



## Points of Engagement, the Purpose of WCU

Western Carolina University's Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL) exists to **engage our campus with the community** and to provide a conduit for our **community to directly engage with our campus**. When these points of engagement happen, something magical can occur – students learn more deeply, the community develops further, and the institution purposefully fulfills its mission and responsibility to the state of North Carolina. It is one of those rare moments of alignment where impact can be balanced, positive, and mutually beneficial.

To successfully accomplish these **many points of engagement**, the CCESL facilitates educational programs, service-learning designated courses, philanthropic initiatives within our community, over 130 community partnerships, and a scholarship program. In 2018, for example, the CCESL has organized over 50 educational programs engaging well over 5,000 Catamounts, managed nearly 100 service-learning designated courses engaging over 3,000 Catamounts, and partnered to donate over 15,000 pounds of supplies for survivors of Hurricane Florence.

Additionally, in fall 2018 the CCESL's Student Democracy Coalition (SDC), which is **led by students Hannah Fraser and Fiona Buchanan**, registered over 750 fellow students, organized 10 educational programs and marketing campaigns, and helped engage nearly 1,500 voters in the on-campus polling place. Through these efforts, the SDC was awarded two national awards for their civic engagement work. Initiatives like this one not only help prepare students for the professional world, but also develops our democracy's citizenry; which is a core responsibility of our state's institutions of higher education.

The CCESL's budget only funds a fraction of the total cost needed to provide our programming, and the additional, **critical support we receive from parents, alumni, and friends** allows us to ensure that all the experiences planned for the year will receive adequate funding.

Your support is vital to enhancing programs that directly impact our 11,000+ WCU students, from their first days on campus to their first days in their classroom and community and from their first steps across the graduation stage to their first steps into their professional career and

life. **Will you join me in supporting our students' community engagement experience by giving your [tax-deductible gift this spring?](#)**

To make your gift please click the hyperlink in the previous paragraph, which will direct you to our secure, online giving platform. Your consideration and investment in our community engaged students' lives is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generous support.  
**Go Cats!**

Sincerely,

Dr. Lane Graves Perry, III 18'  
Executive Director,  
Center for Community  
Engagement & Service Learning  
Western Carolina University  
[servicelearning.wcu.edu](http://servicelearning.wcu.edu)  
[laneperry@wcu.edu](mailto:laneperry@wcu.edu)