



COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Community-Engaged Experiences

What are Community-Engaged Experiences?

Community-engaged experiences are ones that take place in and with communities. They are an opportunity for students to combine their diverse expertise and skills with teams of faculty, staff, peers, and community members to address global issues and help build a more sustainable, just, and collaborative future. These partnerships can lead to research, teaching, learning, and leadership opportunities that can have a great impact on individuals and communities. Students interested in pursuing meaningful work that aims to improve lives by exploring and shaping human connections to natural, social and built environments are encouraged to participate in these experiences. (Definition adapted from the David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement)

Community-engaged experiences can look different depending on the project or program, but they all share four important criteria. They:

- Address a specific community interest, problem or public concern;
- Include working with and learning from a community partner;
- Connect & integrate community-engaged experiences with educational content
- Include structured, documented critical reflection.

Scan here for
access to URLs and
additional resources:



Experiences at Cornell

David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement <https://einhorn.cornell.edu/>

The David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engaged Learning at Cornell is dedicated to advancing community-engaged learning and public service across the university. Combining the Office of Engagement Initiatives (OEI) and the Public Service Center (PSC), the center opens new pathways for Cornellians to embrace the university's land-grant mission to improve lives in New York state, across the nation, and around the world.

Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research <https://bctr.cornell.edu/>

The Bronfenbrenner Center fosters research to understand and discover solutions to human problems across multiple levels of analysis (individual, interpersonal, community, organizational, governmental), as well as to identify, evaluate, and disseminate evidence-based and cost-efficient practices and programs.

Community-Engaged Learning Courses at Cornell <https://oei.cornell.edu/courses/>

In community-engaged learning courses, students go beyond the classroom to connect theory and practice. They collaborate with communities — in Ithaca and around the globe — to design, implement and evaluate real solutions to real problems. These rigorous courses are as dynamic as their fields of study and challenge students to grow as global citizens. List of courses in CHE: <https://bit.ly/3l279jv>

Community-Engaged Learning and Leadership Programs

- Foundations of Community-Engaged Learning <https://oei.cornell.edu/program/foundations-of-cel/>
- Certificate in Community-Engaged Leadership <https://oei.cornell.edu/program/certificate-in-engaged-leadership/>
- Engaged Ambassadors <https://oei.cornell.edu/program/engaged-ambassadors/>
- PRYDE Scholars <https://pryde.bctr.cornell.edu/>
- Global Health Minor (Experiential Learning Opportunity) <https://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/academics/undergraduateminors/global>
- Global Health Student Advisory Board <https://cornell.campusgroups.com/ghsab/home/>
- Gerontology Minor
- Education Minor

Research Opportunities

- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Affect & Cognition Lab (Brain Days) <https://aclab.human.cornell.edu/>
- Leak Research Group <https://www.tasharaleak.com/>
- Fig Lab <https://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/research/profiles/groups/figueroa>
- Health Design Innovations Lab (HDIL) <https://www.hdil.human.cornell.edu/>
- Wells Lab <https://wellslab.human.cornell.edu/>
- Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research <https://bctr.cornell.edu/projects/>
 - Project 2Gen (CCE, Policy) <http://2gen.bctr.cornell.edu/>
 - PRYDE Scholars <https://pryde.bctr.cornell.edu/>

Clubs/Extracurriculars

- Service Fraternities
 - Alpha Phi Omega (co-ed service) <http://www.apogamma.org/>
 - Alpha Iota Gamma (co-ed healthcare) <https://airgammachapter.com/>
- Ithaca Health Initiative <https://www.instagram.com/ihicornell/?hl=en>
- Splash <https://cornell.learningu.org/teach/index.html>
- Patient-Centered, Advocacy Team (PCAT) <https://experience.cornell.edu/opportunities/person-centered-advocacy-team-pcat>
- Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD) <https://cusd.cornell.edu/>
- Cornell University Women's Health Initiative (CUWHI) <https://www.thecuwhi.org/>

Fellowships/Internships

CHE + The Center for Discovery Summer Internship

Student interns will join a project that is a partnership between two (or more) mentors, based in CHE and at The Center for Discovery (TCFD). TCFD, located in Harris, New York, is a major research and specialty center that offers residential, medical and special education programs as well as world-class Music and Creative Arts Therapy, Adapted Physical Education, and a biodynamic agricultural program among other unique services. Interns who will participate in hands-on activities will complete TCFD's 40-hour orientation training along with various NYS requirements such as finger printing and drug testing. Interns will receive a stipend of \$5,000 for approximately 240 hours of work over the course of the summer. This internship is designed as an immersive community-engaged experience and interns will spend the summer in residence at The Center for Discovery's campus in Harris, NY. Housing, at no cost to the intern, will be provided by TCFD.

<https://www.human.cornell.edu/engagement/engaged-college-initiative/engaged-undergrad-summer-internships>

Move for America Fellowship

The Move for America Fellowship Program is a paid, immersive learning experience for emerging leaders to move across America's cultural, political, and geographic fault lines to live, learn, and serve. Fellows will serve in community-based organizations, build relationships, and learn about their host town. They will participate in professional development sessions, peer mentorship, and complete a capstone project designed to build the skills and habits to bridge divides through youth engagement.

<https://www.move4america.org/fellowship#:~:text=The%20Move%20for%20America%20Fellowship,learn%20about%20their%20host%20town>

Lead for America Fellowship

Lead For America aims to build a leadership force of our nation's most outstanding young leaders, committed to serving the places they call home and stitching our country back together by building bridges across lines of difference. They believe that there is common ground, mutual respect, and even friendship to be found through shared commitment to place and to service.

<https://leadforamerica.pinpointhq.com/jobs/33188>

Teach for America

Teach For America is a diverse network of leaders who confront educational inequity by teaching for at least two years and then working with unwavering commitment from every sector of society to create a nation free from this

injustice. They recruit outstanding and diverse leaders to become TFA “corps members.” Corps members commit to teaching for two years in a low-income community, where they’re employed by local schools and confront both the challenges and joys of expanding opportunities for kids.

<https://www.teachforamerica.org/>

Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is a service opportunity for motivated changemakers to immerse themselves in a community abroad, working side by side with local leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges of our generation. The Peace Corps Volunteer program is a chance to fully integrate into a host country community, where you will live and work on projects ranging from education to business development.

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension Summer Internships

From food and nutrition to economic vitality to environmental and social resilience, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is dedicated to improving lives across New York state. CCE connects communities with Cornell University research from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and the College of Human Ecology (CHE) to enrich and empower New York state neighbors, local businesses, towns and cities.

<https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/join-us/cce-summer-internship-program>

Careers/Companies

Cooperative Extensions

Cooperative extensions exist in each state and use research knowledge to improve the lives of the communities around them. Various jobs involving research, education, program coordination, and more are available at each state’s Cooperative Extension. For a list of Cooperative Extensions: <https://nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory?state=All&type=Extension>

NIMHD Community Based Participatory Research

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Community-Based Participatory Research Program (CBPR) supports collaborative interventions that involve scientific researchers and community members to address diseases and conditions disproportionately affecting health disparity populations.

Recognizing the strength of each partner, scientific researchers across multiple disciplines and community members collaborate on all aspects of the project, which may include a needs assessment, planning, research intervention design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of community-level interventions.

<https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/programs/extramural/community-based-participatory.html>

ideas42

ideas42 is a non-profit that relies on behavior science research to create innovative solutions to tough problems in economic mobility, health, education, consumer finance, and more.

<https://www.ideas42.org/>

Funding for Community-Engaged Experiences

Alan D. Mathios Research and Service Grant (up to \$2,000, fall or spring)

The Alan D. Mathios Research and Service Grant funds undergraduate Human Ecology students’ research and service activities that further the mission of the college to improve lives by exploring and shaping human connections to natural, social and built environments. The Human Ecology Alumni Association (HEAA) awards these grants bi-annually to qualified students in the College of Human Ecology, and funds proposals that extend Alan Mathios’ legacy of visionary leadership and service in one or more of the following ways:

- Benefiting communities (Cornell, Ithaca, New York City and others);
- Exploring innovative and/or creative solutions to problems;
- Rigorously testing relationships between activities and their effects/impact;
- Disseminating knowledge that can improve living conditions, quality of life and/or health and well-being;
- Promoting diversity and educating against intolerance

For more information: <https://www.human.cornell.edu/studentlife/heaagrants>

Certificate in Community-Engaged Leadership

Participating in the community-engaged leadership program is an opportunity to build on your interests and apply your experiences (from courses to extracurricular activities) to the program to develop the skills you need to be a community-engaged leader. Both the individual and group community-engaged leadership programs culminate in a certificate. Each integrates community-engaged learning, leadership education, and critical reflection. Earning the certificate takes approximately one year, depending on when you plan to complete your community-engaged leadership project, and is open to undergraduates from any school/college, and graduate/professional students who are working with undergrads. As of spring 2022, this program has been placed on pause. Please refer to <https://einhorn.cornell.edu/students/> for updates on their leadership program.

CHE Alumni Sponsored Funding (up to \$4,000)

The Human Ecology Internship Funding is designed to aid students' participation in unpaid or minimally paid career related summer experiences. This does not apply to credit bearing programs. The funding is meant to help students who would not otherwise be able to take on this type of opportunity.

CHE Summer Research Stipend (\$5,000)

Human Ecology students who will participate in research with Human Ecology faculty members in the summer are invited to apply for a limited number of \$5,000 stipends. Students and faculty members must apply jointly. The selection process is competitive. The stipend provides for the student's own support while completing 8 weeks of full-time research supervised by a Human Ecology faculty member. Concurrent enrollment in summer courses is not permitted.

For more information: <https://www.human.cornell.edu/research/undergraduate/summer-stipends#:~:text=The%20College%20of%20Human%20Ecology,mentors%20must%20both%20submit%20applications>.

CHE Engaged Student Experience Awards (up to \$1,000)

This fund supports students who are participating in any type of community-based research activities or community-engaged learning projects that meet the following criteria:

- Need. Your project is responding to a community-identified need.
- Partner. You are working with and learning from community partner(s).
- Connection. Your project connects (and integrates) engaged experiences with your disciplinary learning.
- Reflection. You will participate in critical reflection on your engaged experiences.

These grants are intended to support students participating in any of the following: course-based engagement activities, team-based learning and research projects, individual community-engaged projects (including programs, internships or research), mentored internships, and team-based consulting projects.

For more information: <https://www.human.cornell.edu/engagement/engaged-college-initiative/engaged-student-experience-awards>

Examples of Past Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Approved Projects

- Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Project: constructing a multi-use building to be used year-round at Camp Comstock along Cayuga Lake
- Collaboration Holy Trinity Music School in Haiti & Cornell Wind Symphony to perform in Haiti
- Researching improvement of SNAP participants' fruit and vegetable intake and house-hold food security through a farmers' market incentive program in Western New York
- Designing and conducting surveys in rural areas to evaluate the feasibility of alternative housing and electricity technologies