

# The Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning

CCESL's vision is a university collaborating with communities to improve lives. Our mission is to activate university and community potential through partnership. We value collaboration for the public good characterized by mutual benefit, fierce optimism, tenacity, rigor, democratic participation, and inclusion.

For us, public good is about sharing the intellectual and human resources of the University to make our communities safer, healthier, and more livable. We believe that public good work is about more than "serving publics"; rather it is the creation of mutually-beneficial relationships in which public culture is being strengthened through the production of new knowledge. In short, we believe that when the work of the university makes a difference in the lives of people in our communities it, in turn, makes a difference in the lives of people here at DU.

We use community-engaged methods in our work with faculty, staff, students, and communities to:

## Bridge Learning & Doing

We work with faculty to transform teaching and curriculum while championing hands-on learning in collaboration with community partners. This approach gives students practical experience in tackling some of today's critical challenges.

## Invest in Discovery

We advance scholarship and creative work that is rooted in mutually beneficial relationships with community partners.

## Connect Change Makers

We serve as connectors and cultivators because we maintain an unrelenting belief in the power of partnerships.

## Amplify University Community Voices

By combining knowledge from across the field, like anchor mission work and collective impact strategies, we work to advance faculty expertise while maximizing the tangible impact on our communities.

## Galvanize Tomorrow's Civic Leaders


We believe in the civic mission of higher education and we recognize that this mission helps build 21st century careers and communities. Our students engage in meaningful service with communities that builds their knowledge and skills, but also enhances their commitment to serving as agents of change and their belief in their own power to act in concert with others.

## Tackle Grand Challenges


We maintain a fierce optimism that together, universities and communities can tackle some of the most urgent and persistent problems.

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UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
TO ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP AND LEARNING

# Student Opportunities



**Work on Purpose:** Work on Purpose is a half-day workshop that culminates in developing a personal hustle statement, outlining actions one could take to move their passions forward and identifying a mentor to provide additional support.

**Community Engaged Fellows:** Fellows are assigned to an interdisciplinary issue area and charged with co-developing a plan to advance community-engaged work in this area in consultation with community and campus stakeholders as well as CCESL staff.



**Community Spotlights:** The aim of the Community Spotlight Series is to connect DU students and faculty with Denver-based community partners to pursue collaborative projects.

**Scholar Shop:** Scholar Shop is a forum for students to connect and collaborate with community organizations to do academic work that addresses public problems. Scholar Shop provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to use their academic skills to address questions and potential projects identified by community partners with input from students, a faculty adviser and the Scholar Shop coordinator.



**DU Grand Challenge Forums:** In the DU Grand Challenges Forum series, leaders in scholarship and practice give lightning talks to provide a spark for small-group discussion among participants on how the topic impacts our communities.



**Grand Challenge Champions:** DU Grand Challenge Champions provides students with an opportunity to deepen their participation in DU Grand Challenges through a faculty-mentored program that will support students' preparation to contribute to public good work.



**ACE Student Grants:** Undergraduate students are invited to submit proposals for community-engaged research or creative work that is designed to improve daily living or increase economic opportunity in our communities.



**Public Good Associates:** The Public Good Associates (PGA) program is designed to get students and faculty into working relationships to effectively support community-engaged learning and/or research. DU students who have completed at least one previous service-learning course (or are very knowledgeable in topics related to service learning), have experience in or a deep commitment for community-engaged work along with experience or interest in research are eligible to apply to the PGA program.



**A Community Table:** A Community Table is a part of the DU Grand Challenges initiative, which brings university and community change-makers together to support thriving communities. This year, DU is focused on generating ideas to increase economic opportunity in our communities that will guide collaborative work in the years ahead.



**Public Achievement:** DU students serve as coaches and work closely with K-12 students to identify social justice issues that students care about within their school and community. DU students coach teams through the community organizing process over the course of the academic year, meeting every week with their students.



**Puksta Scholars:** DU's Puksta Scholars Program is a four-year, developmental civic engagement program and intentionally diverse community. Incoming first year students can apply upon acceptance to the University of Denver. Scholars receive an annual scholarship and over four years develop civic skills, engage in mentor relationships, and complete major public work projects with community partners.



**Community Organizing Institute:** Each fall, CCESL offers an annual community organizing institute to equip participants with tools to effectively bring about social change. Community organizing topics covered include: privilege and oppression, identities, self-interest, collective self-interest, power, one-to-one interviews, and planning and implementing a public action plan.



**Volunteer.du.edu:** Search online to find the right volunteer opportunity for you. This online system is open to all DU students, faculty and staff, and provides the opportunity to sign up immediately to volunteer with community organizations – from one day to one year.



**DU Service & Change:** DUSC is a student organization committed to engaging the DU community through diverse service opportunities that facilitate positive change for the public good. Volunteer opportunities include large-scale service days, ongoing projects, and in-depth service learning projects.



**Spectator to Citizen Courses:** This three-course sequence of two-credit courses provides opportunities for University of Denver students to develop a set of public skills and civic knowledge that will allow them to actively participate in the public life of their communities. The series includes Community Organizing in the fall, Denver Urban Issues and Policy in the winter, and School Based Civic Engagement in the spring.

