Hello Community Partners!

We hope that you all had a great summer and found some time to rest and recharge. As the WCU academic year begins, we would like to share information about some exciting upcoming initiatives! Please check out the following information, as there are many opportunities to get involved with CCESL and WCU students, staff, and faculty! We are continually adding to our Community Partner Directory AND working with partners on various projects. If you want to collaborate with us - please reach out!

Best,
Amanda, Julia, and Ally

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22-23 STUDENT SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

Over the 2022 to 2023 academic year, WCU students completed 9,770.33 community service hours! There were also 36 designated service-learning course sections taught by 28 faculty with 604 students successfully completing the courses. These numbers would not be possible without YOU - the community partners who host WCU students and have partnerships with WCU faculty and staff.

Thank you to all of the Community Partners who allowed students into their organizations to learn about their mission and services and to assist with various service projects! The photos below are from the Summer Bridge Program student community experiences:
SAVE THE DATE! Community Coffee Conversations

As part of new CCESL Community Partner Action Plan, we are implementing bi-monthly Community Coffee Conversations. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, October 5th from 9:00am-10:00am in a community space in Sylva.

During this time, please join our NEW Associate Director, Julia Heckert, as she facilitates conversations regarding Community Partner needs. These meetings will include time for partner introductions, networking, conversations about CCESL’s new vision, and upcoming opportunities for collaboration.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up HERE before Thursday, September 28th at 5pm.

Paws for a Cause: Whee Beat Hunger

One of CCESL’s fifteen impact focus areas is Poverty and Food Insecurity, which greatly affects both students on WCU’s campus and members in our local community. In an effort to raise awareness about food insecurity in our region, CCESL is hosting an initiative called Paws for a Cause: Whee Beat Hunger.

During the fall semester, CCESL will collaborate with WCU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the community members, to collect food items and monetary donations that will benefit WCU’s food pantry, educational programming, and wider food security efforts.

CCESL will post updates about the initiative on our social media pages, so check out @wcucommunityengagement on Instagram and Facebook to learn more about upcoming events. We’ll also be in touch with more details about ways our community partners can get involved!

TO RECRUIT WCU VOLUNTEERS FOR A ONE-TIME OR RECURRING EVENT:

To submit a request, please complete this FORM or contact Ally Schuenke directly via email at aschuenke@wcu.edu. We are also happy to help you brainstorm ideas - call us at 828-227-2091 to schedule a meeting!