



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM



**CONGRATULATIONS,
SCHOLARS OF 2021!**

Monday, May 10, 2021
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.





Community Engagement Scholars Program



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Community Engagement Scholars Program



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

RECEPTION SCHEDULE

4:00 PM

Introduction & Welcome

Basanti Miller | CELS Programs Manager

4:03 PM

Ethic of Service

Maeve Finnegan | CESP Scholar

4:08 PM

Fall 2020 Recognition

Basanti Miller | CELS Programs Manager

4:18 PM

Sense of Self

Isaac Lee | CESP Scholar

4:20 PM

Spring 2021 Recognition

Basanti Miller | CELS Programs Manager

4:30 PM

Spring 2021 Recognition

Jessica Proskin | Assistant Director for
Community-Engaged Learning

4:40 PM

Diversity, Power, and Privilege

Afeefa Ahmed | CESP Scholar

4:43 PM

Leaders Board Recognition

Basanti Miller | CELS Programs Manager

4:50 PM

Closing Remarks


Laurel Hirt | Director of Center for
Community-Engaged Learning

Andrew Furco | Associate Vice President
for Public Engagement, Office for Public
Engagement

4:55 PM

Screenshot photos by section & farewell!

(optional)



What does it mean to be a Scholar?

The Community Engagement Scholars Program 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.

Click on a Scholar's photo to congratulate them. You can also view their digital story outlining their community engagement experiences and what they hope to do as they transition into a new chapter of life.

Ethic of Service Word Clouds

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

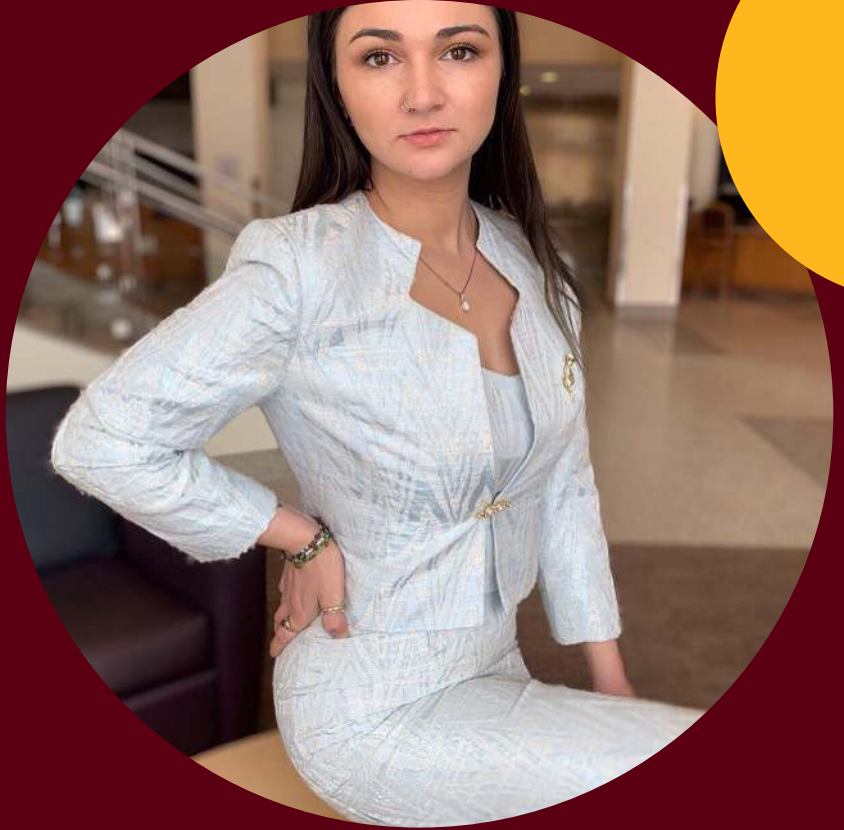
Before



After



Maren Guptill



ICEP: Food Insecurity in the Glen Cary Community

In Partnership with: Glen Cary Lutheran Church

Maren originally got involved with Glen Cary Lutheran Church delivering meals to distant learning students who received free/reduced price lunches. Once Maren and Glen Cary Lutheran Church realized the need went past bagged lunches, they started meal prepping and delivering hot meals to families every Wednesday evening. Although this was highly effective in addressing immediate food insecurity, longevity is the foundation to any systemic issue. They began prepping for the Glen Cary community garden with proper posters, signage and markers for crop beds. Posters were placed around community centers in Glen Cary to mass spread outreach and personalized signs made by youth in the community made for a warm gathering space for all to come and eat. Come one, come all.

Xianya Huang

ICEP: Help Children

In Partnership with: Child Centre

Led a mutually beneficial sustainable project for international high school students and children with autism, served as the community and parent coordinator in the project. Developed and implemented an individualized education program for students identified with autism. Provided proper orientation to high school students on dates, information, and needed guidelines involving activities with children with autism.



Maykala Owens



ICEP: Identification of Strengths and Areas for Improvement of Paraprofessionals working in Metro Public School Districts

In Partnership with: The Arc Minnesota

Maykala surveyed paraprofessionals working in metro public school districts to identify the strengths of their positions, as well as areas for improvement. She analyzed and utilized this data to create tailored reports and recommendations to the public school districts.

Mia Ryan

ICEP: Remote Teaching Guide

In Partnership with: Harmony Community Cares

Mia created a guide for educators, facilitators, and tutors to access that includes resources, tips, and other materials that are helpful for remote teaching. She shared this guide with various different organizations that are offering remote education.



Jessica Vu



Community Partner Work History:

- **Ecumen Seasons**
- **American Red Cross**
- **M Health**
- **Banaadir Academy**
- **Dakota County**

Qilin Zhang

ICEP: Marketing Research for Online Recruitment

In Partnership with: The Avalon School

In this project, Qilin helped the Avalon school to conduct a marketing research in exploring various ways of recruiting new students during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Grace Nketcha



ICEP: Expanding Diversity

In Partnership with: AmeriCorp

Grace collaborated with AmeriCorps, specifically ServeMinnesota, the state's commission on national and community service. She worked on diversifying the applicants within AmeriCorps, and reinforcing the values to better reflect the communities that are served.

Jane Yap

ICEP: Helping Rescue Animals Virtually: A Training Video Series

In Partnership with: Midwest Animals Rescue & Services

Jane's project involved implementing a video series consisting of short, few minute videos for Midwest Animal Rescue & Services that serve to inform potential foster parents, adoptive parents, beneficiaries, and general audiences specifically those interested in MARS. This series serves to educate and fill gaps in the process that COVID-19 left as in person classes are not being held anymore for people interested in joining the MARS family.



Afeefa Ahmed



ICEP: Inexpensive Labs for Underserved Populations

In Partnership with: Rahma Community Clinic

Afeefa's project requires getting uninsured patients free/inexpensive labs through Rahma Community Clinic in Bloomington Minnesota. Her plan will be to contact local hospitals or lab chains to see if they would like to partner with Rahma Clinic to provide labs for the patients. The patients at Rahma Clinic were offered inexpensive labs that they were able to pay out of pocket through HCMC till February of 2019 when HCMC abruptly started turning patients away and not allowing them to access labs that they were prescribed by their physicians and instead had to pay hundreds of dollars for a simple blood test. Patients have not had access to any labs for almost 2 years which is a detriment to their health and the quality of care they are able to provide at Rahma.

Hana al'Absi

ICEP: Help Training Quiz & Presentation

In Partnership with: Advocates for Human Rights

Hana updated the training quiz and presentation for future WATCH volunteers!



Maeve Finnegan



ICEP: Mental Health Facilitation Guide

In Partnership with: Thrivehood

Maeve's ICEP Project is a resource kit to aid volunteers, or rather anyone who works with Thrivehood, to aid in de-escalation, grounding, and mindfulness. The resource kit is being developed in collaboration with Jaime Gjerdingen, owner of the LLC, Thrivehood. St Paul-based, Thrivehood is intended to facilitate small, inter-generational groups of neighbors to share stories and learn and practice their crafts and hobbies with each other. Jaime plans to use this resource kit in these groups and hopes to connect with community members and allow them to use it, as well. For example, she is currently corresponding with a teacher in the community who plans to use it in her classroom.

Isaac Lee

ICEP: Lesson Plan for intermediate-level adult ESL Learner

In Partnership with: Open Door Learning Center

Isaac designed a lesson plan to be used as ESL class curriculum at Open Door Learning Center on Lake street.



Lindsey McGurran



**ICEP: ESL Conversation Class Curriculum
Development and Course Facilitation**

***In Partnership with: Cedar-Riverside Adult
Education Collaborative***

Lindsey developed an ESL conversation course specific to a remote setting, utilizing zoom. The conversation course curriculum involved relevant topics such as cooking, small talk, weather, etc. with associated dialogue and discussion questions to promote English conversation. She facilitated this course twice weekly to ESL students levels 2-4.

Joseph Mullen Jr.

ICEP: Rock the Vaccine!

*In Partnership with: Everyone Cooperating to Help
Others (ECHO) Janesville*

Joseph worked on a vaccine awareness
program in Rock County, Wisconsin.



Annie Nguyen



ICEP: Importance of Mental Health in the Work Place *In Partnership with: Hennepin Public Health*

Helped in providing mental health resources for staff members of Hennepin Public Health. Many of the staff members of Hennepin Public Health have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic both emotionally and mentally. By providing weekly newsletter flyers via email to staff members, Annie was able to compile a list of mental health resources that staff would have access to.

Hannah Olund

ICEP: Sexual Health Education

In Partnership with: Planned Parenthood

Hannah worked on building out a program to provide better sexual health education in middle schools.



Areeba Qaisar



ICEP: Determining the Prevalence of Depressive Symptoms Among the Patient Population

In Partnership with: Rahma Community Clinic

Areeba is working with Rahma to implement PHQ-9 forms that indicate the severity of depressive symptoms in patients. They are going to use the numbers to get a better idea of how the mental health of their patient population is.

Bridget Robertson

**ICEP: Nourishing the Collective: A strive towards
food justice and Community Wellbeing**

In Partnership with: Food Not Bombs

The goal of Bridget's ICEP is to foster deeper connections between Food Not Bombs and the communities they interact with. To do this, monthly donation based yoga classes will be offered at food distribution sites to increase community engagement, wellness and relationship building.



Jennifer Rosauer



ICEP: WATCH MN Volunteer Orientation

In Partnership with: The Advocates for Human Rights

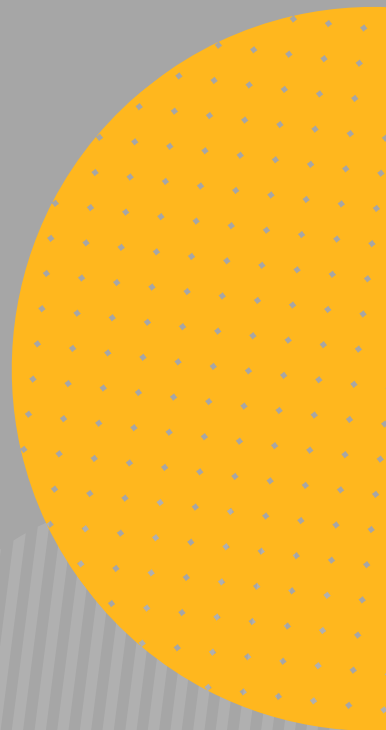
Jennifer's ICEP project focuses on turning the information from volunteer orientation into an interactive module that will be both more accessible and more engaging for future volunteers.

Sydney Islam

ICEP: SheThey Magazine Artist Spotlight Podcast

In Partnership with: SheThey Magazine

SheThey Magazine is an art and literary magazine for folks marginalized by their gender to create a community around telling their own stories and uplifting their voices through creativity. This platform is a place for other artists to express themselves, talk about the difficult topics, and share their work. The podcast is a way for the artists in the magazine to further discuss their work, journey and impact.



Claudia Murray

Community Partner Work History:

- M Health Fairview
- Hope Dental Clinic
- Big Brothers Big Sister
- Behavioral and Physical Activity Laboratory



Christina Peterson



ICEP: Membership Guide

In Partnership with: Alpha Phi Omega - Gamma Psi

Christina created a membership guide for a community service student organization that she is a part of. In the guide she outlines the history, requirements, and important aspects of the organization all in one place.

Breanne Retherford



ICEP: Science Day!

In Partnership with: Highland Park Elementary School and Society of Women Engineers

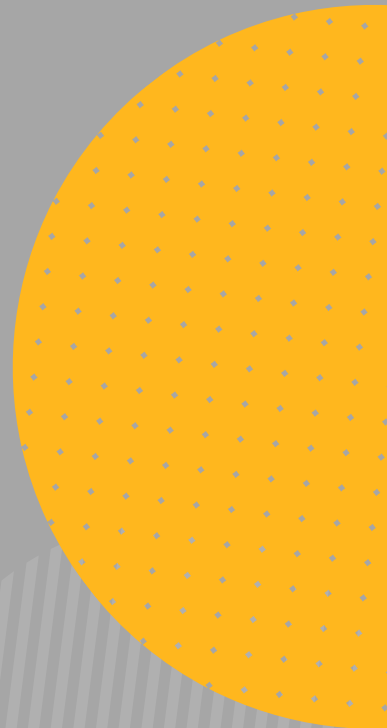
During this time when school has been largely on virtual format, young children are missing out on the opportunity for many hands-on learning experiences that are essential to their understanding of STEM concepts. Breanne's ICEP was hosting a day at a local elementary school which included a hands on science related activity for the students to increase their interest in STEM and to fill the gap of hands-on activities during this time.

Afra Suri

ICEP: Creating a virtual hospital orientation for new volunteers.

In Partnership with: North Memorial Medical Center

Afra's ICEP project was creating the North Memorial Medical Center online volunteer orientation! Since North wasn't accepting new volunteer applications at this time (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), this was a good opportunity to update things (updating volunteer position descriptions, new ideas for volunteer orientations, etc). The project mainly involved drawing from old orientation material and transferring it to an online format.



Eleanor Triplett

ICEP: Collaborative Leader Course Facilitation

In Partnership with: Special Olympics Minnesota

Eleanor partnered with Special Olympics Minnesota to create and facilitate a course on collaborative leadership to engage Special Olympics athletes through their Virtual Leadership University. She selected the course topic, created and developed her own curriculum, and then facilitated the content over the span of a month at four two hour long classes.



Yue Zhao



ICEP: Literacy Program Brochure

In Partnership with: Literacy Matters Foundation

Yue's ICEP focuses on creating a brochure for a game-based literacy application for her internship organization's future outreach to schools and communities.

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

North Memorial Medical Center | Mary Rose Remington, Debbie Kubes, Patty Ahl

Thrivelihood, LLC | Jaime Gjerdingen

Harmony Community Cares | Liza Raino-Ogden

Open Door Learning Center - Lake Street | Tu Nguyen

The Avalon School | Gretchen Sage-Martinson

Hennepin Public Health | Sarah Stackley

Cedar-Riverside Adult Education Collaborative | Amy Van Steenwyk

Highland Park Elementary School and Society of Women Engineers | Katie Bergstrom

Midwest Animal Rescue and Services (MARS) | Camille Bates

Rahma Clinic | Sarah Sevcik

Alpha Phi Omega - Gamma Psi | Melissa Donndelinger

Special Olympics Minnesota | Sarah Lee

Literacy Matters Foundation | Claire Blanchette

The Arc Minnesota | Angela Guenther

SheThey Magazine | Basanti Miller

AmeriCorps - ServeMN | Lisa Winkler

Food Not Bombs | Chelanga Langason

Glen Cary Lutheran Church | Kristina Hill and Gary Guptill

Everyone Cooperating to Help Others (ECHO) Janesville | Fran Brien

Planned Parenthood | Basanti Miller

Advocates for Human Rights | Elizabeth Montgomery

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CESP LEADERS BOARD FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN CREATING COMMUNITY AND MEMORIES.

Jennifer Rosauer | **President**

Lindsey McGurran | **Vice President**

Carrie Kistler | **Officer**

Dani Follett-Dion | **Officer**

Eleanor Triplett | **Officer**

Isaac Lee | **Officer**

Isaac Riggins | **Officer**

Julia Machuchu | **Officer**

Kristin Gill | **Officer**

Madison Schumacher | **Officer**

Maeve Finnegan | **Officer**

Maykala Owens | **Officer**

Swetha Shankar | **Officer**

"Because I learned long ago that winning doesn't always mean you get the prize. Sometimes you get progress, and that counts. "

-Stacey Abrams

This year, we were all forced to reckon with the stark differences between prizes and progress. We learned hard lessons about winning, when we collectively lost. We felt the deep discomforts of devolving at an individual, local, national, and global level. In the same year, and sometimes as we simultaneously experienced loss, we also celebrated individual and communal wins. Most important, we must remind ourselves and one another that societal progress was made this year. In some of my darkest moments, I sought out members of this community for hope, strength, resilience, compassion, and perspective. I took important lessons away from my conversations with Scholars and colleagues over Zoom, and I did the hard work of applying many of these lessons to my day-to-day personal and professional practices. I observed many community members in this program doing the same thing, each and every day, and the work never looked easy. It was never designed to be easy.

I applaud our graduating and current Scholars for enduring and overcoming so much this year. Each of you adapted, evolved, fell down, rose up, fell down, and now I see this community preparing for a major take off. Whether you are participating in daily, non-performative activism, showing up and continuously acting as an ally, or practicing daily, radical self care, I see you and I urge you to keep going no matter what. This is the work and I believe that CESP Scholars are participating in this work, more today, than ever before. Most importantly, Scholars are not slowing down or faltering when carrying out this work. It is key to remind ourselves that community engagement never ends. The road to seek and demand equity and justice for all is long and paved with "good intentions". Considering this, I am beyond proud of each and every one of you.

As you continue on with community engagement, whether as a recent graduate or current Scholar of CESP, please know that you have and will continue to inspire me to the fullest with your deep and sustained efforts. I offer all of our graduating Scholars new strength, wisdom, and encouragement as they embark on the next phases of their lives. I offer all of our current Scholars a new sense of purpose, meaning, and perspective as they progress within CESP and their education. Continue to self-educate, share with others, learn from your communities, and grow with them. Remember that CESP is always a community you can claim. We are here to support you, no matter what. Whether or not you are graduating this year, please feel free to reach out and lean on us as needed. Until then, I wish you all a safe, healthy, and restorative summer.

In Solidarity,

Basanti Miller

CELS Programs Manager



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.

Center for
Community-Engaged Learning

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA