The Office of Civic Engagement at the University of the South works to cultivate knowledge, resources, and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities.

We seek to contribute to the quality of life of our partner communities—local, regional, and international—by creating, administering, and coordinating effective and pioneering curricular and co-curricular community engagement programs designed to educate students for lives of achievement and service by fostering intercultural and socio-economic sensitivity along with technical competence.
The Vision
MOTIVATING US AS A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY …
Active global citizens advancing economic, social, and environmental well-being.

The Mission
GUIDING US AS A UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT …
To cultivate knowledge, resources, and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities.

Our Values
GOVERNING OUR PRACTICES, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS …

HOPE
We yearn for communities where all members experience well-being. Hope-filled communities are equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

COLLABORATION
In a world in which complex social problems require comprehensive, systemic solutions, we seek to collaborate with those with whom we find common cause.

COMMITMENT AND PERSISTENCE
The core of our work requires sustained, long-term engagement. True personal, institutional, and community-wide transformation is sustainable when it draws on the strengths and assets of all members.

HUMILITY AND SENSITIVITY
In the face of complex challenges, the character and solutions of which are less than certain, we seek humility, through engaging in self-examination, becoming sensitive to the people we accompany and the context of their lives, and being curious about matters that are unfamiliar to us.

RECIPIROCITY
Relationships are integral to community well-being.

EQUITY AND JUSTICE
In the face of disparities in opportunities for humans to flourish, we are committed to ensuring equity and fairness.
September 10: The Cost of Silence: Conversations on Race and Community. In Convocation Hall, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) was honored to co-sponsor a campus wide talk by Dr. Beverly Tatum in conversation with the Director of Dialogue Across Difference, Cassie Meyer. Beverly Daniel Tatum is president emerita of Spelman College in Atlanta, and is widely known for both her expertise on race relations and as a thought leader in higher education. Tatum spent two days on campus and held informal conversations with student leaders as well as with faculty and staff.

October 17-20: Sullivan Foundation Ignite Retreat Over Fall Break. Four students joined other students from across the Southeast and a team of facilitators, coaches, and social entrepreneurs at the Ignite Retreat on a journey to discover how you can make an impact.

November 1: OCE Program for 50 Years of Women at Sewanee. As our contribution to Sewanee’s 50 Years of Women celebration, the Office of Civic Engagement hosted a celebration for alumnae dedicated to service. At the celebration alumnae were able to share their past stories and there was a special showing of the documentary Mine 21.

January 3–12: Jamaica Outreach Trip: Dynamics of Development and Documentation. Students who participated in the Jamaica Outreach Trip explored the intersection of arts tourism and community development in Kingston’s Trench Town neighborhood. Sewanee students collaborated in ongoing projects in Trench Town’s Culture Yard, including a large mural with artists from the U.S. and Jamaica and a tourism booklet. This trip also examined the connection between Jamaica’s political history and the formation of its original music genres from Trench Town, the epicenter of reggae. This is the Office of Civic Engagement’s 28th year traveling to Kingston, Jamaica.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, all in-person events halted in March 2020. Our timeline of events shows only major events that were attended in-person during the 2019–2020 academic year.
Dear Reader,

At the Office of Civic Engagement at Sewanee, we embrace a vision of a world of “active global citizens advancing economic, social, and environmental well-being.” To bring this vision to reality, we have adopted the mission to “cultivate knowledge, resources, and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities.”

We produced the first Office of Civic Engagement report in 2018. It was a milestone. This office has experienced growth that is at some points planned and at others impromptu. A consequence of multimodal development is that it is difficult to say exactly when the office began. We use reports such as these to highlight the significant milestones we have achieved that reflect our dedication to our mission. In an effort to celebrate all of the work we do through this office, we elected to compile our reports every other year after our first report. This report will show exactly how the Office of Civic Engagement has continued to grow and carry out its mission. Of all our accomplishments and hard work, I am compelled to mention the University’s institutional milestone: the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement classification. This is a nationally recognized designation, only attained by a small number of higher education institutions, that affirms the University’s institutional commitment to community engagement. This is a significant honor, but it is additionally an affirmation of our office’s vision of active global citizenship and engagement with our partner communities.

In striving to uphold our mission, we have encountered many challenges and opportunities, as our work environment is ever-changing. In 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 brought considerable disruption to our in-person engagement. We came to fully recognize the danger and disruption of the pandemic as we prioritized the health and safety of our students and thereby canceled our 2020 spring break outreach trips only hours before they were set to depart. We subsequently canceled all in-person community engagement projects and shifted much of our work to virtual engagement, hoping for the day when in-person service would again be feasible. While it is apparent that we must navigate this new reality for an extended period of time, this report will highlight our pre-COVID-19 work and accomplishments in the summer of 2020.

In addition to having disrupted our work, the social upheavals of 2020 have exacerbated the myriad crises we seek to address: racism, poverty, food insecurity, and the other systemic threats to the health and well-being of our communities. But these disruptions have also prompted reflection that has caused us to redouble our commitment to serving our partner communities and the students who make this service possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Peterman, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Civic Engagement

Sewanee Receives Carnegie Foundation’s Recognition

The Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement is awarded to those institutions of higher education that “document excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.” It is noteworthy that this award is not given merely to a single office or program but to the institution as a whole. Sewanee was granted this classification in 2020 after years of hard work and engagement from students, faculty, and staff. The Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) is proud to have taken a leadership role in developing an array of civic engagement programs, but was also delighted to be able to report to Carnegie the vast array of community engagement and social justice activities at Sewanee. From stewardship of the environment and issues of gender discrimination, to race and reconciliation, among others. We were also glad to have been able to offer to Carnegie a detailed account of the OCE’s steadfast commitment to develop long-term partnerships that are the hallmarks of Sewanee’s civic engagement programs—some organized through the Chapel Outreach Program that were directed by Dixon Myers beginning in the early 1990s and are still alive and vibrant to this day. The second is a more recent development: Initiated in 2013, the OCE’s innovative partnership with South Cumberland Community Fund further reflects the University’s commitment to long-term, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial partnerships. These two features of our report to Carnegie demonstrated the ways in which Sewanee’s civic engagement commitments are both pervasive and deep.

ONE OF 18 LIBERAL ARTS INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S. AND ONE OF 9 IN TENNESSEE WITH THIS CLASSIFICATION
Building Common Purpose Through Community Conversations

The joint partnership between the University of the South’s Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) and South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) is perhaps the most important collaborative union the OCE has fostered in the Plateau community. Since the formation of the OCE in 2014, this partnership has been crucial in the execution of the OCE’s mission and is supported by Nicky Hamilton who serves as director of community development for both organizations.

South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) is the first philanthropic entity to serve the three rural counties (Grundy, Marion, and Franklin) of the South Cumberland Plateau. Since its inception in 2012, SCCF has remained committed to partnering with local community organizations and leaders to bring positive change to the tri-county area. Through these partnerships, SCCF has begun to move the needle in terms of health, education, and community/economic development on the Plateau. In partnership with SCCF, OCE has undertaken several new initiatives aimed at creating a better future for the region. In 2014, the OCE–SCCF partnership worked to bring the Plateau an Americorps VISTA program, now known as the South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project. Two years later, the two organizations brought the spirit of philanthropy to University students through the anonymously funded Philanthropy Internship program. Most recently, the OCE–SCCF collaboration brought a diverse group of community members together for a historic dialogue titled “Community Conversations.”

Top Priorities

- **Health**
  - Expand resources available to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction. 91%
  - Seek opportunities to increase access to mental health care. 83%
- **Education**
  - Develop more vocational/technical education and training opportunities. 87%
  - Focus on early childhood literacy. 82%
- **Community and Economic Development**
  - Develop strategies to improve job opportunities. 89%
  - Identify workforce development priorities and develop strategies to offer training for specific vocational/technical skills. 84%

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On Oct. 15, 2019, two Community Conversation sessions were held at locations in Montage and Coalmont, attended by more than 120 Plateau residents. During these meetings, participants identified progress and challenges in their communities in the areas of health, education, and community/economic development. The groups identified specific issues that, in their view, should be priorities of the OCE and SCCF in their respective community support and grantmaking activities. The conversations allowed for important dialogue between community members and key stakeholders to generate new ideas for the work of the OCE and SCCF in the community moving forward.

In the next phase of Community Conversations, all community members were invited to complete a follow-up survey on the SCCF website that asked them to rank priorities identified during the sessions. The results from the Community Conversation sessions and the survey were then made available to the public and were used as a reference in the development and expansion of the OCE and SCCF initiatives that were implemented in fall 2020.

Responding to Community Conversations

Nov. 20, 2020: Following the above (delayed due to COVID-19), after several follow-up conversations with various organizations working in the areas identified as top priorities, SCCF invited organizations working in the top priority areas to submit proposals that would enhance and/or amplify their efforts. The following organizations are receiving funding to support these priorities:

- **Health Priority**
  - Grundy Recovery Alliance Community Endeavor (GRACE): $7,000
  - Grundy County Sheriff’s Office: $7,080
  - South Cumberland Plateau Health Network: $7,000

**Community and Economic Development Priority**

- Growing Roots: $3,376
- South Cumberland Learning Development Center: $5,000

Philanthropy Internship Advances to an Academic Course

In 2016, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) and South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) worked together to create the Philanthropy Internship Program, an internship for Sewanee students during which they learn the importance of philanthropy. “The students had to make difficult decisions, and it was imperative to see the care and thought they put into the task,” said Jeff Sholes, SCCF Grants Committee Chair.

The internship program is directed by Nicky Hamilton, Director of Community Development for SCCF and the OCE. Special thanks to former SCCF board member Jack Murrah, and University Foundation Relations Officer Tom Sanders for guest lecturing.

In 2020, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) and South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) was able to capture a better view of the world around me. The knowledge I gained of the different communities on the Plateau and their different needs was eye-opening. Often times students at a private liberal arts college rarely see the pain that poverty has inflicted on people in their broader community. This course eloquently exposed these experiences. I also learned about the people who have dedicated their lives to creating change in their communities. —2020 Philanthropy Intern
Community Development

More than Meals: Massive Summer Program Initiative Makes an Impact

A program proudly sponsored by the OCE is the South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project (SCP VISTA). The AmeriCorps VISTA project is a collaboration between the University, South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF), and several community partners. Since 2014, the SCP VISTA Project has grown to support 16 AmeriCorps VISTA members who serve to alleviate poverty through improved education, economic opportunity, and overall health.

During the summer months, the program expands from 16 full-year VISTA service members to include as many as 20 additional Summer Associate VISTAs, who provide programming and a robust summer meal program for the Plateau’s children.

The impact of the 2022 South Cumberland Summer Meal Program was far-reaching, serving nearly 50,000 free meals to children in Grundy, Marion, and Franklin counties. This volume was made both possible and necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USDA released its summer meal program regulations in order to safely reach more children. The waivers translated into drive-through, grab-and-go style distribution, and the ability to serve up to 10 meals at a time to each child—typically five breakfasts and five lunches.

Notably, many of the dining hall employees who worked the meal program also live in Grundy County. Thanks to the summer meal program, staff not only had employment at the dining hall during the pandemic (which would not have been possible otherwise), but were also serving children in their own community. Chef Rick summarized it well: “The summer meal program was a true team effort and a morale booster in very difficult times. It was rewarding for us all to make such a large impact in the community in which most of us live. Everyone benefited—kids, families, employees, VISTAs, community volunteers, and our suppliers. It was work everyone felt good about.”

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The expansion of the program was enabled by the USDA, but the distribution of such a large volume of meals was made possible by more than 130 dedicated Plateau employees and volunteers. Included in this vital effort were the management team of the South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Project, the 90 employees at the University’s McClurg Dining Hall, 16 Summer Associate VISTAs, local school principals and staff, and more than 20 community volunteers from Montevalle Elementary, Morton Memorial United Methodist Church, Ben Lomand Connect, Mountain T.O.P., Epiphany Mission Episcopal Church, May Jutas Library, and the University of the South. Additionally, an unknown number of volunteers throughout the community hand-made hundreds of masks that were donated for use during meal distribution.

Of the nearly 50,000 meals served, 85% (42,741) were served in Grundy County, which has a total population of approximately 21,500. “We are extraordinarily grateful to provide so many meals to our children this summer,” said Russell Fugate, director of nutrition for Grundy County Schools, the program’s largest distribution partner. “We have many to thank—our staff and principals and the herculean efforts of the VISTAs and McClurg Dining team. None of this would be possible without them.”

More than 90 employees strong, McClurg Dining Hall is busy most summers, serving summer school students, the community, and participants of the University’s popular residential summer programs. Not so in 2020. COVID-19 safety measures meant the cancelation of all on-campus programming.

Not so in 2020. COVID-19 safety measures meant the cancelation of all on-campus programming. While a disappointment, it was also a turn of good fortune for Plateau families and the community overall. The Sewanee Dining team unexpectedly became available to support a large-scale summer meal program. “It was truly a fortunate coincidence,” said Chef Rick Wright, director of Sewanee Dining. “It was one of those rare moments when much good came out of an otherwise negative situation.”

“Any show of community support was incredible. Every single day both employees and volunteers went far above and beyond the call of duty,” observed Katie Goforth, South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Manager at the University of the South. “The program brought the Plateau together in trying times. It was about getting meals to children and everyone was very committed to that.”

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Reflection on Three Decades of Outreach Trips

Dixon Myers, associate director, Office of Civic Engagement

Dixon Myers, associate director of the University’s Office of Civic Engagement, is the recipient of a 2019 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. The awards are presented by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to recognize demonstrated effectiveness in public service.

Myers was nominated for his work to connect Sewanee students with neighbors both locally and around the world. By creating homes for people in need, giving hundreds of students the chance to serve in communities across the world, and through his efforts to create and amplify connections, Myers has established sustainable programs that will continue to change lives.

In celebration of Dixon receiving this award for his impactful career and his 30 years of dedication to the Office of Civic Engagement, we have asked him to reflect on his contribution to outreach trips and the development of civic engagement at Sewanee.

In the 30 years I have spent as the director of this outreach trip program I have maintained three core values: commitment, reciprocity, and hope. Our work requires sustained long-term engagement. True personal, institutional, and community-wide transformation is sustainable when it draws on the relationships we’ve formed there. The youngest of these relationships to our campus community grants us the opportunity to address issues they are passionate about in myriad locations, they additionally provide students with a chance to develop relationships of their own in the locations in which we work. As a consequence of this very relationship building, several site organizations have made internships available for Sewanee students; others have hired Sewanee graduates for positions.

Sites

In selecting sites, it is necessary to offer a wide range of opportunities for our students. It is crucial to address a wide range of issues—from healthcare to education, economic development, to community development—so that each student will have an opportunity to apply themselves to a personal passion. In addressing these issues we have been able to establish relationships in Jamaica, New Orleans, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, and Miami that keep us coming back year in and year out.

Alternative break programs around the country were promoted by organizations such as “Break Away” (founded on the Vanderbilt campus in 1991), and the long-established mission trip phenomenon in the Episcopal Church tradition. They were the converging influences for Sewanee to initiate this program. I began to notice that a lot of students at the University had an interest in spending their academic breaks engaging in meaningful community service. It was a time of burgeoning community engagement on college campuses, and this was a clear way to provide regional and international short-term service opportunities during fall, Christmas, and spring breaks.

In the past 30 years these annual trips have allowed our office, on behalf of the University, to establish and cultivate meaningful community partnerships both internationally and domestically. To celebrate three decades of commitment, I would like to reflect on our outreach program, from its inception to its current form, and the impact that these trips have provided our students, the community we continue to return to, and me along the way.

“While our current programs in civic engagement employ the labor, love, and energy of many people, all of that enthusiastic and effective connection with the community has its genesis in the work of Dixon Myers,” said Vice-Chancellor John McCardell in his letter nominating Myers. “He is not only a creative force but an amplifying one. Dixon has embodied service.”

IMMERSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Trench Town Culture Yard

Left to right: Dixon Myers, Bunny Wailer (formerly of Bob Marley and the Wailers), Sophia Dixon (director of the Trench Town Culture Yard, Bill Murray (Sewanee resident and trip staff).

As I mentioned above, our annual trip to Kingston, Jamaica, has been taking place for three decades. The relationships we’ve formed there have shown remarkable durability and have great value to me personally. Most of this 30-year time period has been centered on economic development, to community development—so that each student will have an opportunity to apply themselves to a personal passion. In addressing these issues we have been able to establish relationships in Jamaica, New Orleans, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, and Miami that keep us coming back year in and year out.

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With the COVID-19 pandemic halting our planned trip to Jamaica in March 2020, I was not able to lead a group of students to finish this crucial project. Since the pandemic emerged, recreational travel has slowed down drastically. This has certainly had a negative impact on the Trench Town neighborhood and disrupted all the work we had planned at each of our sites. In spite of this, we have worked diligently to maintain frequent communication with each of our partners, seeking to provide whatever help we can from Sewanee while planning for the day we can safely return and resume our work in these communities.

Crystal Ngo C’20 and Jacques, Haiti

2020 Cotie San, C’18, at lowernine.org, New Orleans

Cotie is the volunteer health manager and outreach coordinator for lowernine.org in New Orleans, Louisiana. She spent her 2017 spring break volunteering with the agency and after graduating Sewanee she returned in 2018 to work full-time.

Alternative break programs around the country were promoted by organizations such as “Break Away” (founded on the Vanderbilt campus in 1991), and the long-established mission trip phenomenon in the Episcopal Church tradition. They were the converging influences for Sewanee to initiate this program. I began to notice that a lot of students at the University had an interest in spending their academic breaks engaging in meaningful community service. It was a time of burgeoning community engagement on college campuses, and this was a clear way to provide regional and international short-term service opportunities during fall, Christmas, and spring breaks.

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Begun in 2011 and 2008, respectively, the Bonner Leader and Canale Leadership in Service programs are student internship and leadership programs under the direction of Bonners and Canales at our fall end-of-semester celebration. Robin Hille Michaels, director of service internships in the Office of Civic Engagement. The Bonner Leader Program at Sewanee recruits incoming students for a four-year developmental leadership and service program. The Canale program, supported by the Canale Endowment, recruits current Sewanee student leaders interested in pursuing a year-long project addressing a community-identified need. Both Bonners and Canales receive ongoing training, engage in reflection, and build a supportive network of student leaders who work closely with local community partners, University faculty, staff, and fellow students to create sustained positive change to programs both on our campus and throughout the communities around us.

The 2019-2020 year was both like and entirely unlike any academic year prior. The year began with 39 Bonners and 17 Canale student leaders diving into their work to support community partners in and around Sewanee. Programming was grounded in a commitment to community building, embracing and growing our diversity, and using each gathering, training, and reflection to build on these commitments.

Using GivePulse, an online tracking platform, 80 Bonners, Canales, and student volunteers logged over 5,200 hours for 26 community partners and projects. Projects ranged from working in clinics, leading diabetes prevention programming, writing grants, developing websites, tutoring adults and children for whom English is a second language, leading classes for both women and men inside the Grundy Jail, developing content and videos for an online cooking program, mentoring and leading activities with both elementary and high school students, and leading programming for differently-abled adults to name a few. Additionally, all Bonner and Canale students worked through a leadership curriculum with themes differing by class and by semester to offer developmentally appropriate skill-building and training.

As in past years, sophomore Bonners attended a Sophomore Exchange event to connect Sewanee Bonners to sophomore Bonners attending other schools within the Bonner network. Students traveled to Chattanooga for an event partnered with Rhodes, Carson-Newman, Spelman, and Morehouse, engaging in workshops and reflections led by their peers.

Shortly after the Sophomore Exchange, the campus closed due to COVID-19. The program pivoted dramatically to remote learning, offering meetings and workshops via Zoom and shifting the focus primarily to supporting students and maintaining a sense of community. Staff worked with community partners to develop remote work options that both supported the needs of partners and kept students connected to work with purpose.

Amidst this shift, recruitment for the 2024 Bonners and the 2020-2021 Canales yielded our most diverse incoming class of Bonners yet, including three international students and nine new Canales bringing our 20-21 Canale cohort to 16 student leaders.

In this year’s Sophomore Exchange, Bonners and Canales explored ways to support students working remotely while continuing to create community building opportunities. Students also learned from peers about strategies for remote leadership and how to maintain a sense of purpose during times of uncertainty.

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**Making Haste with Waste**

By Meredith Garrett

The King of Compost Mountain: Chris Hornsby, C’19, atop a pile of food waste from Sewanee’s McClurg Dining Hall. Photo by Buck Butler, C’89.

Chris Hornsby, Bonner, C’19, worked with the University Farm to develop an innovative composting prototype that has the potential to change the landscape of waste-management systems far beyond the plateau. He hopes to make the work of his maggots—specifically black soldier fly larvae—as approachable and actionable as recycling currently is.

Black soldier fly larvae, located in Winchester, Tennessee, that works with New Life, a nonprofit organization located in Winchester, Tennessee, that works to integrate adults with disabilities into society and improve their quality of life, during her sophomore year at Sewanee. She had no prior experience working with this population. Crystal found the work very rewarding and enjoyed learning how to interact with each adult. She soon learned each person’s quirks, what made them laugh, and discovered their interests and devoted her time to exposing the adults to the rest of the Sewanee community. Crystal collaborated with multiple organizations to help disrupt the stigma that surrounds working with adults with disabilities and to educate collaborators on how to interact with this population. She organized teams of volunteers to lead them in various activities like yoga, creating flower crowns, celebrating Valentine’s Day, Easter, Halloween, and visiting the fire department.

After a semester abroad, Crystal returned to her work with New Life with a sense of clarity around how she hoped to expand her involvement with the organization. Crystal wrote and received a grant to establish a sensory room, a tranquil environment for strengthening all five senses with soothing music, ambient lighting, and tactile objects. Spaces like these help adults with disabilities respond to external stimuli and have been shown to support positive outcomes. This was the largest project that Crystal had ever spearheaded. She didn’t expect things like proper painting and the largest project that Crystal had ever spearheaded. She didn’t expect things like proper painting and

Crystal Ngo’s four years of dedication to New Life

**Crystal Ngo’s Four Years of Dedication to New Life**

Bonner Leader Crystal Ngo, C’20, began working with New Life, a nonprofit organization located in Winchester, Tennessee, that works to integrate adults with disabilities into society and improve their quality of life, during her sophomore year at Sewanee. She had no prior experience working with this population. Crystal found the work very rewarding and enjoyed learning how to interact with each adult. She soon learned each person’s quirks, what made them laugh, and discovered their interests and devoted her time to exposing the adults to the rest of the Sewanee community. Crystal collaborated with multiple organizations to help disrupt the stigma that surrounds working with adults with disabilities and to educate collaborators on how to interact with this population. She organized teams of volunteers to lead them in various activities like yoga, creating flower crowns, celebrating Valentine’s Day, Easter, Halloween, and visiting the fire department.

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Crystal Ngo’s sensory room.
Where We Serve  Summer 2020 Internship Sites by Location (Local, Regional, International)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Sexual Health Association</td>
<td>Durham, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland Farmers Market</td>
<td>Sewanee, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Partners</td>
<td>Boston, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation (FOCAGIFo)</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grundy Eats</td>
<td>Monteagle, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Neighbors</td>
<td>Annandale, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE)</td>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest Technology</td>
<td>Sewanee, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REV Birmingham</td>
<td>Birmingham, Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle Farms</td>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the South: Office of Civic Engagement</td>
<td>Sewanee, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dialogue Across Difference Program Established

Established in fall 2018 under the Office of Civic Engagement, the Dialogue Across Difference Program seeks to build a dialogic campus that positions the University as a national leader and convener in civic dialogue on college campuses. Developed and led by Cassie Meyer, director of Dialogue Across Difference Programs, the program builds capacity for students, faculty, and staff to engage in and lead difficult conversations across lines of difference and incorporates dialogic practices into the classroom and various programming. Since the launch of the program in 2018 through spring 2020, workshops, dialogues, and public events have engaged an audience of more than 2,550 participants (including students, faculty, staff, and community members).

Campus-wide Dialogue Programming

Since launching, the Dialogue Across Difference Program has worked with partners throughout Sewanee to facilitate public programming for the campus and greater community. Highlights include large public events with Dylan Marron, the host of the “Conversations with People Who Hate Me” podcast.
Launch of Interfaith Advisory Council

With the support of a Campus Innovation Grant from Interfaith Youth Core, the Interfaith Advisory Council launched during the fall 2019 semester with the goal of making Sewanee more inclusive to those of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds. The Interfaith Council is made up of nearly 40 students, faculty, staff, and administrators from 10 different religious and ethical traditions. Meeting monthly, the council focuses on relationship-building through shared meals and dialogue and identifying strategies and opportunities to make Sewanee more welcoming.

After a semester of visioning work, the Interfaith Advisory Council identified three priority areas: advocating for policies and accommodations, communicating the religious and ethical diversity that exists at Sewanee, and elevating diverse observations and celebrations. In the spring of 2020, the Interfaith Advisory Council created a religious diversity survey and collected more than 100 responses from students, faculty, and staff on ways to make Sewanee more inclusive. Through the survey, the council has worked to develop a multifaith calendar, launched in fall 2020, to help Sewanee’s community members avoid conflicts with religious observances when planning events. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the Advisory Council’s plans for 2020 spring interfaith religious observations, campus-wide interfaith programming, such as a Passover Seder in McClurg featuring recipes sourced from Sewanee’s Jewish community, and an Interfaith Iftar during Ramadan. These will continue once Sewanee’s community is able to gather safely again.

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Dialogue Across Difference Program Established (continued)
Another recently established program founded in 2018 is Sewanee Votes!, a nonpartisan democratic engagement program at the University. The program is currently led by Postbaccalaureate Fellow for Student Programming, Loring McDonalld. The overarching mission of Sewanee Votes! is to increase voter engagement and education among Sewanee students, faculty, and staff, in order to foster a campus-wide understanding of democratic engagement as a civic responsibility. Specifically, Sewanee Votes! is focused on increasing the student voter registration rate (targeting 85% or more of the student body) while concurrently focusing on increasing the student voting rate (mostly through the submission of absentee ballots). In concert with these initiatives focused on direct engagement, Sewanee Votes! is additionally working to further develop a culture of democratic awareness by hosting public events at which members of the Sewanee community are welcome to come together to discuss and reflect upon current political happenings.

In 2018, Sewanee Votes! began taking preliminary steps that would allow the program to build a better understanding of students’ voting registration numbers and voting rates in past elections. We made use of the National Study of Learning Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), a tool offered by the Institute for Democracy in Higher Education, to gain access to this data. We found that although over three quarters (78%) of the student body was registered to vote in the 2016 election, only 37.9% voted. This was a disappointing figure to confront, especially because it meant that Sewanee’s voter participation was 12.5% below average (among institutions surveyed). In the 2018 midterm elections we found that the voting rate decreased to 31.5%, and while it is common for there to be a dip in voter participation during midterm elections, Sewanee Votes! has nonetheless made it a priority to ensure that the student voting rate is trending upward, no matter the election cycle, and that the disparity between registered students and voting students is reduced.

Sewanee Votes! has worked to engage students both virtually and in-person, and has received incredible support from collaborators across our campus community. Election engagement interns established a strong social media presence to both publicize important Sewanee Votes! events and election deadlines and provide a way for students to share with one another the excitement that surrounds voting for the first time. In addition to establishing an online presence, Sewanee Votes! hosted numerous events in the weeks and months leading up to the 2020 presidential election surrounding the many primary and general election debates. In particular, our nonpartisan DebateWatch events, hosted in collaboration with the Center for Speaking and Listening, were successful in opening up unique spaces for discussions about elections and politics that allowed for rich conversations between students, faculty, staff, and community members holding a variety of viewpoints.

Leading up to the 2020 election, Sewanee Votes! continued the push to increase student registration and voter turnout, maintaining an open-door policy for any student wishing to come in for voting assistance. Numerous “pop-up” student registration drives in highly trafficked areas across campus also helped to draw greater numbers of students. Sewanee Votes! concurrently sought to ensure all registered students submit their ballots by offering assistance throughout the process, providing free postage when ballots were completed, and making use of numerous forms of media to message and issue reminders about the pertinent deadlines. Sewanee Votes! is excited for the 2019-20 NSLVE data to become available for assessment so that it will be able to judge the effectiveness of its efforts these past three years and adjust its strategies however needed.
Engaging the Classroom with the Community

In the past two years, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) has sought to extend Sewanee’s academic civic engagement. During the 2018-2020 academic years, Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows worked with the OCE to implement civic engagement in one of their courses in partnership with community members or organizations. In 2020, the Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership graduated its first senior, Kelsey Arbuckle, whose capstone project, “Effects of Framing on the Overall Success of Diaper Banks and Programs,” done on behalf of the National Diaper Bank (NDB), offered a complex analysis of how the bank’s members frame and misframe diaper need. This helped NDB rethink its messaging strategy.

As the next stage in the development of academic civic engagement at Sewanee, in 2019–2020, the OCE and South Cumberland Community Fund partnered to engage in community conversations to ascertain the community’s sense of what sorts of programs it would like to see the OCE and SCCF support. As a response to the community’s voice, the OCE appointed three faculty members as Academic Civic Engagement Leaders. These leaders are charged with supporting faculty and community partners in developing courses and research to provide academic expertise to community organizations. This work addresses locally-expressed issues in the community as well as economic development, health, and wellness. We report on these developments on the following page.

Community-Engaged Learning Courses

Community-engaged learning courses were offered during the 2019-2020 academic year across a variety of departments and disciplines. The Community-Engaged Learning program offers academic courses throughout the curriculum with a community engagement component. Each course integrates community engagement and service to activate the liberal arts pedagogy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FYP</td>
<td>The Ecology of Place</td>
<td>Eric Allen</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>FYP</td>
<td>Here and There, Now and Then</td>
<td>Chris McDonough</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 180</td>
<td>Principles of Human Nutrition</td>
<td>Cynthia Gray</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<td>CIVC 400</td>
<td>Civic and Global Leadership Capstone</td>
<td>Jim Peterman, Barbara King</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Psychology</td>
<td>Helen Barton</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 226</td>
<td>Teaching Children's Literature</td>
<td>Paige Hill</td>
<td>Advent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 341</td>
<td>Methods and Materials of Teaching</td>
<td>Paige Hill</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 335</td>
<td>Introduction to Public History</td>
<td>Jim Peterman</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 235</td>
<td>Bioethics</td>
<td>John Coffey</td>
<td>Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 354</td>
<td>Positive Psychology Lab</td>
<td>Karen Yu and Linda Mayes</td>
<td>Advent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 330</td>
<td>Child, Family, and Community Development in Rural Appalachia</td>
<td>Jim Peterman</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 220</td>
<td>Historical Archaeology</td>
<td>Camille Westmont</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIVC 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Civic and Global Leadership</td>
<td>Jim Peterman</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIVC 310</td>
<td>Philanthropy: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Nicky Hamilton</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 261</td>
<td>Instructional Technology: Digital Literacy and Learning</td>
<td>Tori Barnes</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 205</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Education</td>
<td>Brooke Gorman</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 310</td>
<td>Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies</td>
<td>Janna McClain</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 333</td>
<td>Topics in American History: Public History Research Methods</td>
<td>Tiffany Momon</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 305</td>
<td>Public Philosophy</td>
<td>Mark Hopwood</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 357</td>
<td>Child Development (Lab)</td>
<td>Helen Baxman</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 420</td>
<td>Experiences of Displacement: Migration and Exile in the Hispanic World</td>
<td>Lucia Garcia-Santana</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ACADEMIC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow courses offered in the academic year 2019-20**

**Professor John Coffey, Psychology**  
**Psychology 304 POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY LAB:** Students developed the Monteagle Elementary School (MES) Kindness Challenge for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. All MES students received Kindness Journals with 30 minutes with MES students once a week for four weeks to guide journal activities.

**Professor Katherine Cammack, Psychology**  
**Psychology 305 DRUGS & BEHAVIOR:** Students partnered with the Grundy Safe Communities Coalition to conduct research on alcohol and substance use among adolescents in Grundy County. They produced informational brochures presenting major findings from the survey with different brochures targeting different community groups (e.g., parents/guardians, school teachers/administrators).

**Professor Lucia García-Santana, Spanish**  
**Spanish 420 EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT: MIGRATION AND EXILE WITHIN THE HISPANIC WORLD:** Students partnered with Westwood Elementary School in Manchester, Tennessee, to tutor and mentor Hispanic elementary school students and their families while reflecting on theoretical and cultural texts on displacement.

**Professor JoyAnna Hopper, Politics**  
**Politics 421 REACHING COMMUNITY POLICY GOALS:** Students learned about policy analysis, logic modeling, and program evaluation as they conducted comprehensive research for the Grundy County Safe Communities Coalition, a nonprofit focused on the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse. Students completed comprehensive research on how to create a drug abuse prevention education program for youth. These reports have been used by GSCC to begin developing their own version of the LifeSkills training to be used in schools across Grundy County.

**Professor Mark Hopwood, Philosophy**  
**Philosophy 305 PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY:** Students practiced public philosophy at Otey Parish’s Children’s Center and the Grundy County Jail. Interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions, the Children’s Center engagement continued over Zoom.

**Professor Eric Keen, Environmental Studies**  
**First-year Program ECOLOGY OF PLACE:** Students explored the “Ecology of a Home.” By engaging with local residents, using the concept of “home,” students examined Southern Appalachian homemaking culture as a lens for seeing the connections between landscape, ecology, history, and notions of human meaning.

**Professor Greg Pond, Art, Art History, and Visual Studies**  
**Art 349 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CREATIVE PRACTICE: INVESTIGATING THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL THROUGH ART:** Students worked with different community partners to develop individual projects related to the history and pedagogy of Highlander. These student projects set the stage for an exhibition and publication that will explore the various sites, histories, and practices of the Highlander Folk School.

**Professor Chris McDonough, Classical Languages**  
**Students in the Department of Classical Languages implemented the Aequora tutoring program at South Middle School. Aequora is a national initiative that mobilizes classical language students to teach introductory Latin to elementary and middle school students for the purpose of learning Latin and reinforcing English and Spanish language skills in a fun and engaging way. Although the program was interrupted by COVID-19, an online version of the course was produced over the summer by one of the Sewanee student tutors.**

**Professor Russell Fielding, Environmental Studies**  
**In partnership with St. Vincent and the Grenadines community members, Sewanee students conducted dietary surveys among the public, asking questions about the frequency and amount of whale-based food products consumed there. Previous research has shown that these food products contain high levels of environmental contaminants, some of which are known to negatively affect human health. The report of these findings was sent to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Fisheries in St. Vincent. The expected result of this report is the creation of St. Vincent’s first official dietary recommendations and fishing/whaling catch limits.**

**Faculty Leaders**  
We thank these faculty members who have worked with the OCE to develop academic civic engagement projects while offering support to fellow faculty with interests related to expressed community priority areas of South Cumberland Plateau communities.

**Community and Economic Development**  
**CHRIS MCDONOUGH**  
Professor of Classical Languages and Alderson-Tillinghast Chair in the Humanities

**DANIEL CARTER**  
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

**Health and Wellness**  
**AMY PATTERSON**  
Professor of Politics and Carl Biel Professor of International Affairs
Daniel Carter, assistant professor of environmental studies and academic civic engagement leader, was awarded a 2020 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. The awards are presented by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to recognize exemplary public service.

Daniel Carter, assistant professor of environmental studies and academic civic engagement leader, was awarded a 2020 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. The awards are presented by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to recognize exemplary public service.

Carter was nominated for his civic initiatives in Marion County and his work with Sewanee students on those initiatives. Carter has been involved in two different community-building projects in Marion County: place-making education in the schools as well as the creation of support programming for at-risk youth. In a Sewanee education course, Curriculum Design for Place-Based Education, Carter’s students work with faculty and local experts on the history and geology of Marion County. Their work provides Marion County High School teachers with courses that enhance student learning about the geology, environmental history, and issues facing Marion County, including geology/physical history, coal, and railroads.

In his second project, Carter works closely with government and community leaders in Marion County to bring an early intervention and prevention program for youth ages 10-15 who have been referred to the program either through the juvenile court or the school systems. As a local farmer and expert in land-use policy, Carter serves as a liaison representing farming viewpoints to the conservation community, and translates scientific and policy issues to fellow farmers. His most recent service includes being a founding board member of the Thrive Regional Partnership (2016–present), Natural Treasures Alliance of the Thrive Partnership, chair (2014–present), and Tennessee River Gorge Trust, president of the board (2010–12).

Certificate of Civic and Global Leadership

In a liberal arts context, we believe citizenship and scholarship are inextricably connected. Working with the director of the OCE, an ad hoc faculty committee created a Certificate of Civic and Global Leadership program that uses an intentionally interdisciplinary lens to make sense of social issues and weave together applied scholarship, meaningful service, and collaborative leadership to advance the well-being of our partner communities. This certificate aims to give students with extended service internship experience the ability to work academically on a civic issue they are passionate to learn.

The Civic and Global Leadership Certificate at Sewanee offers two tracks: development and human capabilities; and community and global health. Courses in the development and human capabilities track expose students to topics such as the intersection of poverty and environmental protection, community mobilization, political institutions, and policies shaping poverty eradication. In the community and global health track, students learn about the nature and significance of health care to human life as well as social development and social justice issues concerning access to health care.

During the 2019–2020 academic year, 11 students participated in Civic and Global Leadership Capstone Projects. Each student partnered with an organization to conduct research designed to help the organization achieve some aspect of its mission.
Data Appendix

28 workshops on leadership and professionalism were offered to Bonner Leaders and Canale Interns this year. Working with South Cumberland Community Fund, the Philanthropy Course distributed $39,000 to 8 community organizations in October 2020.

8 students traveled to Jamaica in winter and 50 students signed up for spring outreach trips and went through pre-trip curriculum.

16 AmeriCorps VISTA members served with 12 partner organizations across the South Cumberland Plateau through programs focused on alleviation of poverty through education, economic development, and health.

23,194 hours were served by AmeriCorps VISTA members from September 2019 to September 2020.

$572,659 in grants, monetary gifts, and in-kind donations was leveraged by AmeriCorps VISTA members from September 2019 to September 2020.

As part of the Grants for Capacity Building Program, leaders in the Bonner and Canale programs applied for and leveraged a total of $18,637.85 in grant funding at 12 local organizations.

Our Partnerships

Campus-wide partnerships
All Saints Chapel Center for Leadership
Center for Speaking and Listening
Dean of Students/Campus Activities First-Year Program (FYP)
Office of the Dean of the College Office of the Provost Pre-Orientation Program (Outing)
School of Theology Sewane Athletics Wellness Center Work/Study Office of Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

Local partnerships
All God’s Children Adult ESU Art Inside
Beck-Knob Cemetery in Chattanooga Benneha Springs Medical Clinic Better
Blue Moonlight
Camp Rain
Chattanooga Area Food Bank
Christians Celebrating God’s Bounty Clinic (formerly Volunteers in Medicine)
Coalmont Elementary School
Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace
Deechet Elementary School
Dependable Laundry
Discover Together
DuBois Center for Culture and Race
Epiphany Mission Episcopal Church
Folks at Home
Franklin County Prevention Coalition
Franklin County Schools
Grant County Recovery Alliance Community Endavor
Grace Center of Hope
Growing Roots
Grundy County Board of Education Grundy County Food Bank (GCFB)

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Grace Center of Hope
Growing Roots
Grundy County Board of Education Grundy County Food Bank (GCFB)

Our Partnerships

Campus-wide partnerships
All Saints Chapel Center for Leadership
Center for Speaking and Listening
Dean of Students/Campus Activities First-Year Program (FYP)
Office of the Dean of the College Office of the Provost Pre-Orientation Program (Outing)
School of Theology Sewane Athletics Wellness Center Work/Study Office of Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

Local partnerships
All God’s Children Adult ESU Art Inside
Beck-Knob Cemetery in Chattanooga Benneha Springs Medical Clinic Better
Blue Moonlight
Camp Rain
Chattanooga Area Food Bank
Christians Celebrating God’s Bounty Clinic (formerly Volunteers in Medicine)
Coalmont Elementary School
Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace
Deechet Elementary School
Dependable Laundry
Discover Together
DuBois Center for Culture and Race
Epiphany Mission Episcopal Church
Folks at Home
Franklin County Prevention Coalition
Franklin County Schools
Grant County Recovery Alliance Community Endavor
Grace Center of Hope
Growing Roots
Grundy County Board of Education Grundy County Food Bank (GCFB)
Our Staff

In the 2019–2020 academic year, Office of Civic Engagement staff included:

Jim Peterman, Director of Civic Engagement
Dixon Myers, Associate Director
Robin Hollis Michaels, Associate Director
Katie Goforth, AmeriCorps Vista Manager
Vicki Burchers, AmeriCorps Vista Coordinator
Nicky Hamilton, Director of Community Development
Cassie Meyer, Director of Dialogue Across Difference Program
Jo Greenly, Office Coordinator
Loring McDonald, PostBaccalaureate Fellow for Student Programming

Our South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Members

As of August 2019, our AmeriCorps VISTA members include:

Emily Heid, Specialty Crop Economic Development VISTA at the University Farm
Alyssa Crow, Healthy Roots Community Garden VISTA at Dubose Conference Center
Lucas Crossland, VISTA at South Cumberland Community Fund
Michael Allender, VISTA at South Cumberland Community Fund
Leslie Wright, VISTA at Grundy County Schools
Whitney Whittington, VISTA at Folks at Home
Dannelle Keller, VISTA at the Grundy County Sheriff’s Office
Laura Sonderman, VISTA at the Office of Civic Engagement
Hannah Olinger, VISTA at the Office of Civic Engagement
Juliana McFee, VISTA at Grundy County Schools
Savannah Atkinson, School Garden Network VISTA at the UT Extension Office
Katie Cole, Opioid Prevention Outreach VISTA at Franklin County Prevention Coalition
Kara Kramer, Sustainable Economic Development VISTA at the Grundy County Mayor’s Office
Sarah Krueger, Opioid Prevention Outreach VISTA at Grundy County Prevention Coalition
Jennifer Moeltner, Family Resiliency Education and Awareness VISTA at Sequatchie Valley Head Start
Sam Shaw, Financial Inclusion VISTA at Betterfi

2019–2020 Student Staff

Many thanks to our outstanding student staff for the 2019–2020 academic year.

Bonner Leader Program Senior Interns

Elon Epps, C’20
Emily Medley, C’21
Lucy Rudman, C’22
Zach Shunnarah, C’23

Office of Civic Engagement Work Study Students

Abby Strasdin, C’20
Danner Martin, C’21
Alexa Fulps, C’21
Hayeon Ryu, C’23

Our Partnerships