Hello Faculty and Staff,

The fog peeking through the vibrant reds and golds, pumpkin picking, cider sipping, and Friday night lights - Fall has arrived and our mountain community is glorious! Fall is also a season of change and thanksgiving. Our office is seeing a lot of exciting changes this Fall and we certainly have much to be thankful for!

- We have FOUR new student employees bringing energy to the work we do.
- We’re meeting with faculty to explore new service learning (SL) connections, support current SL efforts, and resurrect pre-Covid SL sections.
- We’re partnering with faculty and community in new and exciting ways that will benefit our students and our neighbors.

We look forward to sharing with you and we hope your season of change is fruitful!

Best,

Amanda and the CCESL Team

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**Service-Learning/Community-engaged Learning Course Section Designation**

In collaboration with the Registrar’s Office, we are working on a new designation process to make things a bit easier for faculty to get their service-learning and/or community-engaged course section(s) attributed in Banner! If you are new to WCU, new to community-engaged learning, or have been doing this work for a while and just want more info about the new process, please stop by one of our upcoming info sessions. Also, if you are unsure if your class should be service-learning, community-engaged learning, or something else but you definitely want to include some form of community engagement in your teaching pedagogy, then this session is for you! Feel free to drop in anytime between 11:30am - 12:30pm on one of the dates below:

**Tuesday, November 14th (In-Person, Reid 150I)** OR **Wednesday, November 15th (In-Person, Reid 150I)** OR **Friday, November 17th (Virtual)**

If you can’t make it to one of these sessions, but would like to schedule a 1-1 to discuss your course(s), please use this calendly link to schedule a time to chat on any upcoming Tuesday between 2-5pm! To schedule a November info session for your whole department, please contact Ally Schuenke at aschuenke@wcu.edu

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**Resource Spotlight for Faculty & Staff**

**Practicing Democracy: A Toolkit for Educating Civic Professionals**

By Nicholas V. Longo [FREE FULL PUBLICATION DOWNLOAD](#). Additional online resources to accompany the toolkit can be found [HERE](#).

Co-published by AAC&U and Campus Compact, this toolkit is designed to provide a pathway to civic learning for students in all majors, offering practical approaches and strategies for developing students’ capacity to engage in collaborative, public problem solving. This user-friendly guide is divided into twelve lessons, each with activities focused on supporting the next generation of leaders in developing their own concepts and skills of civic professionalism. The lessons encourage critical engagement and sustained dialogue among groups of students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. An assessment rubric is also included.
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY/STAFF

PACE Conference Call for Proposals (Deadline: November 17) – NC Campus Engagement is seeking presenters for the 26th annual Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement (PACE) Conference, the longest running conference in the nation focused on community-based teaching and scholarship. Proposals are sought for sessions that will inform or advance the research and practice of community and civic engagement through research findings, innovative program design and partnership models, proven community/institutional impacts, effective curriculum or co-curricular models, institutional capacity building and institutionalization, or successful community engagement practices. PACE is Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at Guilford College and as a member institution, WCU faculty receive discounted registration! *Want help/feedback re: your proposal? Call us at x2091 to schedule a chat!

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
- Share events with your students (Like our upcoming A PLACE AT THE TABLE film screening and community partner panel and encourage them to donate - there are collections bins in every dorm building!
- 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 serves students at WCU’s Cullowhee campus (Bins are located in the UC and HFR - or drop donation at our office BELK 273)
- Re-post our social media (on Instagram and Facebook @wcucommunityengagement)

Attending the NOV. 11th Football game against ETSU?? Bring a food donation to the game and receive $5 OFF a GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET! THANK YOU to WCU Athletics and GO CATS!

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Engaging Environmental Health Students and Building Community Health Capacity Through Service Learning Pedagogy: A Case Study
Kimberlee K. Hall, PhD and Geraldine Riouff, REHS, MPM
Environmental Health Program, School of Health Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences
Presented at the National Environmental Health Association’s Annual Education Conference, July 2023

This case study presents the components of the WCU ENVH Program’s Community Engaged Program designation aimed at supporting student learning, EH workforce development, and community-led public health actions. View the full poster presentation HERE.

Want us to highlight your amazing community-engaged partnership or research (academic or co-curricular)? Email our Executive Director at afhall@wcu.edu to have the partnership featured in an upcoming newsletter!
This service-learning partnership is based on a peer-to-peer mentoring model that provides a Conceptual Design Plan for the 2024 Homebase expansion. This project provides industry support to project architects, resources to more effectively communicate needs to potential Homebase donors, and provides students with opportunities to connect with the curriculum in meaningful ways by utilizing applied learning through industry technology, design, and problem solving skills to meet a community-identified need.

Dr. Cox says, “This partnership allows the curriculum to come alive. My students, both Seniors and Freshmen, are noticeably motivated to make a difference for an organization that supports their peers. It is extremely gratifying as a professor to watch my students grapple with the realities of project management in real-time, and seeing them enjoy the process so much.

Dr. Dean shared, “This partnership would not have happened without the support of CCESL. They connected us to the right department and the right faculty member to address our needs. This resource is critical to reciprocal university-community partnerships”.

Student Nick Guido (Senior, Construction Management) noted, “This project is so much more hands-on than anything I’ve been involved with in the past. It is not just the hypothetical. You actually get to see the result and what it means to Homebase”.

Community Engagement Highlights: Fall 2023
(AUG, SEPT, OCT)

12
NEW
Community-faculty Partnerships this Fall

127
Units
Donated

1,977
Student Service Hours

THANK YOU to WCU faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members for saving lives in WNC! Also, 43% of our Homecoming Week donors were FIRST-TIME DONORS!#WheeBleedPurple!

Need resources from the CCESL newsletter, but forgot to save the email? Don’t worry! You can refer to our past newsletters, archived on our website, HERE.