FELLOWS PROGRAM

METHODODIST UNIVERSITY

JOURNEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2020-21
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I. THE PROGRAM

General Information

Methodist University has been actively involved in supporting the local community since its founding in 1956. The Community Engagement pathway of the MU Journey gives students the opportunity to engage in meaningful projects and career preparation.

The Center for Community Engagement is proud to work with campus and community organizations that align with our mission to create social change for the common good. Past projects include: meal-packing with Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now), feeding the homeless, mentoring youth, cleaning up community highways, and rebuilding homes damaged by hurricanes and floods.

The Center for Community Engagement offers MU students opportunities to participate in time-limited, problem-solving, community-based internships. These internships enable individual students to gain experience in the job market.

Students who desire greater opportunities for further experience will be able to participate in the Community Engagement Fellows program, which is described in detail on the next page.

For more information, contact Vice President for Religious Life & Community Engagement and Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Rev. Kelli W. Taylor, at ktaylor@methodist.edu.
II. PROGRAM CHECKLIST

Fellows Program Checklist

The Center for Community Engagement offers a Fellows program for Methodist University undergraduate students who want to:

- Engage in meaningful leadership and service in the community
- Enrich the community by building mutually beneficial relationships with local community organizations through sustained service
- Empower individuals and agencies to meet the needs of a diverse population

The Community Engagement Fellows (CEF) program seeks to provide students an opportunity to expand their existing knowledge, skills, and leadership experiences around community engagement, and to apply their education in the development of a project that directly addresses campus and/or community impact areas.

Steps to Becoming a Community Engagement Fellow

1. Receive Nomination
   a. Self-Nomination
   b. Faculty/Staff nomination
2. Complete CEF Application
3. Complete Community Service/Volunteer Training
   a. Community Engagement Volunteer Training (one day)
   b. Agency Tour (one day)
4. Earn at least 15 academic credit hours with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Requirements for completion of the CEF program:

YEAR 1
(Can be completed simultaneously with Year 2 if applying in the sophomore/junior year)

- Complete at least four hours per week of community service in an assigned agency for both the fall and spring semesters
- Attend regular meetings with assigned agency mentor
- Participate in monthly CEF meetings with other fellows
- Participate in MU Day of Service

YEAR 2

- Assist with execution of MU Day of Service
- Propose, develop (in first semester), and begin (in second semester) CE project in conjunction with assigned agency. As fellows begin their experience, they will meet multiple times with their Fellows mentor and agency advisor to determine a project. The project will be decided after addressing community-identified needs, fellows’ interests, and previous experiences. Each project is student-led and will require some comfort with ambiguity, taking initiative, and the ability to be flexible with changing community needs.
- Participate in one Alternative Break Experience (in Year 2 or 3)

YEAR 3

- Assist with planning and leadership of MU Day of Service
- Complete CE Project (fall) and present at all-campus venue (spring)
- Participate in one Alternative Break Experience (in Year 2 or 3)
- Participate in a Campus Compact (N.C.) or Sullivan Foundation networking event.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM – Checklist

- **Community Service/Volunteer Training (Complete 1)**
  - Community Engagement Volunteer Training (one day)
  - Agency Tour (one day)

- **Community Service (Complete all)**
  - Four hours/week of community service (fall semester)
  - Four hours/week of community service (spring semester)
  - Attend regular meetings with assigned agency mentor
  - Participate in monthly CEF meetings with other fellows

- **Community Engagement Project (Complete all)**
  - Propose and develop a community engagement project
  - Complete community engagement project and present at all-campus venue (spring)

- **Alternative Break Experience**
  - Participate in one Alternative Break Experience (in Year 2 or 3)

- **MU Day of Service (Complete all)**
  - Participate
  - Assist with execution
  - Assist with planning and leadership

- **Networking Event**
  - Attend a Campus Compact (N.C.) or Sullivan Foundation networking event as participant or presenter
III. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Learning Environment Components of the Community Engagement Fellows Program

1. Community Learning and Research

Community-Based Learning and Research (also known as service-learning) is increasingly utilized as a teaching and learning strategy. This technique integrates meaningful service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

This pedagogy provides MU students and faculty the opportunity to respond to the significant needs in the Eastern North Carolina area. Students practice, re-examine, and deepen their classroom learning through direct service or a project with a nonprofit organization. Student and faculty work benefits the community as well as their own intellectual development.

The work is deeply rooted in the goals of the MU Strategic Plan:

- To develop first-year faculty seminars on pedagogy, technology, research, and campus engagement
- To continue annual First Year Community Engagement project and expand to University-wide experience
- To create more face-to-face relationships within the MU community
- To create a national model for Community Engagement that prepares students to be civic and globally-minded
- To develop five exclusive signature partnerships with community/national/global organizations and institutions

2. Alternative Breaks

Alternative Breaks are service-learning immersion programs that promote student leadership, equality, ethical volunteering, and social justice by cultivating a society of active citizens with the tools, resources, and experience to be effective leaders and allies within their local and global communities.

Student groups partner with community/national/global advocates on a variety of social justice issues, from immigration rights and environmental protection to the defense of freedom, human rights and race/gender/identity issues.

The annual Fall Break opportunity is a leadership seminar in partnership with agencies in the Washington D.C. area.

Each year focuses on Community Engagement around a specific community/social justice issue. Seminar topics include, but are not limited to immigration, gender, poverty, homelessness, and health care.
3. Volunteer Service

Community Engagement begins with volunteer service. A few hours per week, or even a single day, spent in service to the community, can have a vast impact on society.

As an institution, MU is committed to advancing civic responsibility, and we’re at the front lines of that effort. At the Center for Community Engagement, we lead the MU community into the world to serve. From one-time projects around Fayetteville to trips abroad, we stand with a university dedicated to improving lives in our global community.

One example of the critical difference that a single day of service can make is the MU First Year Day of Service. In 2015, more than 350 students served in 26 agencies across Cumberland County logging more than 1,000 hours of service in a single morning. Students fed the hungry, built playgrounds, improved parks, and built furniture from recycled wooden pallets. From 2016 to 2018 alone, students packed over 100,000 meals through Rise Against Hunger in the ongoing effort to end global hunger.

Students volunteer weekly in a Cumberland County elementary school in a partnership with the school and a local faith community. The impact of the relationships built through these weekly tutoring sessions extends far beyond the classroom. In 2016, and again in 2018, students and the MU campus came together to provide basic needs and manpower for those in our community affected by devastating hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

The 2019-20 academic year focused on literacy in Cumberland County elementary schools and partnering with the American Red Cross to collect blood and plasma crucial to hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Margaret Willis Elementary School tutoring and mentoring program is supplemented by course credit for MU students and a Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. grant used for tutoring elementary aged readers remotely and assisting parents with home-schooling throughout the pandemic.
The Center for Community Engagement is proud to work with campus and community organizations that align with our mission to create social change for the common good. The organizations include, but are not limited to:

American Red Cross
Bahamas Methodist Habitat
Boys and Girls Club
Camp Rockfish
Cap-Haitian Ministry Partners
Cape Fear Regional Theatre
Child Advocacy Center
Comunidad Teologica del Peru
Connections of Cumberland County
Designing Station
Family Promise
Fayetteville Animal Protection Society
Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation
Fayetteville Dream Center
Fayetteville Manor Nursing Home
Fayetteville Urban Ministries
Habitat for Humanity
Hay Street UMC
Haymount UMC
Interfaith Hospitality
Margaret Willis Elementary School
N.C. State Veterans Nursing Home
Person Street UMC
Rise Against Hunger
Salvation Army Retail Store
Second Harvest Food Bank
Show You Care Day at MU
Vision Resource Center
Whispering Pines Nursing Home
Students can apply to be a Community Engagement Fellow Candidate in the spring semester of their freshman/sophomore year with a GPA of at least 2.5. The application must be submitted online. Go to www.methodist.edu/engagement and submit your application today. Below are sample questions.

Please provide your contact information:

Name:.............................................................................................................
Email:.............................................................................................................
Student ID Number:........................................................................................
Year in school (Example: freshman, sophomore):..........................................
Best way to contact you:................................................................................

Applicant Summary

This is an opportunity to explain why you are applying to the Community Engagement Fellows Program and what you would bring to the program if you were to join. Below are a few questions to consider as you prepare to apply.

Applicant Summary Questions

How would you describe community engagement?

Briefly describe your community engagement background.

Why are you applying for the Community Engagement Fellows Program?

What would you bring to the program? Be specific.
VI. COMMUNITY FELLOWS

Alternate Break 2020 Team:

Ashley Ammann
Shelby Gray Behnke
Jessica Campbell
Ruth Carr
DJ DeCotis
Emily Derwin
Lindsay Edge
Nadya Fedun
Tanner Hendricks
Hannah James
Dr. Blake Justice
Fred Kayitare
Zach Lilly
Andrew Lloyd
Tyler Marinelli
Chelsie Miller
Meleah Morris
Mean Pring
Dr. Penny Schulken
Ron Spencer

Completed projects

Fall 2018

- Rise Against Hunger event, packing 50,000 meals
- On-site training at Rise Against Hunger Regional office
- Hurricane Relief Buckets packed and distributed
- Hurricane debris clean-up and minor repairs of structures in the Fayetteville community
- Margaret Willis Elementary School tutoring and mentoring program
- Food drive for MU Lion’s Share Food Pantry
- Cumberland County Voter Registration event to increase college and voter turnout
- Soles4Souls, shoe drive for mission in Guatemala
- Methodist University “Show You Care Day” for campus improvements.

Fall 2019

- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of “Flat Stanley” and the Inauguration of MU’s fifth President, Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, to promote literacy across the county.
- Margaret Willis Elementary School tutoring and mentoring program
- MU Lion’s Share Food Pantry distributions

Spring 2020

- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Margaret Willis Elementary School tutoring and mentoring program
- MU Lion’s Share Food Pantry distributions
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS

**Fellows Class One**
Joseph Camire
Hope Mills, N.C.

Macrae Conrad
New Holland, Ohio

Darryll DeCotis
Fuquay Varina, N.C.

Alyssa Eng
Garner, N.C.

Robert Rueh
Newport, N.C.

Rachel Townsend
Fayetteville, N.C.

Madeline Yeung
Garner, N.C.

**Fellows Class Two**
Jessica Calypso
Fayetteville, N.C.

Ja’Ree Pitt
Ahoskie, N.C.

Mean Pring
Laurel Hill, N.C.

Natasha Thomas
Fayetteville, N.C.

Curtisha Walker
Cameron, N.C.

**Fellows Class Three**
Sean Coleman
Fayetteville, N.C.

Claire Cromity
Raleigh, N.C.

Kristina Graham
Fayetteville, N.C.

Astridah Lombe
Lusaka, Zambia

Jon Patterson
Apex, N.C.
For more information, contact:

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Community Engagement and Director  
of the Center for Community Engagement  
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**Ruth Carr**  
Director of Religious Life &  
Community Engagement  
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