Hello Community Partners!

From the crispness in the air to the colors of the leaves, fall signals a season of change. Our office is seeing a lot of exciting changes in October!

- Our new student employees bringing energy to the work we do.
- We’re facilitating several events and initiatives connecting campus and community.
- Inaugural service-learning classes are in full swing.

Finally, we get to spend more time out in the community, having coffee with our partners, visiting regional communities outside Cullowhee, and taking time away to develop CCESL’s new Strategic Plan. We can’t wait share all these thing with you!

Best,
Julia, Amanda, and Ally

**FIRST ANNUAL HOMECOMING BLOOD DRIVE**

Calling all those who bleed purple and gold! Come and take part in the first annual Western Carolina University Homecoming Blood Drive. Your blood donation could impact people who may never know your name but will never forget your kindness. Grab some friends, and help be a part of a winning team when you donate blood!

Join us on campus on one of the following dates:

- October 13th from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- October 24th | October 26th from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  
  at the WCU Hinds University Center Grand Room.

All presenting donors will receive a special WCU 2023 Homecoming commemorative Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last!

Can’t make it to Cullowhee? Use our Blood Link [here](#) to schedule an appointment during the month of October in any location. By using this link, your donation will count toward our Homecoming total! Please share this blood link with your circles!
PAWS FOR A CAUSE: WHEE BEAT HUNGER

DID YOU KNOW? Approximately 1 of 3 college students in the United States faces food insecurity. This fall semester, CCESL is hosting a Whee Beat Hunger initiative focusing on 1) raising awareness about food insecurity on WCU’s campus and across our region and 2) holding events to address this critical, community-identified need.

Here are a few ways you can join us as Whee Beat Hunger:
- Explore our website to keep up to date on upcoming events
- Donate money to support WCU’s Food Pantry at Biltmore Park and on-campus food insecurity awareness programming
- Donate food items to support Biltmore Park’s pantry as well as HOMEBASE’s pantry that serve students at WCU’s Cullowhee campus
- Re-post our social media (on Instagram and Facebook @wcucommunityengagement)

More information about community events and ways CCESL can support YOUR food security efforts coming soon!

YOU’RE INVITED: WALK IN WCU’S HOMECOMING PARADE!

CCESL is walking in the WCU Homecoming Parade and we would love for you and your organization to join us as we cheer on the Catamounts! Save the date for Friday, October 27th at 6:00pm. Wearing your organization’s t-shirt or a fun costume is encouraged. Specific details to follow.

COMMUNITY PARTNER COLLABORATION SURVEY

CCESL has the honor and privilege of serving as the connector between WCU and our regional communities. In an effort to enhance collaborations, we would love to hear about your current needs and project ideas. Please take a few minutes to fill out our 5 question survey at this link.

TO RECRUIT WCU VOLUNTEERS FOR A COMMUNITY EVENT:

To submit a request, please complete this FORM or contact Ally Schuenke directly via email at aschuenke@wcu.edu.

For any questions or to schedule a meeting, please contact our Administrative Support Associate, Ally Schuenke, at 828.227.2091 or aschuenke@wcu.edu.

Follow Us on Social Media!  
@wcucommunityengagement