified need or priority.

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## **Jordan Arntz | Promoting Community Engagement with a Local Organization Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect To Strengthen Families with Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery.**

The project will involve building up a strong outreach and engagement foundation for Cook for Kids and Aprons in Action. The organization is increasing their capacity for those who need their services, but the volunteer program is still in need of volunteers. The goal will be to identify and connect with organizations such as community groups, local service organizations, corporate organizations, faith communities, and local college communities to bring the volunteer engagement to a more comfortable level for the organization. Moreover, the organization would like to reintroduce the Aprons in Action Program, where organizations commit to cooking a meal monthly with financial support for those meals as well. Similar community groups and organizations will be contacted for this program as well. Marketing options will also be explored to create a sustainable outline and program so that the organization can utilize the plan in the future years. Furthermore, the goal is to create sustainable connections with other organizations so that they can have stable volunteer sources for the future.

## **Rachel Aruldas | Tackling missed appointments at People's Center Clinics and Services.**

I called patients who missed their appointments with the clinic and collected information on why they were unable to make their appointment. I then helped patients reschedule their appointments. My project's goal is to identify some of the difficulties that our community members face when they are trying to receive care so that the clinic can start developing methods to address those needs.

## **Jeremiah Cox | Creation of Internship Program with Anti-Racism Commitment Coalition**

Developed ongoing internship program for the Anti-Racism Commitment Coalition to help combat their 'labor shortage' within this all-volunteer organization.

## **Alexis Friesen | Real Break Puerto Rico with Orthodox Christian Fellowship.**

The Real Break program offers Orthodox Christian college students opportunities to become informed global citizens, develop relationships with peers and organizational partners, and deepen their faith. The Puerto Rico trip sent 21 students and trip leaders to work with Techos Pa Mi Gente in relief efforts for Hurricane Fiona. They also worked with the San Juan Climaco Orthodox Mission to build a storehouse and connect Orthodox students with the Orthodox community there.

## **Anastasia Friesen | OCF Student Ambassadorship with Orthodox Christian Fellowship.**

I am working with Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) to rebrand a student leadership role to better serve the organization and reflect student responsibilities. By rebranding the role we are hoping to recruit more students into OCF's leadership positions and increase communication between local OCF chapters and the national office.

## ICEP Projects

### **Nimo Gelle | Care Delivery & Community Resources for Birthing People with Allina Health.**

Working with Allina Health on a project recently launched that is a communication enhancement tool that incorporates patient preferences in care and delivery. This can include the cultural and spiritual needs the patient identifies. I worked to identify areas for growth/improvement through content review by utilizing resources and applied research on community organizations. I evaluated key functions, features, and engagement methods that gave insight into certain themes and protective factors in understanding how to best support patients utilizing this tool. This will influence care model delivery and how we engage with patients.

### **Daniel Gerdes | Pen Pal Program with Camp Kesem.**

A card exchange program at Camp Kesem between counselors and campers.

### **Hannah Gueller | Community Engagement Scholars Program Project.**

Hannah worked on program management projects for CESP.

### **Mary Haddad | Camper Registration and Medical Information with Antiochian Village.**

My ICEP involved revamping the registration system for camping programs (summer camp, winter camp, family camps, alumni programs, etc.) in order to make it more accessible to the applicants and their families. This project allows for easier accessibility to the registration and health forms and takes away unnecessary forms and questions. The goal is to streamline the registration process, especially the medical registration side, which will increase accessibility to register for and attend the camp.

### **Lexi Hopp | Research retirement plans to work towards new strategic mission with Dress for Success, Twin Cities.**

Through the course of the semester, I worked with the CEO towards their new strategic mission to put more resources towards their fulltime staff. I worked to identify the needs of the organization, the different options of 401k plans, selected a company that best fit their need, and onboarded all fulltime staff.

### **Kallianne Mikesch | Promotional Plan with Meals on Wheels.**

I created a promotional plan for a local organization in order to foster a greater relationship between them and volunteers in the area, specifically at the University of Minnesota.

### **Zeinab Mohamud | Health Literacy & Confidence Among Youth with 826 MSP.**

With 826 mainly serving youth from underserved communities, I was aiming to address the gap of health knowledge among this community of youth. I am very passionate about social justice, health promotion alongside advocacy, and social determinants of need which is much-needed especially as someone who is pursuing healthcare. Kids are more susceptible to certain illnesses, and oftentimes it can be mitigated or even prevented with the necessary precautions put in place. With my project and working alongside the kids, I want them to understand their needs, advocate for themselves with their mental, physical, and emotional health, and urge them to learn more about how to take care of themselves.



# ICEP Projects

## **Tam Nguyen | Life After High School: What paths can you take? With Latino Youth Development Collaborative (LYDC).**

Tam worked with the Latino Youth Development Network to create a life/career planning resource for youth in the community.

## **Alexandra Nicklow | "Scale Up Your Science Activities" with Ronald McDonald House Charities.**

Scale Up Your Science Activities is a collection of science and health related activities and experiments intended for use at the Ronald McDonald House in house school and after school program. This collection of activities includes instructions, materials, directions, and ready to use worksheets for elementary and advanced students. This resource can be used in both planned and impromptu scenarios and will be a time saver and tool for the Ronald McDonald House staff.

## **Joseph Quick | Community Driven Initiatives to Improve Health Equity at a Local Sliding Scale Clinic with myHealth for Teens and Young Adults.**

My ICEP project was with a nonprofit community health organization and sliding scale clinic. This clinic has three boards of governance, guidance and oversight. I worked with the board composed of college students and early professionals to increase member engagement, bolster the organization's social media presence, and compile and analyze clinic data. This occurred via a mixture of in person and virtual modalities.

## **Janani Ranatunga | "A Dimensional Guide to Working in Dimensions" with the Pillars of Prospect Park.**

I created a guide ("A Dimensional Guide to Working in Dimensions") with tips, advice, and important information on working with residents in Dimensions, the memory care floors at the Pillars of Prospect Park. The main section of this project focused on working with residents in long term care, and included verbal and nonverbal communication reminders, language usage, and boundaries as a volunteer.



## ICEP Projects

### **Isaac Riggins | Re-Building A Social Services Organization's Core Systems with Cultural Competency Measures with Tubman.**

My project consisted of revising the services and materials used in our daily client interactions. This consisted of revising the legal process at this organization with the help of the legal team, updating the old spreadsheets and documents we use, and altering the intern position into two new positions. I did this with a focus on cultural competency and abolition of oppressive practices within this organization and its systems, strengthening our organization's commitment to serving individuals in crisis, no matter what identity they belong to.

### **Daniel Rydberg | Digital Education Videos for Promoting Online Learning in K-12 Students with Hennepin County Libraries.**

I have created a number of educational videos for Hennepin County Libraries to distribute to students for their own personal use while at home. While the videos that I have created are mostly focusing on math topics, I hope to expand the project by including some videos about natural sciences or history related topics. In addition, I am trying to create a connection between existing tutoring organizations on campus with Hennepin County Libraries to bring in more tutors for this program.

### **Ri Shankar | DEI training with Open Arms of Minnesota.**

I built a Google Site that was tailored towards Open Arms' mission and values. It included what DEI is, how Open Arms has diversity in employees/volunteers/clients, and how volunteers can strive for inclusion. This site can be used during volunteer orientation, or even when training new employees.



THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
AND MENTORS WHO CONTINUALLY SUPPORT  
OUR SCHOLARS' GROWTH AND LEARNING!

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## **ICEP Project Community Partners and Mentors:**

**Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery** | Ellen Khlan-Grove

**People's Center Clinics and Services** | Sieglinde Thetard

**Anti-Racism Commitment Coalition** | Erika Theim

**Orthodox Christian Fellowship** | Christina Andreson & Peter Mansour

**Allina Health** | Jamie Bachaus

**Camp Kesem** | Alex Maierhofer

**Community Engagement Scholars Program** | Basanti Miller

**Antiochian Village** | Christopher Shadid

**Dress for Success, Twin Cities** | Stephanie Silvers

**Meals on Wheels** | Erin Hargens

**826 MSP** | Ellen Fee

**Latino Youth Development Collaborative (LYDC)** | Kathleen Ganley,

Brisa Morales, and Jose Tori-Maguiña

**Ronald McDonald House Charities** | Julie Gierke

**myHealth for Teens and Young Adults** | Gerilyn Hausback

**The Pillars of Prospect Park** | Erin Erdahl

**Tubman** | Jena Reed

**Hennepin County Libraries** | Barb McKenzie

**Open Arms of Minnesota** | Antony Gortarez

The Community Engagement Scholars Program would like to thank the Office of Public Engagement, the Office for Student Affairs, and the Office for Undergraduate Education for their collective work to sponsor the creation of this public engagement program which recognizes undergraduate students for their deep commitment to community work throughout their undergraduate careers.

The Center for Community-Engaged Learning is a unit of the Office for Public Engagement within the Office for Executive Vice President and Provost.

The Community Engagement Scholars Program is coordinated by the Center for Community-Engaged Learning. For more information about the program visit [ccel.umn.edu/cesp](https://ccel.umn.edu/cesp).

For additional reception materials please visit:  
[ccel.umn.edu/cesp2023](https://ccel.umn.edu/cesp2023).



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