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A message from the Director

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Rochester Center for Community Leadership engaged more than 4,700 students, 80 faculty members, and 200 community partners (includes duplicate involvement). It supported more than 29 faculty members who taught 40 community-engaged courses enrolling over 1,800 students. Undergraduate students in the College recorded over 4,100 hours of community service through their student organization involvement; this complements more than 53,000 hours of community engagement made possible through RCCL’s coordinated programs. These efforts benefitted more than 35,000 community members, and generated more than $565,000 in cash and in-kind resources for the community.

On behalf of the staff of the Center, I’m pleased to share this report, which provides an overview of our programs and operations for the year. Among the highlights:

• The Center completed the elaboration of a three-year strategic plan, which identifies three priority areas: increasing awareness of the Center and its mission; improving the strategic positioning of the Center relative to other departments on campus; and increasing trust in community partnerships. The Center simultaneously contributed to strategic planning for the College and the University. As a result, I was asked by President Richard Feldman to co-chair a working group to prepare the University’s application for the Carnegie Foundation’s elective classification in community engagement. This process will continue through the coming year.

• The Center assumed an advisory role for the Handler Scholars, in order to support and promote their leadership development and engagement with the community, particularly at East Upper and Lower Schools.
The Center oversaw the sixth, triennial administration of the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership, and worked closely with the College’s director of educational effectiveness and staff in other departments to devise custom questions and to prepare for analysis and dissemination of the results in the coming year.

The Center received reports from its participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, which indicated that 78% of eligible students registered to vote in the 2016 election cycle, and 51% actually cast votes in the election. Both numbers represent an increase from the 2012 election, and place the University slightly above average compared to other US colleges and universities that participate in the study.

The Center hosted two events during Meliora Weekend 2017, including a departmental open house featuring a talk by Andrew Cutillo ’13 about his experience working in the White House, as well as a separate talk by alumnus Josh Shapiro ’95, who serves as attorney general of Pennsylvania. More than 200 people attended these events.

The Center orchestrated support from the Office of Global Engagement and the College to support a delegation of seven students to attend the University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, in August, 2018, convened by the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs and the Thai Ministry of Education.

In response to a request from the Monroe County Election Commissioners, the Center formulated a plan to reinstate the Monroe County Election Fellows program, which was successfully piloted in 2010-2011 with the support of a federal grant. The program will recruit, train and mobilize students to serve as poll workers with the Board of Elections on Election Day, in partnership with the Board and six other area colleges.
The Center achieved these outcomes through the efforts of 6.5 professional staff, 1.5 support staff, 16 AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with Rochester Youth Year, three graduate student assistants, and more than 80 undergraduate students employed by the Center. Staff served on more than 20 committees across the Office of the Dean of Students, the College, the University, and in the community.

The annual budget for the Center totaled $1,021,409, an increase of 18.6% from fiscal year 2017. Of this amount, 48% was from University operating accounts; 41% derived from federal grants; 2% was from gifts; and 9% came from contracts and cost-sharing arrangements.

As an alumnus of the College and a member of the community, it gives me great satisfaction and pride to be a part of fostering educational innovation at the University, strengthening our community and creating transformational change locally and globally. I offer heartfelt appreciation to all who help to make that possible: students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, funders, University leadership, and community partners. Meliora!

Glenn Cerosaletti
Assistant Dean of Students
Director, Rochester Center for Community Leadership
Who we are

The Rochester Center for Community Leadership is a unit in the Office of the Dean of Students at the University of Rochester. Through our programs and initiatives, we engaged over 4,700 students, 80 faculty members, and 200 community partners during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Our programs serve students from their first week on campus to after graduation. Through political engagement, days of service, fellowship programs, academic coursework, mentoring experiences, and national service, we provide students with meaningful opportunities to connect with others and learn from those relationships and leadership experiences. We empower students to be responsible and intentional agents of change working collaboratively alongside any community they encounter in the future.

We foster collaborative leadership among students, the University, and community partners to discover transformative solutions and create equitable social change.

The College’s communal principles of fairness, freedom, honesty, inclusion, respect, and responsibility are prevalent in all that we do.

Glenn Cerosaletti, Assistant Dean & Director
Ed Feldman, Associate Director
Lauren Caruso, Assistant Director
Abigail Deacon, Assistant Director
Mary Beth Spinelli, Program Manager
Alissa Clark, Program Coordinator
Erin Murphy, Leadership Training Coordinator
Elizabeth AlFayad, Operations Manager
Rachel Theisen, Operations Assistant
Christina Mortellaro, AmeriCorps VISTA Leader

STUDENT EMPLOYEES
Kavya Bana
Shingirai Dhoro
Isaiah Evans
Lindsey Feigenbaum
Aisha Mohamed
Melissa Rusnica
Brianna Terrell
Ori Yehezkely
Community-Engaged Learning

Community-engaged learning (C-EL) provides a structured approach to learning and teaching that incorporates meaningful experiences in the community to enhance academics, personal growth, and civic identity. Community-engaged learning enriches coursework by helping students to apply the knowledge and analytic tools gained in the classroom to pressing issues affecting communities, both locally and globally.

Students learn foundational approaches to their area of study and engage in academically rigorous work. Academic material includes course content, discipline-specific theories and frameworks, and research. Engagement includes activities in the community that are connected to academic material and that come from community-identified needs, interests, and assets. Structured reflection activities allow students to put their experiences in context and to achieve a critical understanding of them.

Critical reflection enables students to understand who they are as individuals, what they already know, what they need to learn, and how to learn it. It also allows them to discover how the world works, to find their place in it, and their responsibility to it.
PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

- Provided three Course Development Grants to faculty in the Dance & Movement, Political Science, and Public Health departments to create three new community-engaged courses
- Awarded the first cohort of scholars with their transcript Citations in Community-Engaged Scholarship at the inaugural Capstone Symposium at the Phillis Wheatley Library
- Attended the Ashoka U Exchange on Social Impact and Innovation in Boston
- Supported several faculty and staff to attend the NY Campus Compact Engaged Symposium & Teaching Faculty Symposium at RIT.

1,800 students enrolled in community-engaged courses
40 courses funded by our mini-grants
29 faculty funded by our mini-grants
28 students enrolled in community-engagement seminar courses
6 students awarded the Citation in Community-Engaged Scholarship
Slingshot to Success is a leadership program held during orientation which is designed to give entering first year students the experience to explore various opportunities and guide them to become contributing members of the campus community. Initially developed ten years ago by RCCL’s Student Leadership Advisory Board, following the sessions focus on time management, how to be a good member and goal setting allowing students to build practical skills necessary for success in all varieties of college settings.

The program saw attendance of approximately 75 first year students. The format consists of three 45-minute workshops, a 30-minute interactive activity, and 15 minutes for candid conversations with the mentors. 75 student participants students reported progress in all key learning objectives.
Rising Leader Class

The Rising Leader Class encourages first year students to carefully analyze their responsibilities and commitments in the context of leadership for purposeful change. Students engage in provocative and challenging dialogue intended to facilitate acclimation to college and prepare them to become community leaders on and off campus in any role they may serve. Students work with upper-class mentors and in small groups to simultaneously help them adjust to campus life and develop their leadership skills. This course encompasses both traditional classroom learning and experiential learning. Their ability to “experience leadership” will occur by working in small groups to plan and administer a service project.

2017 participants reported feeling more confident in their...

- **88%** ability to take on a leadership role in an organization or group
- **92%** awareness of their own value systems
- **92%** capacity to improve their communities
- **92%** ability to support others in achieving their goals
- **96%** ability work collaboratively in diverse groups

2017 participants reported feeling more confident in their...
The Medallion Program

The Medallion Program aims to educate student leaders by providing opportunities for intentional learning, self-reflection, and skill development. Students enrolled in the Medallion Program will gain a strong sense of self-awareness, work effectively with others, and become civically and socially engaged.

In its first full academic year of operation, enrollment doubled compared to the Spring 2017 pilot semester and two students completed all three levels, earning induction into the Medallion Leadership Society.

- Intercultural Communication
- Decision Making
- Understanding Privilege and Taking Action
- Ethics and Leadership
- Leadership Styles
- Leveraging Your Strengths for Career Planning
- International Leadership
- Conflict Mediation
- Non-Violent Communication
- Consensus Building
- Social Responsibility and Justice
- Time Management
- Stress Less, Breathe More
- Active Listening Skills
- Creating an Inclusive Community and several more...
Student Life Awards

The annual University Student Life Awards, better known as The Rockys, recognizes those students who--through service to others, investment of talent and time, and pursuit of excellence--have significantly and positively impacted the University of Rochester and/or surrounding community. The awards are divided into two categories: Individual Leadership Awards, and Student Organization and Planning Awards.

The event was held in the Feldman Ballroom for the second time. Tickets were sold at the Common Market to accommodate increased levels of interest in the event.

- Lowenstein Family was present to discuss the significance of their named award
- Dinner service time was greatly improved through discussions with Meliora Catering
- New Event & Classroom Management structure helped to reduce overall cost of the event
- Winners were chosen from a pool of 120+ applicants
- Student intern expanded the alumni slideshow with the highest level of participation to date

“DON’T UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF. PICK A GOAL AND DON’T GIVE UP UNTIL YOU REACH IT. WHATEVER YOU DO, NEVER LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN’T ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.”

-ERICA CONTINI
LAWYER, VICTORIA LEGAL AID; LECTURER, MONASH UNIVERSITY
2004 STUDENT LIFE AWARD WINNER
Political Engagement

RCCL convenes the Committee for Political Engagement (CPE), a non-partisan, student-coordinated initiative that encourages members of our campus community to be politically engaged and active participants in the democratic process.

The core of CPE's work is voter registration, information, and promotion. Throughout the year, CPE provides opportunities for issue education, conferences, grassroots organizing workshops, and more. The committee works closely with the College Democrats and College Republicans who are advised by RCCL, as well as other campus organizations with an interest in politics.

2017-2018 events included:

- Women in Politics panel with Lovely Warren, Cheryl Dinolfo, Sandra Doorley, and Jamie Romeo
- #URMoveCongress letter writing campaign
- State of the Union watch party
- Voter registration drives with the League of Women Voters
- Spotting Fake News informational event with River Campus Libraries
- Co-sponsoring events with College Democrats and College Republicans

"COMING INTO COLLEGE, I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO GET INVOLVED IN BOTH THE UNIVERSITY AND THE GREATER ROCHELLESTROM COMMUNITY. RCCL HAS BEEN CRITICAL IN FACILITATING THIS INVOLVEMENT: FROM STAFFING CAMPUS VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT (CPE) TO MENTORING LOCAL STUDENTS THROUGH THE TRANSITION OPPORTUNITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER (TOUR) PROGRAM, I’VE TAKEN PART IN MEANINGFUL PROJECTS THAT WOULD’VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT RCCL. FOR THAT, I AM TRULY GRATEFUL."

-PRASHANTA AUGUSTINE, '19
CPE CHAIR, TOUR COACH, AND RISING LEADER CLASS GRADUATE
Transition Opportunities at UR

TOUR is an inclusive college experience at University of Rochester for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18-21. TOUR is made possible by a partnership between RCCL and Monroe #1 BOCES. TOUR students are partnered with UR undergraduate students who serve as academic coaches, and who are trained and supervised by RCCL staff.

TOUR students take courses of interest offered by The College with 1:1 support from their mentor, participate in social events and club sports, and enjoy campus-wide activities like Community Weekends and sports games. All TOUR students’ courses, activities, and work experiences are catered to their individual career goals and interests. Preparation for competitive employment after graduation is a goal for all TOUR students. Mentors receive training around disability, inclusive higher education, and coaching techniques.

29 STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATTENDED UR THROUGH TOUR THIS YEAR

21 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS SERVED AS ACADEMIC COACHES

23 FACULTY MEMBERS ACROSS MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS WELCOMED TOUR STUDENTS INTO THEIR COURSES

100% OF TOUR STUDENTS HELD A JOB OR INTERNSHIP THIS ACADEMIC YEAR
Learning and Exploring at Play (LEAP) engages University of Rochester undergraduate students in helping kindergarten through third grade students develop the language, literacy, math and social skills necessary to succeed in school. Tutors work with their partner child during Saturday sessions on the UR campus, and also participate in Classroom Assistance Time during the week. Tutors assist and observe classroom teachers ranging from K-8th Grade in a variety of subject areas including social studies, science, and special education.

LEAP promotes active learning in an environment that is open to exploration and gives children the opportunity to learn through play. Tutors are encouraged to develop teaching and leadership skills, new perspectives on education, awareness and interest in the Rochester community, and additional insight into their own paths and values. Tutors complete extensive training throughout the year to help facilitate these goals.

2017 - 2018 special events included

- Supplemental trainings on 1:1 reading, diversity & privilege, behavior management, and supporting children facing adversity
- Mental Health Day with activities on self-care, understanding emotions, and awareness
- Partnership with Soñar Despierto to bring therapy dogs to campus and learn about the Mexican Day of the Children tradition

LEAP TUTORS COMPLETE AN ACADEMIC COURSE ON K-12 TEACHING STRATEGIES TAUGHT BY A PROFESSOR FROM THE WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Urban Fellows is a unique 10-week summer program that emphasizes civic engagement, promotes learning about urban issues, and fosters an appreciation for cross-cultural issues and urban life. The 2017 Rochester Urban Fellows was made possible through support by a partnership between the University of Rochester, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and partnering community agencies.

18 Urban Fellows served at 20 different host sites benefiting 9,400+ community members.

“The best part about the experience for me was getting to know a community that, while having its issues, was very close and welcoming. The connections I made and the people I met were the most valuable part of the fellowship. I genuinely feel I made a difference in my community.”

-2017 Urban Fellow
The Rochester Youth Year (RYY) Fellowship is an AmeriCorps VISTA-sponsored program that places recent college graduates in community-based organizations for one year to create or expand initiatives that address the various challenges facing youth and families in Rochester. RYY seeks to alleviate the effects of poverty on Rochester youth, strengthen communities, and promote civic engagement and community-centered leadership.

RYY Fellows receive a modest living allowance, an end-of-service education award or cash stipend, forbearance or deferment of qualified student loans, forgiveness of any student loan interest accrued during the year of service, non-competitive eligibility for many federal jobs, relocation reimbursement, and a health care allowance, all provided through support from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Fellows also receive numerous professional development opportunities to support their service, understanding of urban issues, or personal growth, which is made possible through all supporting organizations. The Warner School of Education now offers a 30% scholarship and application fee waiver for any Rochester Youth Year (or Urban Fellow) alumni. Housing in Whipple Park is generously donated by Residential Life for our VISTA Leader.

Rochester Youth Year is supported by the Rochester Regional Network, a consortium of eight local area colleges:
The 2017-2018 Cohort of 15 Youth Year Fellows:
• mobilized over **1043** volunteers, who have in turn contributed over **30,000** hours of service to their communities
• leveraged over **$669,700** in cash and in-kind resources
• benefitted over **22,400** community members through their service
• piloted a **youth financial education program** with Consumer Credit Counseling Services, began a **participatory budgeting program** with the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, created a new **system to track clients** with Coordinated Care Services & School 17, and **created a school library** for Rochester Prep.

Rochester Youth Year is a life-changing program that provided me with the opportunity to garner invaluable work experience while developing myself professionally and personally. During my time at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester I had the privilege of providing over 500 youth across Rochester with youth financial education through a peer education program called Go For Gold. Currently, I am serving as the AmeriCorps VISTA Leader for the Rochester Youth Year program with the chance to give back to the program that helped me and our community so much.

-Matt Trombley, UR ’17, RYY Fellow ’17-’18
**Dialogue Series**

**Breaking the Bubble** is a series sponsored by the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services, the Rochester Center for Community Leadership, and the Community Service Network.

These events connect students with neighborhood, city, and county residents around topics of community development. Held at convenient off-campus locations Breaking the Bubble intends to broaden students' understanding of what's happening in the community and the role they can play.

**2017-2018 Events**

"Toward Urban Success" with Dr. Shaun Nelms, Superintendent of East

"Re-energizing the legacy of Frederick Douglass" with Professor Carvin Eison, Rochester Community Media and Bleu Cease, Executive Director of Rochester Contemporary Art Center

"Strengthening the Community Through National Service" with

"Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative" with

**Co-sponsors**

- Interfaith Chapel
- M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
- Office for Faculty Development and Diversity
- Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center
- Student Association of Interfaith Cooperation
- Rochester Center for Community Leadership

**Conversations on Race** is an open dialogue that encourages participants to discuss race issues and racism in our lives and in the community at large.

A total of 70 dialogues have taken place since the start of this program, allowing for open, uninhibited discussion of the realities of racism.
Wilson Day

Wilson Day is an annual day of community service for new and incoming University of Rochester students. A proud tradition with Rochester faculty, staff, and students, Wilson Day serves as one of the principle community builders during Freshman Orientation and provides a safe environment to bond with one’s hall. The day strives to create connections between students, their hall communities, and the local community, as well as to instill an idea of service into all of its students.

29 YEARS

92 HOST SITES

1,500+ STUDENTS
Washington Semester

Washington Semester is a unique learning and professional development opportunity for undergraduates at the College. Students in good academic standing and who are interested in interning and studying in Washington, D.C., can do so while also receiving up to 16 credits in the fall and spring semesters.

The College and RCCL partner with The Washington Center (TWC), a nonprofit education institution that provides college students with opportunities to take classroom learning into a professional setting. During a challenging semester immersed in the Unites States capitol, students participate in an academic internship program that bridges the gap between college and professional paths.

In 2017-2018:

- 3 students participated in the Washington Semester
- A new Social Impact & Entrepreneurship program was created in collaboration with the College, RCCL and TWC which will be piloted in Fall 2018 with 4 students
Student Organizations

RCCL advises 17 student organizations focused on community service and 2 focused on political engagement. We support student organizations as they create and maintain campus and community partnerships so that these relationships can continue long after individual students have graduated. RCCL encourages the autonomy of the organization while ensuring they meet UR’s requirements and expectations and adhere to established institutional policies where necessary. Advisors meet monthly with student organizations to advise the executive board and assist with planning events and programs. Student organizations are led by an elected board (e-board) who sets direction for the group, coordinates volunteer service and campus events as well as holds the relationship with local community partners.

Students logged over 4000 hours of service through their organizations in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Student organizations advised by RCCL:

- Alpha Phi Omega
- Circle K International
- Community Service Network
- Eye to Eye
- Food Recovery Network
- GR Soccer
- Partners in Reading
- Peers for Animal Wellness and Safety
- Refugee Student Alliance
- She's the First - Rochester
- Sonar Despierto
- STEM Initiative
- Students Helping Honduras
- The Pact: A Personal Mentoring Program
- UR Habitat for Humanity
- UR Health Education and Advocacy Leaders
- UR Rotaract
- UR Special Olympics
- College Democrats
- College Republicans
The Rochester Center for Community Leadership fosters collaborative leadership among students, the University, and community partners to discover transformative solutions and create equitable social change. The College's communal principles of fairness, freedom, honesty, inclusion, respect, and responsibility are prevalent in all we do.