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During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Rochester Center for Community Leadership engaged more than 3,000 students, 100 faculty, and 250 community partners (includes duplicate involvement). The Center supported more than 20 faculty members in teaching nearly 40 community-engaged courses, which in turn enrolled over 1,200 students. Undergraduate students in the College recorded over 6,500 hours of service through their student organization involvement; this complements over 45,000 hours of service through the Center's coordinated programs.

I’m proud to present this report, which provides an overview of our programs and operations for the 2016-2017 academic year. Among the highlights:

- The Center began to implement the citation in community-engaged scholarship, with more than double the expected enrollment in the introductory seminar.
- The Center also piloted the co-curricular Medallion leadership program, which provides an open framework for students to augment their knowledge, skills and abilities to exercise leadership on campus and in the community.
- The Transition Opportunities at UR (TOUR) program saw robust enrollments of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students audited a record number of courses in the College with the support of undergraduate student mentors selected, trained, and managed by RCCL.
Leading up to the US elections in November, we facilitated voter education efforts, sponsoring debate-watching parties and assisting several hundred students with registering to vote and filing absentee ballots.

At the invitation of the New York State office of the US Corporation for National and Community Service, we completed a transformation of the AmeriCorps VISTA grant, providing more administrative support for training and assessment of the Rochester Youth Year Fellowship and Urban Fellows summer program.

RCCL continued to benefit from external support in the form of grants and gifts, receiving nearly half a million dollars. In addition, the College received a $200,000 endowment commitment from local alumni, Erick and Nancy Bond to support community-engaged learning.

In light of accelerated growth in recent years, changes in University leadership, and shifting external factors, RCCL intensified its routine planning and evaluation efforts to foster better internal and external understanding of its focus and priorities. Engaging key stakeholders, we aim to create a five-year strategic plan in the coming months.

The Center achieved these outcomes through the efforts of 5.5 professional staff, 1.5 support staff, a full-time VISTA leader for Rochester Youth Year, three graduate student assistants, and three undergraduate student employees. The transformation of the AmeriCorps VISTA grant allowed for the creation of a new full-time position, and the continued growth of community-engaged learning resulted in a new part-time position.

Improving communications, we implemented changes to our blogging platform, website event calendar, e-newsletter, and Facebook page. The Rochester Youth Year Fellowship's website underwent an extensive update, as well as increased social media presence.
In order to document the outcomes of our work for all involved—students, faculty, staff and community partners—we continue to refine and strengthen our assessment practices through training and collaboration with the University’s Vice Provost for Assessment and the College's director of educational effectiveness.

The annual budget for the Center totaled $861,319.75. Of this, 30% came from University operating accounts; 57% derived from federal grants (including the AmeriCorps VISTA grant that supports Rochester Youth Year and the Rochester Urban Fellows programs); 4% from gifts (including support from the Max and Marian Farash Foundation); 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 Ceresaletti ’91, ’03 (MA)
Assistant Dean of Students and Director
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 3,000 students, 107 faculty, and 281 community partners during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Our diverse initiatives are unified in their goal of advancing community-engaged leadership, building community on campus, in Rochester, across the country, or in the far corners of the globe. 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.

STAFF

Glenn Cerosaletti, Assistant Dean & Director
Ed Feldman, Associate Director
Lauren Caruso, Assistant Director
Abigail Deacon, Assistant Director
Erin Murphy, Leadership Training Coordinator

Elizabeth Alfayad, Program Assistant
Rachel Theisen, Operations Assistant
Julie Elliot, Rochester Youth Year VISTA Leader
Clint Cantwell, Morgan Drake, Melissa Rusnica, Graduate Assistants
In the fall of 2016, RCCL completed a large facilities project to create space for three new full-time positions, two of which were onboarded this year, and one which will join our team in the upcoming academic year. While this resulted in a greatly reduced conference room space, we gained two new cubicles, larger GA workstations, and two student workstations. We also welcomed three new undergraduate student employees this year, in addition to our three graduate students.
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.

Like traditional courses, community engaged learning starts from a place of academic inquiry. Students learn foundational approaches to their area of study and engage in academically rigorous work. Academic material includes items such as course content, discipline-specific theories and frameworks, and research. Relevant engagement for students and faculty 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. When incorporated into community-engaged learning, critical reflection enables students to understand who they are as individuals, as well as what they know, 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.

38 courses & projects funded by mini-grant program

22 faculty members receiving mini-grant funding

1,200+ students enrolled in C-EL courses
PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

- The Center began implementation of the newly approved citation in community-engaged scholarship, and convened a steering committee consisting of faculty, staff, and community partners.
- Funds disbursed through mini-grants to support faculty in community-engaged learning doubled from the previous fiscal year.
- The Center piloted a practitioner fellowship program, through which a community partner in public health pursued research and teaching activities at the University in order to enhance community engagement for faculty and students.
- Transportation options for community-engaged learning activities increased in quality and quantity, due to an enhanced partnership with UR parking and transportation.

"COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING ENABLED ME TO GET TO KNOW URBAN ISSUES AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL. BEING IN THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND WORKING AT MY HOST SITE PROVIDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, SHARE MY OWN KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCES, AND BE PRESENT IN SPACES I HAVEN’T BEEN BEFORE. IT BRINGS ME JOY WHEN I FEEL AND SEE THE IMPACT I HAVE ON THOSE AROUND ME. IT’S REWARDING TO HEAR THE IMPACT MY WORK HAS, AND TO BE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO MY HOMETOWN. COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING ALSO REINFORCES CORE VALUES I BELIEVE IN SUCH AS PERSEVERANCE, PASSION, AND DEDICATION BECAUSE I USE ALL OF THESE VALUES TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY."  -SEYVION SCOTT, ’19
Slingshot to Success is a leadership program held during orientation, 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 over eight years ago by RCCL’s Student Leadership Advisory Board, the program encourages students to develop practical skills necessary for success in all varieties of college settings.

**STUDENTS REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN:**

- Ability to reflect on own comfort level with new experiences
- Willingness to try new, challenging things
- Tips to break out of my comfort zone
- Understanding how to be a good group member and leader
- Ability to reflect on leadership skills
- Knowledge of non-positional leadership
- Awareness of what I spend time on
- Confidence in my ability to prioritize my time
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.

- 75% of students felt more empowered to tackle their personal and academic goals
- 85% of students felt more confident in their ability to take on leadership roles & improve their communities
- 85% of students reported improved group work, leadership, and coaching skills
- 100% of students embraced a leadership role on campus this academic year

"IN ORDER TO NAVIGATE THE LEADERSHIP ROAD AHEAD WITH THE MOST SUCCESS, I CAN USE THE NEW SKILLS I LEARNED IN THE CLASS TO ENHANCE MY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. THESE SKILLS WILL HELP ME TO BETTER COLLABORATE AND COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS IN MY ORGANIZATIONS"

Rachel Goodman, '20
2020 Class President
The Medallion Program

After a year and a half of Medallion Program Advisory Committee meetings the Medallion Program pilot semester launched in spring 2017.

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 civicly and socially engaged.

**Levels**

1. **Personal Development as a Leader**
2. **Leadership in Practice**
3. **Your Impact on Others as a Leader**

**Workshops**

- 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

**247 Students Enrolled**

**30 Workshop Facilitators**

**23 Level 1 Achievers**

**1 Level 2 Achiever**
The annual University Student Life Awards, better known as The Rockies, 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.

Held in the May Room since it's inception in 2010, this year's updated ceremony was met with exceptional reviews.

- Venue changed to Feldman Ballroom
- Male-only awards were modified for gender inclusion
- Addition of the Gwen M. Greene First Generation and Eastman's Linda Muise awards
- Addition of a second student performance during event
- Employed Meliora Catering for more upscale options

“TRUST IN AND FOLLOW YOUR Passions. KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU STUDY, A HOST OF FIELDS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. WHAT YOU LEARN FROM YOUR CURRENT ROLES AT ROCHESTER CARRIES ON BEYOND COLLEGE AND IS JUST AS OR MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR KNOWLEDGE SET IN YOUR FUTURE CAREERS.

-KALEB MICHAUD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, 1996 STUDENT LIFE AWARD WINNER
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 also 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.

“COMING INTO COLLEGE, I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO GET INVOLVED IN BOTH THE UNIVERSITY AND THE GREATER ROCHESTER 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 STUDENT ASSISTANT, TOUR COACH, AND RISING LEADER CLASS GRADUATE

8 student members in CPE. Students are selected through a competitive application process.

RCCL added a CPE Student Assistant position this year to coordinate logistics, compose meeting agendas, and manage communications.
GENERAL ELECTION 2016 EFFORTS

- Debate watching events
- Voter registration drives on campus, helping hundreds of students register and apply for absentee ballots
- Coordinated Election Day shuttles from ITS and Riverview to their associated polling locations
- Publicized other transportation options, such as the shuttle from Sigma Phi Epsilon and the Blue Line
- Publicized election day with College Democrats and College Republicans
- Partnered with Political Science Department to hose Election night watch party with more than 100 students in attendance
- Inauguration watch event

OTHER EVENTS

- Screening of "Tickling Giants," a documentary about political satirist Bassem Youssef in post-revolution Egypt
- Co-hosted a debate and town hall on the economy with College Democrats & College Republicans
- 2 CPE members attended the Harvard University Institute of Politics' National Campaign Ambassadors Conference
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 Rochester Center for Community Leadership and Monroe Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES #1).

TOUR students are partnered with UR undergraduate students who serve as academic coaches, and who are trained and supervised by RCCL staff. All TOUR students’ courses, activities, and work experiences are catered to students’ individual career goals and interests. Preparation for competitive employment after graduation is a goal for all TOUR students.

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

36 ACADEMIC COURSES TAKEN BY TOUR STUDENTS

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. LEAP tutors are placed on small teams under the guidance of a team leader. Each tutor is paired individually with a partner child from the Rochester City School District. 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 is designed to promote 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.

NEW THIS YEAR: LEAP TUTORS COMPLETE AN ACADEMIC COURSE ON K-12 TEACHING STRATEGIES TAUGHT BY A PROFESSOR FROM THE WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Urban Fellows

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 2016 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.

PAID SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN THE CITY

FACULTY-LED DISCUSSIONS & COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL FESTIVALS, COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND MORE

Thoughts from 2016 Fellows

“URBAN FELLOWS HAS INSPIRED ME TO WORK HARDER FOR MY COMMUNITIES AND IT HAS REINFORCED BY DESIRE TO LIVE IN ROCHESTER.”

“I CAN...WORK ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO AUGMENT THEIR VOICES RATHER THAN SPEAKING FOR THEM OR TRYING TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.”
By the end of the program, Urban Fellows reported:

- Working with others to address a community problem
- Having close relationships with members of the Rochester community
- Feeling comfortable interacting with diverse populations
- Liking Rochester and enjoying living here
- Understanding how local government operates
- An interest in public service and advocacy
- Being aware of what can be done to meet the needs of their community

“*I AM IMPRESSED BY THE QUALITY AND CAPABILITY OF THE URBAN FELLOW ASSIGNED TO FOODLINK BOTH LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR. THEY WERE BOTH HIGHLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS AND WE ENJOYED WORKING WITH THEM.*”

-HOST SITE SUPERVISOR
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:
RYY received a record 51 applications this year. 14 members and 1 VISTA leader are serving at sites all over Rochester. They have mobilized over 425 volunteers, who have in turn contributed 5,300 hours of service to their communities. Fellows leveraged over $560,750 in cash and in-kind resources. Over $120,000 was raised for the MK Gandhi Institute, in particular, to strengthen their restorative justice school climate transformation.

“ROCHESTER YOUTH YEAR HAS PROVIDED ME AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE. MY TIME AS A VISTA HAS LAID A FOUNDATION FOR ME TO BUILD OFF OF THROUGHOUT MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER. WORKING WITH THE GREATER ROCHESTER SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION HAS GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE LIVES FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN. I AM CURRENTLY A MASTER’S DEGREE CANDIDATE IN PROGRAM EVALUATION AT THE WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, A STATUS I WOULD NOT HAVE REACHED WITHOUT RYY.”

-ISAIAH EVANS, ’16-’17 RYY FELLOW
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 play.

**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.

**2016 - 2017 Events**

"Health, Hunger, and Food Banks" with Mitch Gruber, Chief Program Officer, Foodlink

"The Future of Transportation in Rochester" with Mike Governale, Founder & President, Reconnect Rochester

"Prison Education Reform" with Joshua Dubler, Assistant Professor of Religion, University of Rochester

"Believe in Rochester" with Mayor Lovely Warren, City of Rochester

**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
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 principal community builders during Freshman Orientation and provides a safe environment to bond with one’s hallmates. 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.

25+ YEARS

75+ HOST SITES

1,400+ STUDENTS
Washington Semester gives students the opportunity to study and intern in Washington, DC while earning up to 16 credits. Partnering with The Washington Center, students are immersed in an academic internship program that bridges the gap between college and professional paths.

Students are paired with an adviser at The Washington Center, and are also overseen by UR faculty who evaluate their academic performance and assist with internship and course selection. Washington Semester is offered in Fall, Spring, and Summer - making it accessible to a wide range of majors.
Student Organizations

RCCL advises student organizations focused on community service or political engagement. We these organizations to 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 the University's requirements and expectations. Advisors and students meet monthly to advise the executive board and assist with planning events and programs.

The student organizations that RCCL advises logged over 6,500 hours of volunteer service hours in the 2016-2017 school year.

- 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
- STEM Initiative
- Students Helping Honduras
- The Pact: A Personal Mentoring Program
- UR Habitat for Humanity
- UR Health Education and Advocacy Leaders
- UR Rotoract
- UR Special Olympics

RCCL also advises partisan political groups on campus, who often co-host events with one another, as well as with the non-partisan Committee for political engagement. Being an election year, political groups had a lot of their plates and leveraged the increased attention on local and national politics to host engaging, well-attended events.

- College Democrats
- College Republicans

More information about student organizations can be found on the Campus Community Connection website.
Rochester Every Day (RED) is a student discount program meant to provide an economic incentive for students to explore the City of Rochester and patronize local business. Launched in 2003 by a group of entrepreneurial undergraduates, RED has steadily grown to include 100+ local eateries, shops, entertainment venues, and service providers.

With the RED sticker on their ID card, students enjoy discounts on everything from dining out, to movies, to haircuts, and more! Our partnerships help students save money while exploring the City.
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 that we do.

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