

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY- ENGAGED LEARNING

Who we are

Greetings from the Office of Community-Engaged Learning at Vassar College! Formerly called "Field Work," the office seeks to create mutually-beneficial relationships with community partners to provide students with experiential learning opportunities.

This semester, 164 Vassar students are able to pursue their passions, deepen classroom learning, and engage in civic life thanks to the following partners:

- Abilities First
- Arlington High School
- Arts Mid-Hudson
- Blind Hummingbird Productions
- Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services
- City of Poughkeepsie: Building, Planning and Zoning
- City of Poughkeepsie: Public Art Commission
- Democratic Committee of Dutchess County
- District Attorney's Office
- Driven Society
- Dutchess County Court
- Dutchess County Transportation Council
- Dutchess Outreach
- eGrace.Love
- End New Jim Crow Action Network/N.Y.C.L.U.
- Environmental Monitoring and Management Alliance
- EPIC: Engaging People in



Why did you choose CEL?

"I wanted to intern at an organization that focuses on minimizing the trauma of incarceration. The CEL program has always **complemented** my sociology courses at Vassar, and has helped me to determine my career goals." - Emily '18, *Greater Hudson Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents*

"...I was so excited to get involved. Not only to bring the beauty of acting and community to a group of people but also to have the chance to **learn** from their experiences growing up in an area completely different from my own both culturally and socially, and hopefully grow as an individual as a result." - Marc '20, *Poughkeepsie Youth Theatre*

"I wanted to **engage** in an opportunity I wouldn't have **access** to through regular academics, and to explore some of my interests." - Thomas '19, *Hudson Valley Design Lab*



Exploring Science
 Family Services: SNUG Program
 Greater Hudson Initiative for Children
 of Incarcerated Parents
 Health Quest
 HRH Care Community Health
 Hudson River Housing
 Hudson Valley Design Lab
 Human Rights Officer of Dutchess
 County
 Indivisible – The Fight Is On
 Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
 Magazzino Italian Art
 Marshall and Sterling
 Mediation Center of Dutchess County
 Mental Health America of Dutchess
 County
 Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum
 Mid-Hudson Heritage Center
 mllnl
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 National Young Farmers Coalition
 Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
 Office of Congressman Sean Patrick
 Maloney
 Office of the Public Defender
 One Nature LLC
 Pawling Free Library
 Planned Parenthood
 Poughkeepsie Day School
 Poughkeepsie Farm Project
 Poughkeepsie Youth Theatre
 Prison Public Memory Project
 R.E.A.L Skills Network
 Rexhill Furniture
 Rich Talent Group
 Rural and Migrant Ministry
 Spark Media Project – Mill Street Loft
 Trevor Zoo
 Tsechen Kunchan Ling Temple
 United Way of Dutchess and Orange
 County
 Vassar After School Tutoring Program
 (VAST)
 Vassar English Language Learner’s
 Outreach Program (VELLOP)
 Vassar Environmental Coop
 Viacom
 Village of Wappingers Mayor’s Office
 White Hall Events
 Women’s Day Magazine

Trying a CEL placement for the first time:

“I wanted to be **involved** with the city of Poughkeepsie's art community and I'm striving to be more civically engaged.” - Annie '19, *Public Arts Commission of the City of Poughkeepsie*

“I believe that the separation between Vassar and the Poughkeepsie community is unnecessary and takes away so many opportunities to learn and to give back. Poughkeepsie/Arlington has carved out a physical portion of its urban space to accommodate our campus If we Vassar students are going to vote in Arlington, to use the Arlington civil infrastructure, and to call this space home, then the least we can do is **engage**, and **learn** from and **participate** in robust work being done to continue to build up this community.” - Math Major '19, *Exodus Transitional Community*

“I chose to do a CEL placement because I wanted to gain valuable **experience** working in a new environment outside of Vassar to further future **career** interests and to give back to the Poughkeepsie community.” - Patrick '19, *Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum*

“Having some **experience** matters when you are applying to a job. ... My community-engaged learning placement offered me a chance to experience the legal field during the school year and it did not cost a penny. I choose this placement this semester because it is in the field that I love.” - Lorice '20, *Dutchess Family Court*

“Having been on campus for 2 years, I know what an isolating place Vassar can become. I believe that CEL provides students with an opportunity to **diversify** their college experience, interacting with individuals who are not faculty and fellow students.... I think this experience will give me a chance to learn about community organizing, something that I could not necessarily learn about in the classroom.” - Achal '20. *Family Services: SNUG program*

“As an exchange student from overseas, I felt the CEL program would be a good **opportunity** to not only be involved in positive change in Poughkeepsie, but allow me to experience working in a US context and **build relationships** with people outside of Vassar as well.” - Jerald '18, *Vassar Environmental Coop*

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