Handbook of Resources for Conducting Community-Engaged Learning During the COVID19 Pandemic

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Guidelines for Community Engaged Learning during COVID19, SPRING 2021

Background and Rationale:

The University is committed to ensuring the health and safety of members of the University community, as well as the surrounding Rochester community, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Practical operating guidelines are being developed to ensure a safe learning environment for all. In recognition of the important role that community engagement plays in the educational mission of the University, and the mutual benefits of community-engaged learning to our students and community partners, it is the university’s expectation that community-engaged curricular activities will continue to be an essential part of coursework, and both in-person and online activities are permitted. The following guidelines are offered to encourage safe community engagement activities.

Guidelines for Conducting Community-Engaged Activities in Courses:

As both in-person and online curricular offerings are to occur in University coursework this fall, courses with community-engagement components will also be permitted to offer both in-person and online community-engaged learning. For in-person engagement, equivalent online activities must be offered in order to make the course accessible to students who are not able to be in Rochester or are uncomfortable with in-person activities. In addition, because collaboration between students, faculty and community members is a critical aspect of community-engaged coursework, in-person activities as part of community-engaged courses may take place off-campus, and community members who are collaborating with instructors in conducting community-engaged courses may participate in on-campus face-to-face activities as part of these courses. Campus guests must follow the guidelines for campus visitors described in the University's restart plan (“Restrictions on Visitors Coming to Campus”) and also here: https://www.rochester.edu/coronavirus-update/guidance-on-fall-semester-events-guests-and-visitors/.

Students may use University-sponsored platforms such as Zoom or Box to facilitate such interactions, and community partners may also be granted guest access to achieve outcomes pertinent to community-engaged courses. (Contact University IT to pursue access for guests).

For all in-person activities, whether on- or off-campus, faculty, students and community collaborators must adhere to regulations and recommendations established by New York State and the Monroe County Health Department, as outlined in the University's Restart Plan. For off-campus activities, faculty and students must adhere to requirements of the off-campus site.
where the engagement activities occur. Spacing guidelines established by the off-campus location (density or distance) as well as other rules or guidelines established by the community partner organization should be provided to instructors and students prior to arrival and must be adhered to. At a minimum, students and instructors must maintain physical distancing (at least six feet between people), wear masks and wash hands before and after all activities. Students and instructors should complete health screenings at UR and at the community site (where required). Community partners engaging with students must complete a COVID-19 screening (such as ROC-COVID-19) on the day(s) of any in-person engagement, and be prepared to show documentation of their completion to University faculty or staff upon request. When planning in-person engagement, instructors must strive to conduct these activities outdoors whenever possible.

Any community-engaged research activities should adhere to the URMC Coronavirus: Guidance for Researchers. COVID-19 guidance for Human Subjects Research states precautions to protect members of the community from risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the research process.

All activities should be in compliance with the travel guidance provided by the University's Restart Plan for fall 2020. If transportation is required for students to attend community events, activities, and meetings, whenever possible students must use socially-distanced, chartered transportation if arranged, or individual, personal transportation to and from sites as the best option to maintain social distancing. RTS is a viable transportation option. Visit the RTS COVID19 updates website for latest guidance and rules for riding the bus.

The University will maintain an accurate list of all faculty engaged in teaching community-engaged courses or conducting community-engaged research in order to facilitate rapid identification of the faculty, students, and community partners involved if pandemic conditions require. This will be overseen by the Vice Provost for Academic Administration and the Committee on Academic Planning, in concert with the Academic Community Engagement Collaborative, a sub-group of the University’s steering committee for community engagement.
Best Practices for Community-Engaged Pedagogy

Asset-Based Community Building in COVID-19

- Extensive list of resources to support communities during COVID-19
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wJoxMP1Abqe_4QyOg8bsamxKZwTZ EzgwrDeN-CN0Y8I/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wJoxMP1Abqe_4QyOg8bsamxKZwTZ EzgwrDeN-CN0Y8I/edit)

COVID-19 and the common good, civic life, and community resiliency

- Articles highlight solidarity, mutual aid, and community resiliency:
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_zeitig6LK-XGxuL6YsJKvjlqAQBXK0SsAF4JnAMXOM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_zeitig6LK-XGxuL6YsJKvjlqAQBXK0SsAF4JnAMXOM/edit)

Digital Service-Learning Resources – EDTECH

- NERCOMP Workshop Materials, Lance Eaton

Virtual Discussion: Contingency Planning for Faculty/Courses

- Ohio State: Community - Engagement in the Time of Coronavirus
- Portland State: CEL and COVID-19
- Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact, April 24, 2020
  - Coronavirus and the Engaged Campus
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dt_yeh8JaB_wOFPY5m81mVe9D7IzUp5p3Hb22y2lTe/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dt_yeh8JaB_wOFPY5m81mVe9D7IzUp5p3Hb22y2lTe/edit)
- Resources are categorized by topics:
  - Racial Equity
  - Community Engagement Teaching and Learning Resources
  - Online Community
  - Webinar Recordings
  - Articles and Reports
  - Platforms for Online Volunteering and Engagement

ACE Online: Imagine the Possibilities

St. Olaf College, Academic Civic Engagement, May 2, 2020
[https://wp.stolaf.edu/ace/2020/05/02/ace-online/](https://wp.stolaf.edu/ace/2020/05/02/ace-online/)
“The Social Change Wheel is a favorite of mine because it thinks holistically about the many ways civic and community engagement can manifest in different but interrelated civic actions. The premise is that all of these actions can be utilized individually and layered together to achieve social change, but under specific conditions (location, time, etc.), different strategies may be more effective or useful than others.” This site contains notes from a Campus Compact conversation and additional on-line ideas including:

- Advocacy (Map the System project from Oxford University)
- Deliberative Dialogue
- Protests and Demonstrations

Service-Learning Online (4 Module Course)

- [https://rampages.us/servicelearningonline/](https://rampages.us/servicelearningonline/)
- [Coronavirus and the Engaged Campus, Campus Compact](https://rampages.us/servicelearningonline/)

Alternative assignments to direct service with established community partners:

- Conducting background research or gathering best practices or other information requested the partner(s);
- Record or streaming performances or workshops to benefit community partner(s);
- Creating digital and other social media content, print program materials, or other methods for information-sharing;
- Undertake assessment, evaluation, or feedback via phone or web-based services;
- Conduct virtual or phone-based educational supports for youth and adults;
- Investigate grant or funding opportunities for the organization;
- Develop plans or tools for future program assessment.
- Create marketing or social media content for future use.
- Support the development team by researching grant opportunities.
- Provide support via phone or web based meetings with agency team member regarding COVID-19.

Digital Stories @UMBC: Story Work for Communities and Higher Education


“Faculty members in many disciplines have applied digital storytelling methods in their teaching in creative ways. In these interviews they discuss their work and how DS has impacted their classrooms.”
Loyola University – Chicago Office of Service Learning and Office of Experiential Learning

- [https://servicelearning.uga.edu/faculty-resources/covid-19-faculty-resources](https://servicelearning.uga.edu/faculty-resources/covid-19-faculty-resources)

  Students gain insight and develop key academic, personal, and social learning outcomes, in particular through guided reflection activities that encourage deep thinking about the issues, processes, and implications, examples here:


Fake Equity Blog

- A blog about racial equity and its nemesis Fakequity. Some of the posts may veer off towards equity’s siblings and cousins diversity, inclusion, culture, community engagement, accountability, etc.
  - [https://fakequity.com/welcome-to-the-fakequity-blog/](https://fakequity.com/welcome-to-the-fakequity-blog/)
Ways to Get Involved (at a distance)

Support the Local Rochester Community

U of R Faculty Support/Mentorship for Community Engagement

- If you would like to be connected with other faculty who are continuing community-engaged learning amid COVID19 please contact:
  - andrew.thomas@rochester.edu

U of R Guest Accounts

- How to set up a U of R Guest Account with University IT for Community Partners
  - https://tech.rochester.edu/services/guest-accounts/

Mutual Aid

- The Rochester Mutual Aid Network was started to help our community sustain itself. We're a cooperative network looking to connect people who are in need of aid to those who can offer it. In these times of crisis, people shouldn't have to worry about where help is going to come from. It's going to come from your community, so let's get to work.
  - Rochester Mutual Aid Network

Senior Care

**Lifespan of Greater Rochester**: Lifespan helps older adults and caregivers take on the challenges and opportunities of longer life. As a regional nonprofit, Lifespan is a trusted source of unbiased information, guidance and more than 30 services and advocacy for older adults and caregivers. Lifespan also provides training and education for allied professionals and the community

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Senior Outreach Team: Lifespan is seeking volunteers to make check-in calls to Lifespan clients and/or caregivers who could benefit from weekly contact. Interested individuals can email Deb Palumbos at DPalumbos@lifespan-roch.org or call (585) 287-6428.
- Card Making: Lifespan is seeking volunteers to make cards for those in area nursing homes (many are prohibiting visitors). It can be a card, a letter, a picture, etc. Let your creativity shine! Kids are welcome to join in, too. Pretty much anything to show support or brighten someone’s day! Cards can be mailed to: Attn: Julie Murawski, Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14618 and will then be distributed to area nursing homes.

**Jewish Family Services**: Jewish Family Services (JFS) strengthens all individuals, families and communities by providing comprehensive social services that are built upon the time honored Jewish traditions of dignity, kindness, and *tikkun olam*, improving the world.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**
Senior Outreach Team: JFS is seeking volunteers to make check-in calls to help those who are unable to leave their homes. Interested individuals can email volunteer@jfsrochester.org or call (585) 461-0114.

Card Making: JFS is seeking volunteers to make cards for those to help those who are unable to leave their home. Interested individuals can email volunteer@jfsrochester.org or call (585) 461-0114.

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities: Episcopal SeniorLife Communities are vibrant retirement communities, located on seven campuses throughout Monroe and Livingston County, they offer a complete array of senior living options and care services.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Senior Outreach Team: ESC is seeking volunteers some volunteers to help with making phone calls to residents for friendly check-ins. They are hoping to have a person check-in 1-2 times a week for social phone calls. Interested individuals can email Jennifer Rougeux at jrougeux@episcopalseniorlife.org or call at (585) 546-8400 x 3160.

Health & Wellness

Ability Partners Foundation & CP Rochester: Ability Partners Foundation & CP Rochester support individuals of all ages and abilities to determine their own pathway in life. They partner with the individual, their family, and the community to fulfill the individual’s right to live a productive and rewarding life. CP Rochester provides a wide range of quality health, educational, and support services in the greater Rochester area to assist individuals in achieving their goals.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Virtual Advocate: Due to current circumstances the Ability Partners Foundation needed to move their annual Autism Awareness Walk onto a virtual platform. To encourage event participation the AP Foundation is seeking volunteers to create video clips about how individuals are staying active throughout these trying times. The sky is the limit! Record yourself on the treadmill, doing yoga, or juggling! Videos should include the tag line “We are doing our part to raise awareness for Autism. Join us and get moving!” Videos need to be in by April 15th. Videos can be emailed to Tina Bennett at TBennett@cprochester.org.

Autism Awareness Walk Participant: You can start a virtual team OR join the walk yourself by registering here!

Sustain, Inspire, Survive: Sustain, Inspire, Survive is committed to improving the quality of life for those who are battling breast cancer. We do this by providing financial assistance, essential services, and quality of life enhancements during treatment to those in need. For all opportunities below, interested volunteers can contact Lizanne at lizannevolunteer@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Sponsor Webpage Designer: SIS is seeking an individual with webpage design skills to help highlight business that sponsor the nonprofit on their website.
• Application Portal Design: SIS is seeking an individual to create a secure, HIPPA compliant online patient application portal that would work with all types of mobile devices.
• Graphic Designers: SIS is seeking individuals with graphic design skills that can help them rebrand event logos and create marketing materials around upcoming events in the fall. Other projects include: brochures, informational packets, and sponsor materials.
• Virtual Fundraiser: SIS is seeking individuals interested in creating an online fundraiser that could become a legacy event for the

**Youth Education & Development**

**Urban League of Rochester:** Urban League of Rochester works to enable African-Americans, Latinos, the poor and other disadvantaged to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power and civil rights. The Urban League of Rochester is looking for support specifically for their:

**Project Achieve & Project Excel:** This program prepares students grades 6 to 8 for the transition into a successful high school career. Staff provides academic support through homework help, tutoring, and literacy activities. Students engage in enrichment activities that strengthen their academic, social and leadership skills and expose them to the community's cultural resources.

**Project Ready STEAM:** This program provides African American males and females in grades 8 to 12 with the support, guidance and encouragement needed to prepare them for a bright and promising future. Students engage in a curriculum that prepares them academically, socially, and culturally for college and careers, while exploring the STEAM field. Each component of the Academy provides academic support cultural enrichment and leadership development. The goals of the Academy are to promote school retention, academic accomplishment, college preparation, social development and cultural awareness.

The middle school and high school programs meet separately, but all attend schools in Monroe County, especially RCSD.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

• Virtual Engagement Volunteers: Currently, this program is being implemented virtually now includes the opportunity to engage with guest speakers and tutors (some students have homework and/or virtual class). Urban League of Rochester is seeking volunteers to be a guest speaker, tutor, or other mentoring roles that engage with the programs. Interested individuals can email Charisma Travis at cdupree@ulr.org.

**Refugee Services**

**Deaf Refugee Advocacy:** Deaf Refugee Advocacy recognizes that Deaf refugees have unique needs that are best served and assisted by the general Deaf community. Their mission is to collaborate and serve as a bridge with current organizations and agencies to ensure inclusion of Deaf refugees into the Rochester Deaf community and into general society by providing assistance as they strive to be self-sustaining neighbors while still retaining their own cultural heritage, identity, language, and religion. For all the opportunities below, interested individuals
should contact Diana Pryntz at 585-286-3440 (VP number) or email DeafRAContact@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Development & Fundraising: Deaf Refugee Advocacy is seeking individuals to help in the planning of fundraising events with the DRA Fundraising Director.
- Grant Writing: DRA is seeking individuals interested in researching grant opportunities and applying for funding opportunities alongside the DRA Fundraising Director.
- Microbusiness Enterprise: DRA is seeking an individual to work alongside the DRA Special Projects Director to develop a Microbusiness Enterprise Proposal.
- Curriculum Development: DRA is seeking individuals interested in developing and finalizing an educational curriculum with the DRA Education Program Director.
- Client Services: DRA is seeking an individual to develop a Client Services In-Take Process with the DRA Client Services Director.
- Social Media Support: DRA is seeking volunteers to help develop scripts and create vlogs for the DRA social media alongside the DRA Communications Director.

Rochester Global Refugee Services: Rochester Global Refugee Services aims to promote understanding, advocacy, and bridging the gaps between new American families and their new community and all of its resources. For all opportunities below, interested individuals should email Faziri Renzaho at info.rocgrs@gmail.com or call (585)465-7802.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Website Designer: RGRS is seeking an individual with webpage design skills to help update their current website.
- Service Database: RGRS is seeking an individual to help curate an online service database for the RGRS community.

Support the Global Community

Youth Education & Development

Junior Achievement USA: Junior Achievement USA works to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. This spring, many schools are closing and switching to online programming in response to COVID-19. Junior Achievement is dedicated to helping their kids plan for the future and focus on their dreams by providing teachers and parents with free online resources.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Virtual JA Volunteer: JA is seeking volunteers to record and share a video of yourself answering the following questions: “Tell us a bit about what you do for a living, what most influenced you to choose that career?, If there’s one piece of advice you could give to a young person about achieving their dreams, what would it be?” Once you have your video created upload the post to your social media and be sure to tag Junior Achievement USA: Instagram @juniorachievemntUSA or Twitter @JA_USA

Smithsonian Digital Volunteers: Transcription Center: Smithsonian Digital Volunteers: Transcription Center seeks to engage the public in making our collections more accessible. They are working hand-in-hand with digital volunteers to transcribe historic documents and collection records to facilitate research and excite the learning in everyone.
Volunteer Opportunities:

- Digital Transcription Volunteers: Become a Smithsonian Digital Volunteer and help the organization make historical documents and biodiversity data more accessible. Volunteers can register by visiting the organization’s website linked here.

Global Fundraising Opportunities: Family & Youth Services

Feeding Children Everywhere: Feeding Children Everywhere is committed to activating people for a hunger-free world. You may recognize this organization from our RIT Hunger Projects, but FCE also provides services directly to families in need through their Full Cart program. The Full Cart program addresses the root cause of hunger by recognizing that the cost of living is the primary driver of food insecurity in America today. Full Cart allows families to extend their grocery budget and eliminate food insecurity in their homes. Families receive a box of food containing meal kits, popular grocery items, side dishes, snacks, and fresh produce delivered to their front door. There is no charge for the food, eligible families will simply pay for a reduced shipping cost to participate at FullCart.org.

Donations help real families in need of emergency assistance due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19. For every $15 that is donated, they will send a bag of fresh groceries directly to a family's door. Learn more by following this link.

Save the Children: Save the Children is partnering with No Kid Hungry to make sure schools and community programs have the support they need to keep children fed during the pandemic. These organizations are seeking donations today to help make sure schools and community programs have the support they need to keep feeding children during the pandemic. Donations will also supporting the important work of meeting the health, education and nutrition needs of kids in other countries impacted by coronavirus. Learn more by following this link.

First Book: First Book believes that education is the best way out of poverty for children in need. First Book aims to remove barriers to quality education for all kids by making everything from new, high-quality books and educational resources to sports equipment, winter coats, snacks, and more – affordable to its member network of more than 450,000 educators who exclusively serve kids in need. This organization has the goal of delivering seven million books to children in the United States who do not have internet access or home libraries so they can continue learning while schools are closed. To support their cause and learn more follow this link.

Health & Wellness

Relief International: Relief International operates in 16 countries throughout Africa, the Middle East and Asia, has focused some of its efforts on helping Iran, where more than 20,000 infections and at least 1,500 deaths have been reported. The group has so far provided more than 50,000 pieces of medical protective gear, including 24,000 masks and 5,000 pairs of goggles, as well as 40,000 kits to test for the coronavirus; 85 percent of all donated funds go directly to its programs. Learn more by following this link.

Heart to Heart International: Heart to Heart International strengthens communities through improving health access, providing humanitarian development and administering crisis relief
worldwide. They engage volunteers, collaborate with partners and deploy resources to achieve this mission. Heart to Heart is currently distributing urgently needed equipment and medication to its partners around the world. Medical supplies are also being delivered to providers on the front lines. To support this cause and learn more follow this link.

For more information on Nonprofits who are working to fight this global crisis check out Charity Navigator! Here you will find a number of highly-rated charities that have created funds to support communities around the world affected by the outbreak.