University of the South
Office of Civic Engagement

Year in Review 2017–2018
Office of Civic Engagement Mission Statement

To cultivate knowledge, resources, and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities.
Sept. 8, 2017: Community Engagement House’s Porch Light gathering. Student leaders at the “CoHo” hosted a kick-off event for students, faculty, staff, and members of the wider community to network and build connections.

Oct. 11, 2017: Our partners at South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) hosted the Know Your Worth Conference. To conclude the conference, the inaugural cohort of six Philanthropy Internship Program students presented the second round of SCCF’s grant awards to seven community organizations.

Oct. 20–24, 2017: Fall Outreach Trip to Houston, Texas. Over the University of the South’s fall break, 13 students traveled more than 1,600 miles to Houston for two days of renovation work for a family that was impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Oct. 27–28, 2017: Let’s Go: Exploring Nonprofit Careers. Keynote speaker Maryetta Anshutz, C’97, founder of the Episcopal School of Los Angeles, joined other alumni to speak to students and faculty about networking and careers in government, nonprofit, national service, and community development.

Jan. 5–14, 2018: Winter Outreach Trip to Jamaica. The Winter outreach trip to Kingston’s Trench Town neighborhood examined the connection between Jamaica’s political history and tourism economy at the epicenter of reggae. The group collaborated with partners in the Trench Town Culture Yard, and Kansas City and Jamaica-based artists to create a 120-foot mural showcasing Jamaican life and history.

Jan. 15, 2018: MLK Day of Service. Fifteen AmeriCorps VISTA members assisted Park Ranger Greer in clearing bushes and trees to free up forest understory as part of restoration efforts for the historic Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Tracy City, Tennessee.

Feb. 9–10, 2018: Sophomore Exchange in Nashville. Bonner Leaders from Sewanee met with other Bonners from Rhodes College and Centre College in Nashville for a weekend of service and bonding.

Feb. 17, 2018: Introduction to Civic and Global Leadership course launch. Twelve students enrolled in the new Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership program and participated in their first class. The certificate program integrates students’ experiences in a significant internship with interdisciplinary coursework that culminates in an applied capstone project with a community partner.

March 3, 2018: Make A Difference Day. Through the AmeriCorps VISTA Project, OCE collaborated with partners at SCCF to host more than 400 volunteers, including University students, staff, faculty, and community members on Make A Difference Day. Volunteers served 1,600-plus hours and completed more than 40 projects at local elementary schools with the help of AmeriCorps VISTAs and school leaders.

March 15–25, 2018: Spring Break 2018. During the University’s spring break students traveled across the country and globe on one of seven Outreach Trips. These short-term experiences are designed to give students a deeper understanding of communities that have long-standing connections with the University by acting as additional links to established partners.

April 20–21, 2018: Tennessee Campus Civic Summit. During this one-day summit, students, faculty, and staff from campuses across the state came together to build connections and create action plans for engaging students in the democratic process during the 2018 election cycle and beyond through voter registration, education on the meaning and importance of democracy, and voter participation.
Dear Reader,

I am delighted to share with you the first annual report produced by the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of the South. In doing so, we wish to highlight the work we have done with partnerships across the South Cumberland Plateau beyond. It has been a big year, and, indeed, a big four years since we officially formed the Office of Civic Engagement from elements of All Saints’ Chapel’s Outreach Program, the Community Engagement Office, and the Community-Engaged Learning programs, among other initiatives across the University. What has emerged from this dynamic collaboration is an amplified sense of cohesion and purpose—a commitment to strengthen collaborative relationships with our community partners.

Therefore, The Office of Civic Engagement’s Year in Review is centered on community partnerships. Ordered geographically, from local initiatives on the plateau and in the tri-county area to regional and global immersion experiences near and far, the report highlights the centrality of collaborative relationships in our work. The final pages of this report catalog our active community partnerships this academic year, offer data points to illustrate our work, and conclude with a roster of the talented staff in the Office of Civic Engagement.

I invite you to explore examples of our collaboration with community partners such as the Grundy County Sheriff’s Office, the Zammi Kafe (Partners in Coffee) cooperative of farmers in Haiti, and a cross-disciplinary group of University staff and faculty in the Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership program. Along the way, you will get a fuller sense of the co-curricular and curricular programs we create and administer with partners across and beyond the University to help fulfill the University’s commitment to prepare students for lives of achievement and service.

As the Office of Civic Engagement mission states, we seek to advance the well-being of our partner communities. Drawing on the time, talent, and passion of staff, faculty, students, and our community partners, we integrate academic inquiry with local knowledge and wisdom for the public good. More than just a choice, our commitment to this work emerges from the insight, paraphrasing environmental historian William Cronon, that wherever we live, we belong to communities whose prosperity and well-being are crucial to our own.

As you read this report, we invite you to consider ways we might work together to make a difference.

Sincerely,

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

The Office of Civic Engagement seeks to steward collaborative relationships across and beyond our own programs and the University to create common strategies and coordinate integrated activities with our local partners to achieve a common goal.

With that in mind, I am delighted to share with you the first annual report produced by the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of the South. In doing so, we wish to highlight the work we have done with partnerships across the South Cumberland Plateau beyond. It has been a big year, and, indeed, a big four years since we officially formed the Office of Civic Engagement from elements of All Saints’ Chapel’s Outreach Program, the Community Engagement Office, and the Community-Engaged Learning programs, among other initiatives across the University. What has emerged from this dynamic collaboration is an amplified sense of cohesion and purpose—a commitment to strengthen collaborative relationships with our community partners.

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Collaborating with Common Purpose: Successful Re-entry

It all started with a grant. A successful grant application submitted to SCCF in 2015 generated possibilities for a number of collaborations at the Grundy County Sheriff’s Office. The grant seeded a garden program at the Grundy County Jail that offered inmates the opportunity to grow their own food, and soon initiated a collaboration with the South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA program, a partnership between SCCF and the University of the South, to develop roofing and skill-building programs.

Grundy County Sheriff Clint Shrum and AmeriCorps VISTA member Dana Raach quickly grew re-entry programming at the jail and applied for additional grants. Before long, the jail became a strong example of community collaboration around a common purpose: strengthening returning citizens’ skills and resilience. Staff, faculty, and students from the University quickly got involved. Sewanee Dining’s Chef Rick Wright taught cooking classes using produce from the garden, and faculty offered lectures for inmates. Hilda Vaughan, both a former AmeriCorps VISTA member and dedicated volunteer, started Art Inc., a rehabilitative art program that has now exhibited participants’ work across the plateau community. As the program developed, multiple students, including Bonner Leader Graff Wilson, C’18, provided tutoring and assistance for further capacity building initiatives.

In three short years, the collaborative work at the jail has evolved into something more; something impactful. The jail continues to host an AmeriCorps VISTA member, and now employs a full-time staff member, Alicia Shadbolt, to coordinate a suite of re-entry programs including skills training, GED preparation, job training, gardening, and art and writing therapy. Partnerships with local companies have resulted in job placements for inmates, and the jail’s efforts to follow-up and assess re-entry programs have been strengthened.

Supported by collaborative efforts and the collective resources of community members, the jail’s robust re-entry programs have been designed to move the needle on reducing recidivism rates.

The Office of Civic Engagement seeks to steward collaborative relationships across and beyond our own programs and the University to create common strategies and coordinate integrated activities with our local partners to achieve a common goal.

“True community interactions, true community development comes not in silos but with different people with different skills and different ideas weaving together all of those gifts into a whole that is bigger than any one participant.”

Bonnie McCardell, co-chair of SCCF’s Community Development Committee
### Where We Work

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### Collaboration with the South Cumberland Community Fund

The Office of Civic Engagement strategically collaborates with the South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF), the South Cumberland Plateau’s first and only philanthropic organization, to build the capacity of local public and nonprofit institutions.

Established in 2012, SCCF’s mission is to improve the quality of life across the plateau by increasing philanthropic giving and providing community leadership. Both the Office of Civic Engagement and SCCF are committed to this mission. A unique partnership between the University and SCCF facilitates the South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA program and the Philanthropy Internship program—two initiatives housed in the Office of Civic Engagement and directed by Nicky Hamilton, director of community development for both the University and SCCF.

#### 2018 SCCF grantees and AmeriCorps VISTA members are recognized at the Celebration for the plateau held at Dubose Conference Center on July 1, 2018.

Inaugural Philanthropy Internship Cohort Celebrates Awards

At SCCF’s Know Your Worth Conference in October 2017, the inaugural cohort of six Philanthropy Internship Program students celebrated the second round of SCCF’s 2017 grants cycle by awarding grants to seven community nonprofits. After a semester’s study of philanthropy theory and experience shadowing SCCF’s grantmaking process, the interns evaluated proposals, discuss projects with community partners, and made recommendations to SCCF’s grants committee, comprised of local residents, who approved the awards.

The University’s Philanthropy Internship Program’s second cohort of eight students spent the 2018 Easter semester learning theories in philanthropy and shadowing interviews during SCCF’s first round of 2018 grant applicants. The same pool of organizations submitted grant applications to the Philanthropy Internship Program in August 2018.

Thanks to a generous contribution from an anonymous donor, students in the 2017 cohort distributed a total of $28,306 in grants to seven local organizations.

*The program has a big impact on the community as well as the students. *— NICKY HAMILTON, Community Development Director and director of the Philanthropy Internship Program

Kelly Arbuckle, C’19 (left), with Caroline McGillough of Tracy City Elementary School. Arbuckle is from Tracy City and a member of the inaugural, 2017 cohort of philanthropy interns.
AmeriCorps VISTA is a one-year service program dedicated to poverty alleviation in communities across the United States. The South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project is a collaborative partnership between the University of the South, SCCF, and the project’s community partners. The focus of the project is to help grow and strengthen communities through programs focused on education, economic development, and health.

The project’s objectives are to develop capacity and overall effectiveness of the project’s partner sites; to develop and implement useful resources and programs that benefit community members and residents throughout the project service area; to strengthen community connections between AmeriCorps VISTA project members and area residents through program outreach and implementation; and to provide AmeriCorps VISTA members with the opportunity for both professional and personal growth through community outreach, workshops, and conferences.

The plateau community welcomed the first group of eight AmeriCorps VISTA members in August 2014. The program now hosts 16 VISTA members who serve with 11 partner organizations across the South Cumberland Plateau.

BetterFi, an innovative lending program in the region, is a testament to the spirit of collaboration across the plateau. A three-year AmeriCorps VISTA Project at the University’s Babson Center for Global Commerce culminated in the first nonprofit corporation generated from the South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project. SCCF, the University, local organizations such as the Grundy County mayor’s office and the Rotary Club of Grundy County, along with community members, worked with the AmeriCorps VISTA Project to make BetterFi a reality. Tower Community Bank provided critical partnership and office space that allowed BetterFi to open its doors in Coalmount, Tennessee, in April 2018.

BetterFi was created in partnership with the University of the South’s Babson Center for Global Commerce, and spearheaded by former VISTA member Spike Hirsch, C’12. As a community development loan fund (CDLF), BetterFi prioritizes affordable and successful repayment of loans rather than profit maximization. Profit-maximizing, high-rate payday loans and car title loans are a $25 billion per year industry that routinely offers loans at annual interest rates of 200 or 300 percent, often to people in low-wealth communities. BetterFi recently began work with its first client from Winchester, Tennessee, saving the client nearly $3,500 by working to provide an alternative to a title loan.

AmeriCorps VISTA Project Highlight: Cumberland Teaching Gardens

The University Farm and AmeriCorps VISTA Project has partnered to support the Cumberland Teaching Gardens (CTG), a program dedicated to addressing food insecurity and cultivating knowledge through healthy food gardens. Led by Network Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA members Barbara Roberts and Ritchie Wai, CTG is made up of five gardens at schools, nonprofits, and government organizations across the plateau. Roberts and Wai work with local partners to offer gardening workshops, supplies, development support, and more.

BetterFi Launched from AmeriCorps VISTA Project

Academic Year Service Internships

The Office of Civic Engagement facilitates two academic-year internship programs, the Bonner Leader Program and the Canale Leadership and Service Internship Program. Both programs offer leadership training to students and connect them with partners on campus and in the local, tri-county area to address community-identified needs and build capacity.

The Bonner Leader Program, now in its sixth year at the University, is a four-year service and leadership program that seeks to foster community, leadership, and civic engagement among students and community partners. The Office of Civic Engagement supported 43 Bonner Leaders this academic year.

The Canale Leadership and Service Internship Program is a year-long service and leadership program. The Canale Program works to connect the passions of student applicants to community-identified needs, and engages interns with leadership trainings and other resources. The Office of Civic Engagement supported 11 Canale Interns this academic year.

Bonner Leaders and Canale Interns worked at 34 partner sites in the local, tri-county community this academic year.
This academic year, nine Bonner Leaders organized themselves in committees focused on admissions, accountability, curriculum and assessment, mentorship, programming, and emerging needs in the program. The Bonner Leadership Team (BLT) offered students in the Bonner Program the opportunity to take on new dimensions of leadership among their peers.

Together, the team developed new curriculum and workshops, worked to improve data collection and assessment in the program, interviewed prospective Bonner Leaders for the Class of 2022, and selected BLT representatives for next school year.

As part of the Bonner Leadership Team, James Jurgensen, C’18, played a key role in building the effectiveness of the OCE by developing curriculum for other Bonner Leaders and collecting data to assess the program.

Inclusivity in Action
Gender and Sex Diversity Awareness

Seniors
Crafting a Four-Year Digital Reflection
How to Find a Job or Graduate Program
Bridging the Divide: Civil Discourse
Digital Reflection Technical Skills
Transitioning Leadership: Parts 1 and 2
Public Speaking

Service Internship Project Highlights

Black Soldier Fly Project at the University Farm
To help combat food waste and speed up the composting process, Bonner Leader Chris Hornsby, C’19, developed the Black Soldier Fly Research Project with the University Farm, which seeks to use fly larvae in the composting process to cut back on the daily 500-pound waste load produced by McClurg Dining Hall.

Web Development for Community Partner Organizations
A team composed of Bonner Leaders and a Canale Intern offered web development support for five community partners near and far: Community Action Committee (a local food bank), Dutch Maid Bakery (a small, locally-owned bakery), Trench Town Culture Yard (an Outreach Trip partner in Jamaica), Grundy County Food Bank, and Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds (a faculty-led program on nutrition and exercise for local elementary schools).
As a sophomore, Chambers began developing the clinic’s patient assistance program, which helps patients apply for free medicines, and this year she effectively recruited volunteers for the renovation project and played a role in securing grant funding. Through her work, Chambers connected the Beersheba Springs community to student volunteers, the Bonner Leader program, and alumnus John Clark C’82, a Chattanooga-area real estate developer and founder of the Carpenter’s Fund, which supported the renovation process.

As part of her pre-health pathway at Sewanee, Chambers opted to intern at the clinic last summer through a program co-sponsored by the University’s Office of Medical and Health Programs and the Office of Civic Engagement. The program, along with the welcoming staff and familial atmosphere at the clinic, helped confirm Chambers’ interest in rural medicine. Next year, Chambers will be completing classes required for medical school while she applies to programs focused on rural medicine.

“As a Bonner, my priority has always been the Clinic. Beyond classes, I’ve always thought there was something bigger to engage with while at Sewanee,” Chambers says. Summing up what she has learned, she says, “What makes a good doctor is realizing people are human and have stories.”

Building on the successful clinic renovation, SCGF has awarded the clinic a grant to purchase dental equipment which will make possible much needed free dental services in Grundy County.

Emmie Chambers, C’18, in the building she helped transform into a new wing of the Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic.

Sam Seawell (front) with some of his fraternity brothers who helped clean up ATO Spring.

Supporting Student Neighbors

Service and philanthropy are a key part of the Greek experience at Sewanee. Greeks often go far above and beyond the individual chapter’s service requirements to be good student neighbors. The Office of Civic Engagement serves as an advisor to Sewanee’s Greek community by collaborating with Inter-Sorority and Inter-Fraternity Councils to foster long-term partnerships with local organizations.

Signature Partnerships Highlights

Lambda Chi Alpha and Folks at Home

Lambda Chi Alpha demonstrated the ideals of Greek brotherhood by partnering with Folks at Home. This partnership started through an alumni brother, John Canfield, C’16, serving with Folks at Home as a AmeriCorps VISTA. What began as a one-time group service project raking leaves has grown into a relationship with a neighbor on the Mountain. Lambda has decided to continue working with Folks at Home and has signed a contract in order to keep the tradition going. This partnership is a new avenue for direct work with people on and around the Mountain, allowing Lambdas to be good student neighbors for years to come.

Kappa Omega and Sewanee Hearts and Grocery Carts

This year marked the fourth annual Sewanee Hearts and Grocery Carts event. In 2015, Kappa Omega created the project and developed their partnership with Community Action Committee (CAC). The event involves a silent auction, a raffle, arts and crafts, and lots of food all to support CAC.

This year, the sisters of Kappa Omega raised $1,100 for ongoing initiatives at CAC. Kappa Omega keeps in touch with their CAC neighbors throughout the year. Members meet with Betty Carpenter, director of the CAC, to learn about community-identified needs and develop collaborative initiatives such as unloading food deliveries or a Christmas-themed babysitting event at Otey Parish for community children.

Phi Kappa Epsilon and the Halloween Children’s Concert

The collaboration between the sisters of Phi Kappa Epsilon and Sewanee Symphony Orchestra to bring music education to the plateau continued into its fifth year. Through the Halloween Children’s Concert, 500 students from seven elementary and middle schools gained exposure to scores from adventure movies such as Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest. The concert was an example of how compelling experiences can build community among neighbors, and multiplied impact through strategic partnerships that brought together local schools, the Greek community, the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and the South Cumberland Community Fund.
In Bois Joli and another community, Morne Michele, Myers traveled to Haiti in March 2018 as part of a group of 18 students and staff to create a nursery for coffee seedlings and shade trees in the mountain region of Bois Joli. The project was the next element of Sewanee in Haiti’s seven-year partnership with a collective of coffee farmers called Zanmi Kafe, or Partners in Coffee.

In Bois Joli and another community, Morne Michele, the Green Fee simultaneously offsets the University’s carbon footprint and offers income to Haitian farmers. Carbon payments to coffee farmers also incentivize a diverse array of fruit trees and plants, including coffee, mango, and banana, that can all be cultivated for market. These Green Fee–supported ecosystems are yielding their first crop of coffee this season.

The crop now needs a destination. While coffee is a morning staple in Haiti, it is also a major export, and one of the best bets as a boon to the country’s ecology and economy. The collaborative of farmers and agronomists in Bois Joli have formed a partnership with Singing Rooster, a coffee company based in Port au Prince and Madison, Wisconsin, that is working to strengthen small farmer collectives in Haiti. Now, these efforts will bring Haitian coffee to mugs in Sewanee very soon.

In the summer of 2018, Sewanee student interns from the College, including Chris Hornsby, C’19, aided farmers’ efforts. “The summer research season is where we really explore different aspects of economic and agricultural development, as well as the dynamics of a rural agrarian community.”

Chris Hornsby, C’19

“The summer research season is where we really explore different aspects of economic and agricultural development, as well as the dynamics of a rural agrarian community.”

Over the fall, winter, and spring breaks, students traveled across the country and globe on one of seven Outreach Trips. These trips were led by a combination of staff and experienced student leaders during this past academic year. Locations included Houston, Texas; Kingston, Jamaica; Miami, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Montereverde, Costa Rica; Quito, Ecuador; and various locations in Haiti including Bois Joli and Cange.

Outreach Trip programs are designed to give students a deep understanding of a place by becoming another link in a long term relationship with local community partners. On these programs, students come to understand multiple senses of community: a community of partners, a community among trip participants, and engaging global citizenship through specific community partnerships.

Student preparation for outreach trips begin on campus with curriculum and group discussion on both the places and social issues to be encountered on the trips. A post-trip reflection process focuses on integrating participants’ experiences into academic work, vocational discernment, and personal life. Through study, reflection, and sustained engagement, students engage with partner communities and direct service with the posture of active learners.

Seventy-seven students participated in outreach trips to five countries this academic year.

Hurricane Harvey Relief: Houston Outreach Trip

Over the University of the South’s fall break, 13 students traveled to Houston, Texas, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas to assist with restoration from the damage done by Hurricane Harvey. In a whirlwind weekend, the students traveled through six states, over 1,600 miles, and put in two days of renovation work for a family that was impacted by the storm’s flooding. The group also spent time hearing first-hand accounts of the storm and its aftermath from Texans. These stories inspired the students to squeeze an impressive amount of renovation work into a short period of time and they left with full hearts and new friends, including a number of Sewanee alumni and family who provided meals and places to stay.
2018 Summer Internship Highlights

**Tennessee Justice Center**
Loring McDonald, C’19, is working in policy advocacy at the Tennessee Justice Center (TJC) in Nashville, Tennessee. The TJC is dedicated to advocating for laws and public policies that advance human dignity.

**Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation**
Peter Bahr, C’20, is participating in an international internship with Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation in Kampala, Uganda. The foundation is dedicated to supporting religious leaders who are affected by HIV, and seeks to alleviate the HIV crisis through youth empowerment.

**USDA Summer Meal and Reading Initiative**
The AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate program partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) summer meal program and multiple reading and enrichment programs across the plateau. With more than 13 million kids in America living in food insecure homes, the summer meal program offers meals and enrichment programs for local kids. The State of Tennessee’s Read to Be Ready program engages Summer VISTAs in work with local teachers to create reading activities for students that address the “summer slide” and improve at-grade-level reading ability. Research has shown that reading at-grade-level by the end of third grade strongly increases students’ thinking, problem-solving, and lifelong learning capacity.

“It is definitely very rewarding to see the progress kids are making and the difference this program makes in their lives. The kids are reading more often on their own and showing a lot more confidence in their abilities.”
Coralie Chu, 2018 VISTA Summer Associate

Where We Serve: Summer Internship Sites by Location (Local, Regional, International)

**Local**
- AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate Program (14 Various Locations)
- Folks At Home (South Cumberland Plateau Medical Internship (3 Various Sites))
- Tennessee Justice Center
- Thistle Farms
- New Haven Farms

**Regional**
- Nashville International Center for Empowerment
- Accenture
- New Haven Farms

**International**
- Sewanee in Haiti (Various Internships)
- New Ashongman Community Hospital (Accra, Ghana)
- Zanzibar Heritage Center (Zanzibar, Tanzania)
- The AIDS Support Organization (Smta, Romania)

History, Arts and Culture at the Epicenter of Reggae: Jamaica Outreach Trip

The 2018 Winter Outreach Trip to Jamaica built on years of work with partners in the Trench Town Culture Yard and brought Kansas City-based artist Phil Shafer to Jamaica to lead a mural project in the yard focused on community literacy and tourism development. Shafer collaborated with Jamaica-based artist Alek Geerings and partners in the Culture Yard to design a 12- by 200-foot mural that reflects a piece of history and displays a slice of contemporary life in Trench Town and Jamaica at large. Shafer, along with lead assistant Curtis Johnson, C’14, trip leader Dixon Myers, and student participants spent the majority of the trip painting the mural.

“Working with partners near and far, Canale Summer Civic Engagement Interns develop their capacities to work collaboratively with others for social good. Forty-one Summer Civic Engagement Internships were sponsored by the Office of Civic Engagement in 2018 at 24 sites. Eighteen of these internships served as VISTA summer associates on the plateau.”

“Through my internship, I’ve been able to serve as a bridge between citizens and policy makers with the goal of helping to make Tennessee a just, inclusive, and compassionate home for all.”
—Loring McDonald, C’19

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Starting in the Easter 2018 semester, 12 students began working toward a new certificate combining community development theory and practice to enhance their work for social good. The new Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership offers students the opportunity to learn the Social Change Model of Leadership Development (SCM) and uses an interdisciplinary lens to better understand social issues.

Through two tracks—one in community health and one in politics, economics, and development—the Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership integrates students’ experience in a significant internship with in-classroom theory and reflection which culminates in an applied capstone project. Jim Peterman, director of the program, says “these courses will give students the academic tools for developing their understanding of social issues they encounter in their internships. Students’ understanding of these issues and of promising solutions require them to understand problems from multiple disciplinary perspectives.”

Along the way, students are encouraged to continually reflect and act as they work with community partners. First year Bonner Leader, Will Priest, C’21, found that his work through the Bonner Program at the CAC, a local food bank located at Otey Parish, was enhanced by the course. He says, “I became more prepared for hands-on work in Sewanee and more importantly for a lifetime of civic awareness and action.”

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“Leadership begins with understanding that every gathering is an opportunity to deepen accountability through engagement.”

—Peter Block in Community: The Structure of Belonging

Understanding the complexities of human life and addressing the social issues communities face through the curriculum cannot be done through any one discipline alone. Enhancing students’ understanding of the issues they encounter and of promising solutions to them requires an interdisciplinary approach. Moreover, collaboration with community partners is key to integrating academic inquiry with local knowledge to advance the common good.

“Through the Introduction to Civic and Global Leadership course, I became more prepared for hands-on work in Sewanee and more importantly for a lifetime of civic awareness and action.”

Will Priest, C’21

ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Activating the Liberal Arts: Launching the Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership

“Two key social change model principles are that 1) leadership is not positional, it is an inclusive process, and that 2) authentic collaboration among individuals and groups is needed to drive sustainable positive change. Students who seriously study the model gain a deep understanding of these principles and how to work with others to make a real difference in their communities.”

—Karen Proctor, Special Assistant to the Provost and Introduction to Civic and Global Leadership teaching faculty

Introduction to Civic and Global Leadership Key Texts

Leadership for a Better World: Understanding the Social Change Model of Leadership
Susan Komives, Wendy Wagner, et al.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City
Matthew Desmond

“Homelessness in Harvard Square: Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration in Action”
from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

Community: The Structure of Belonging
Peter Block

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
James Agee and Walker Evans

“Framing Responsibility for Political Issues: The Case of Poverty”
Shanto Iyengar

“Promoting and Protecting Mental Health as Flourishing”
Corey Keyes

Development as Freedom
Amartya Sen

“Leadership begins with understanding that every gathering is an opportunity to deepen accountability through engagement.”

—Peter Block in Community: The Structure of Belonging

From the bestselling author of来源于 and《Finding Freedom》

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Engaging the Classroom with the Community

Community Engaged Learning Courses
Fifteen community-engaged learning courses were offered during the 2017–2018 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.

EDUC 203: Instructional Technology; Digital Literacy and Learning, Tina Barnes (Easter)
EDUC 205: Introduction to Environmental Education, Daniel Carter (Advent and Easter)
EDUC 226: Teaching Children’s Literature, Emily Herman (Easter)
EDUC 265: Introduction to Special Education, Teresa Wiseman (Advent)
EDUC 341: Methods and Materials of Teaching, Paige Hill (Advent and Easter)
ENST 304: Community Development and Place in Rural Appalachia, Daniel Carter (Easter)
PHIL 235: Bioethics, Jim Peterson (Advent)
PSYC 230: Child, Family, and Community Development in Rural Appalachia, Karen Yu and Linda Mayes (Advent)

2017-2018 Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows

Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows
This academic year, five Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows in three academic departments worked to give students the opportunity to enhance their learning through community engagement. The fellows spent the year attending professional development on civic engagement pedagogy, receiving personalized advising, building connections with community partners, and crafting course offerings that link classroom learning with hands-on experiences in the community to promote social good. During the 2017–2018 academic year, five Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows in three academic departments worked to give students the opportunity to enhance their learning through community engagement. Five additional fellows have been approved for the 2018–2019 academic year.

2018-2019 Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows
Professor Mark Hopwood, Philosophy
Through a course in the Philosophy Department, University students will teach philosophy in local schools.

Professor Greg Pond, Art, Art History, and Visual Studies
Through ART 349, Community Engagement and Creative Practice: Investigating the Highlander Folk School Through Art, students will produce an exhibition and publication that examines the various sites, histories, and impacts of the Highlander Folk School.

Professor Karl Watson, Environmental Studies
Professor Karl Watson will work with students to research the connection between sense of place and human wellness in a rural context.

Professor Russell Fielding, Environmental Studies
Students will collect survey data on the average adult diet in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. This information will be used anonymously to gauge exposure to health risks related to the presence of environmental contaminants in locally produced foods.

Professor Andrew Thompson, School of Theology
Through CEMT 560: Environmental Ethics, School of Theology, students will develop curricular projects for elementary school students using Sewanee Elementary School’s Nature Trail.

Westwood Elementary School in neighboring Manchester, Tennessee, to tutor and mentor Hispanic elementary school students and their families while reflecting on theoretical and cultural texts on displacement.

Between 2017-2018, Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows in three academic departments worked to give students the opportunity to enhance their learning through community engagement. Five additional fellows have been approved for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Arts, Andy Thompson (Easter, School of Theology)
Data Appendix

Working with the South Cumberland Community Fund, the inaugural Philanthropy Internship cohort distributed $28,306 to 7 community organizations in October 2017.

15 AmeriCorps VISTA members currently serve with 11 partner organizations across the South Cumberland Plateau through programs focused around education, economic development, and health. 29,774 hours were served by these AmeriCorps VISTA members from April 2017–April 2018. $344,548.27 in grants, monetary gifts, and in-kind donations was leveraged by AmeriCorps VISTA members on behalf of local organizations from April 2017–April 2018.

The University Farm and AmeriCorps VISTA program have partnered to support 5 Cumberland Teaching Gardens across the plateau that address food insecurity while cultivating knowledge by growing healthy food.

The Office of Civic Engagement facilitates 2 academic-year internship programs, the Bonner Leader Program and the Canale Leadership and Service Internship Program.

The Office of Civic Engagement supported 43 Bonner Leaders and 11 Canale Interns during the 2017–2018 academic year.

Bonner Leaders and Canale Interns worked at 34 partner sites in the local, tri-county community this academic year.

Bonner Leaders and Canale Interns recruited an estimated 544 volunteers to perform 4,703 volunteer hours for partner organizations.

As part of the Grants for Capacity Building Program, leaders in the Bonner and Canale programs applied for and leveraged a total of $5,590.57 in grant funding at 8 local organizations.

9 Bonner Leaders took on a new dimension of work in the program, forming the Bonner Leadership Team this year.

25 workshops on leadership and professionalism were offered to Bonner Leaders and Canale Interns this year.

A team of service interns built or updated websites for 8 community organizations during the 2017–2018 school year.

77 students participated in 7 Outreach Trips to 5 countries over fall, winter and spring breaks this year. This summer (2018), 41 summer civic engagement interns are working collaboratively for social good with organizations near and far. 18 of these interns worked as VISTA Summer Associates with the USDA Summer Meal Program and multiple reading and enrichment programs across the plateau.

In the Easter 2018 semester, 12 students began a Certificate in Civic and Global Leadership, combining community development theory and practice to enhance their work for social good.

15 Community-Engaged Learning courses were offered during the 2017–2018 academic year across a variety of departments and disciplines.

This academic year, 5 Civic Engagement Faculty Fellows in 3 academic departments worked to give students the opportunity to enhance their learning through community engagement. 5 additional fellows have been approved for the upcoming year.

The Office of Civic Engagement supported partnerships with 103 different community organizations this year.

An estimated 78 percent of University students participated in service and philanthropy efforts as part of a fraternity or sorority this year.

Our Partners

We thank our community partners:

Accenture
The AIDS Support Organization
All In Campus Democracy Challenge
American Red Cross
Animal Harbor
Appalachian Women’s Guild
Basson Center for Global Commerce
Baptist Church in Tulahoma, Tennessee
Beersheba Spring Medical Clinic
Blue Monarch
Bonner Leaders Program
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention
Chattanooga Area Food Bank
Civic Tennesse
Cloud Forest School
Coastal Elementary Act/IV
Community Action Committee
Community Engagement House
Coral Gables High School
Cowen Elementary School
Cub Scouts of America
Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace
Cumberland Plateau Medical Internship
Dyer Elementary School
Department of Education
Diabetes Prevention Program
Discover Together
Ducks Unlimited
English as a Second Language (ESL)
Folk and Friends
Food With Friends
Franklin County Election Commission
Friends of Canaan Eden Foundation
Fundraising for Rohingya Refugees
Girl Scouts
Girls for a Change
Grundy County Food Bank
Grundy County Health Council
Grundy County Mayor’s Office
Grundy County Sheriff’s Office
Grundy County Zumba
Grundy Safe Communities Coalition
Hacienda El Refugio
Hallowen Children’s Concert
Housing Sewanne
Hurricane Harvey Fundraiser
Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative
Juvenile Diabetes Research Facility
Knights of Columbus
Lower Nine
Make a Difference Day
Makerere University and John Hopkins
Macon County Task Force
Mantle Elementary School
Mason Memorial Food Ministry
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Mountain TOP
Nashville International Center for Empowerment
Networks Romania
New Ashongman Community Hospital
New Haven Farms
New Life
North Elementary School Act/IV
Partners for Healing
Partners in Agriculture (Zanni Agro)
Partners in Health (Zanni Lasante)
Pelah Elementary School Act/IV (ACE)
Project Linus
Puppy Kisses
Rape Crisis Center of Chattanooga
Richard Hardy Elementary School

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Our Staff

As we begin the 2018—2019 academic year, Office of Civic Engagement staff include:

Jim Peterman, Director
Nicky Hamilton, Senior Associate Director
Dustin Meyers, Associate Director
Robin Hille Michaels, Assistant Director
Kai Koopman, Office Coordinator
Sharron Bockman, Post-baccalaureate Fellow for Student Programming and Office Support

Our South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTAs Members
As of June 2018, AmeriCorps VISTA members include:

Sarah Hess, VISTA Leader
Douglas Tuers, VISTA Leader
Corrinne Todd, Systems and Programs Coordinator at Folks at Home
Evelyn Ahnrud, Family Engagement Coordinator at Grundy County Board of Education
Caroline Bell, Attendance Coordinator at Grundy County Board of Education
Caroline Todd, Health Ambassador Coordinator at Grundy County Health Council
Jim Gass, Economic Development Coordinator at Grundy County Mayor’s Office
Tim Moser, Re-Entry and Rehabilitation Coordinator at Grundy County Sheriff’s Office
Emily Senefeld, Grundy Safe Communities Coalition Outreach Coordinator at Grundy Safe Communities Coalition
Audrey Valli, Housing Coalition Coordinator at Mountain T.O.P
Christian LeGrand, SCCF Communications and Fund Development Coordinator
Adele McAllister, SCCF Grant and Nonprofit Management Coordinator
Emily Heid, Specialty Crop Economic Development Coordinator at the University Farm
Barbara Roberts, Cumberland Teaching Garden Network Coordinator at the University Farm
Ritchie Wai, Aquaponics Economic Development Analyst at the University Farm

2017–2018 Student Staff

Many thanks to our outstanding student staff for the 2017–2018 academic year.

Bonner Leader Program Senior Interns
Sharron Bockman, C’18
James Jurgensen, C’18
Abbie Warr, C’19

Office of Civic Engagement Work Study Students
Hadley Montgomery, C’18
Evans Ousley, C’18
Kelsey Arbuckle, C’19
Abby Strassle, C’20

“Our work, our partners, our staff.”

“One place comprehended can make us understand other places better.” —Eudora Welty