

# YEAR IN REVIEW

DUKE OFFICE OF  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2019  
2020

## A Message from the Director

This past year is markedly different than others. The year began with the transition of the Office of Civic Engagement (DOCE) into the Duke Office of Durham and Community Affairs and concluded with a nation-wide reckoning with two pandemics – COVID-19 and systemic racism. As we confront the pressing social issues we face, we take the time to pause, reflect, and rededicate ourselves to our mission of connecting communities.

Our office's integration into Durham and Community Affairs signaled exciting possibilities for how our efforts can align better with institutional priorities and become embedded within larger partnership work between the university and community. More recently, the Community Service Center merged with the DOCE, allowing us to further advance those goals. Throughout this year, we have continued work shaped by the Civic Action Plan – extending trainings for students, coordinating racial equity learning for faculty and staff, advising students and student organizations, supporting engaged scholarship initiatives and celebrating outstanding civic engagement commitments. However, all of this work took on a new life once COVID-19 emerged in our communities, sending us all home to work remotely and to creatively continue the work we had been doing throughout the year.

In recent months, our nation's pre-existing condition of racism has also brought forth opportunities to confront hard truths, to act on what is unacceptable and to better care for one another in midst of pain. We have come face to face with the police brutality that murdered Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and so many others. The Black Lives Matter movement has been pushing for justice and reform for years – but are the white folks new to this movement willing to disrupt our systems and structures to effect real change?

As we look back on the work of the DOCE, these two pandemics have shaped how our year ended and will shape what our work looks like moving forward. They have tested our ability to imagine the world through another's eyes and challenged us to commit to individual and community action that creates significant change – because both COVID-19 and racial injustice are matters of life and death.



Leslie Parkins, Ed.D.  
Assistant Vice President & Director for Civic Engagement



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# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NETWORKS

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The University Council on Civic Engagement, comprised of 54 staff and faculty members from across the university, met four times throughout the year to connect with one another and share best practices for civic engagement initiatives. The group's meetings focused on inter-institutional community-focused collaboration; equitable, authentic, and community-engaged research; connecting academic curriculum to community collaborations; and research on community engagement strategies.

## FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

The Faculty Advisory Board's 13 members, with representatives from each of Duke's 12 schools, meet on a monthly basis to advise DOCE regarding its key priorities. This past year, the Faculty Advisory Board began exploring a fellowship program for faculty and partners to deepen their practice of community engaged scholarship.

## Engaged Scholarship

### ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH SERIES

The Engaged Scholarship Lunch Series featured faculty from across campus who collaborate with people beyond the academy in their scholarly endeavors. The featured scholars for 2019-2020 were Keisha Bentley-Edwards, Samuel DeBois Cook Center on Social Equity, Assistant Professor, Division of General Medicine; Keval Kaur Khalsa, Professor of Dance and Theater Studies, Dance Program; and Sarah Wilbur, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Dance, Dance Program.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP COLLABORATIVE

In the spring, DOCE started working with four faculty-led teams to better understand what resources are needed to strengthen and support community engaged scholarship. This exchange of resources and expertise will inform future approaches for community engaged scholarship.

## Volunteer Service Awards

The DOCE recognized one employee and one student for their outstanding service to the Durham community through volunteer work.

### DUKE EMPLOYEE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Chris Hendricks, Duke Recreation and Physical Education

### LARS LYON VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Victoria Bevard, T'21

# PROGRAMMING AND ADVISING

## Racial Equity Learning Arc

The Racial Equity Learning Arc, a cohort-based series of workshops created and facilitated by Alexa Broderick of The Equity Paradigm, was offered for the second year to 16 participants. The six-session series is intended to connect people within a community to build on foundational knowledge to further develop critical consciousness around issues of race. This initiative is co-sponsored by the DOCE and the Duke Human Rights Center at the Franklin Humanities Institute.

## Duke Partnership for Service

The DOCE worked with the Office of Student Leadership to co-advise Duke Partnership for Service (dPS), Duke's umbrella student service organization, in pursuit of their mission "to support a student body that is committed to ethical service, meaningful engagement, and social justice."

## Foundations of Engagement

Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, 250 Duke students participated in the Foundations of Engagement workshop. The workshop was offered through Duke Service-Learning, the Penny Pilgram George Women's Leadership Initiative, Bass Connections, America Reads/America Counts, Partners for Success, and Duke Partnership for Service. This set of modules provides an opportunity to explore essential questions related to community engagement.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

## INTEGRATION WITH DOCE

On May 1, 2020 Duke's Community Service Center (CSC) integrated with the Office of Civic Engagement. The CSC has a rich history of connecting members of the Duke community to service opportunities for over 30 years. This unification streamlines Duke's efforts and communications while strengthening meaningful collaboration with communities. DOCE is now the contact for community service, community-based federal work study, partnership opportunities, resources and guidance, as well as efforts to support effective campus-community collaborations.

## EVENTS

**42nd Annual Volunteer Fair:** Hosted 70 community nonprofit organizations and nine student service groups. 916 students and employees registered with organizations during the event.

**Project Share:** Successfully transitioned gift intake and delivery logistics and coordinated Duke student, employee, and departmental involvement to sponsor 497 people. CSC worked with the Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center to receive family profiles, managed family sponsorship efforts, and oversaw the sponsorship database.

**MLK Meal Packaging:** Coordinated 120 Duke volunteers to help package over 100,000 meals for the annual MLK Meal Packaging Event in partnership with the Rotary Club and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.



## Looking Ahead

In the coming year, the Duke Office of Civic Engagement will continue to provide resources, opportunities, and connections to support students, staff, and faculty as they engage in an evolving world. In addition to continuing the work described above, our efforts this year will include:

- A new website to more easily navigate resources and opportunities
- New virtual trainings and workshops
- Connections to volunteer opportunities, both virtual and in-person