

2021-2022

YEAR IN REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the 2021-2022 academic year ends, I am holding the tension of both the ongoing challenges in our communities along with the hope of people working toward change for a more just world. It seems each week brings along news of preventable tragedies caused by systemic racism, gun violence or the ongoing pandemic and is followed by the heartache of grieving families and community members. That heartache turns to anger and frustration as policymakers resist change to make our communities safer and then it seems another tragedy occurs and the cycle repeats.

Despite my own anger and heartache, I find significant hope as organizers and advocates have been building towards change right here in our own community. I am inspired by community-university partnerships such as [LATIN-19](#) and [AACT+](#), both reflecting coalitions addressing urgent and ongoing needs in our communities that emerged through the pandemic. These efforts represent how partnerships can be more impactful when community members with their knowledge, experience and skills collaborate with university resources, energy and technical expertise.

Over the years, Duke Civic Engagement has sought to create opportunities for learning and sharing from partnerships and community engagement initiatives. This Year in Review highlights our efforts to cultivate greater connection and collaboration within the campus and with communities. As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to build upon our resources and offerings while seeking opportunities to collaborate more deeply, to learn from others – both on campus and with our communities.

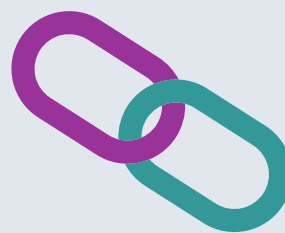


Leslie Perkins



INITIATIVES

ConnectCommunity



Duke Civic Engagement officially launched ConnectCommunity, a new platform to facilitate community requests for volunteers and service opportunities for Duke students, staff and faculty. ConnectCommunity currently features more than 100 active organizations with numerous opportunities, ranging from short-term events to sustained engagements, across many focus areas.

Community-Engaged Scholarship Collaborative

Duke Civic Engagement organized 14 Community-Engaged Scholarship Collaborative sessions and workshops alongside campus and community partners, with 225 total participants across all events. Additionally, the Collaborative launched a new Fellowship and Small Grants program to support scholars and partners collaborating for change. In May, the Collaborative co-sponsored the Community-Engaged Scholarship Symposium to provide opportunities for learning and sharing across impactful community-academic partnerships and among community-engaged scholars from the Duke University and Health systems and partner organizations.



“

The most rewarding parts of being a Community-Engaged Scholarship Fellow have been the inter-institutional and community relationships I have developed with faculty and staff from Duke, as well as the various community members I've had the chance to meet. The opportunity to engage professionally with others who have similar interests with fresh, new perspectives helps to decrease the feeling of “working in silos,” as we often do in academia. Furthermore, participation in this program strengthens my awareness and understanding of what is available in the overall Durham community, and imagining innovative and creative ways for NCCU to support community efforts.”

Dr. Yolanda Lyght Dunston
Professor, NCCU School of Education

INITIATIVES

Racial Equity Learning Arc

Duke Civic Engagement hosted the fourth year of the Racial Equity Learning Arc, a six-session program facilitated by The Equity Paradigm and co-sponsored by the Duke Human Rights Center at FHI, which drew 30 staff and faculty from units across the university. Programming also included alumni gatherings for participants from previous cohorts to connect and discuss shared goals, common challenges, major events, and ways to work together to create meaningful change at Duke. The Racial Equity Learning Arc alumni network at Duke includes 100 staff and faculty.

Duke Partnership for Service

Duke Civic Engagement continues to advise Duke Partnership for Service (dPS), an umbrella student organization dedicated to supporting a student body that is committed to ethical service, meaningful engagement and social justice. This year, dPS hosted the first annual Service Week, supported student organizations with over \$8,500 in mini-grant funding, and completed its first full in-person cycle of the dPS fellowship, in which fourteen students worked with local nonprofits and spent time exploring Durham and learning about its rich history.



NETWORKS

Faculty Advisory Board

The Duke Civic Engagement Faculty Advisory Board met four times throughout the year and focused on guiding the Community-Engaged Scholarship Collaborative's fellowship, grants program and learning opportunities, as well as providing feedback on the planning for a Center for Civic and Community Engagement. Members of the board have expertise in community-engaged scholarship and represent nine departments across five schools.

University Coalition for Civic Engagement

Duke Civic Engagement hosted monthly meetings for the University Coalition for Civic Engagement, a network of approximately 45 staff, faculty and students working on civic and community engagement initiatives across campus. Topics included Durham & Community Affairs' Strategic Community Impact Plan, Duke's anti-racism and equity efforts, intersections with emerging Student Affairs initiatives, and informal gatherings for participants to connect over common goals and challenges.

COLLABORATIONS

- Duke Civic Engagement and the Social Science Research Institute collaborated to host "Prove and Improve", a capacity-building evaluation and assessment series for local organizations. In addition to this event attended by 86 participants, DCE and SSRI offered assessment and evaluation consultations to 33 community organizations throughout the year.
- Through ConnectCommunity, Duke Civic Engagement supported the MLK Commemoration Committee to facilitate community-identified service opportunities for the MLK Week of Service.
- In partnership with the Hart Leadership Program, Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, Duke Civic Engagement participated in Leadership Week 2022, coordinated by the Office of Student Leadership. The event, "So you want to launch a nonprofit?" offered key questions to consider and resources to explore prior to initiating a community-engagement program.

EVENTS

Volunteer Fair

Duke Civic Engagement organized and hosted the 44th Annual Volunteer Fair in collaboration with the Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center. This virtual event inspired 175 students, faculty, and staff to connect with more than 40 local nonprofits and to explore service opportunities in our community.

VIRTUAL
VOLUNTEER
FAIR

Community-Engaged Scholarship Symposium

In the spring, the Community-Engaged Scholarship Collaborative co-hosted the first Community-Engaged Scholarship Symposium. Planning was done in partnership with the Community Engaged Research Initiative, part of the Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The virtual event, which showcased university-community collaborations, was open to all. More than 100 participants enjoyed day-long programming including morning and afternoon keynote and panel presentations.



During her keynote for the Community-Engaged Scholarship Symposium, Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi spoke about collaborating for impact and advancing health equity.

AWARDS

Each year, Duke Civic Engagement recognizes one Duke student and one Duke employee for outstanding commitment to community engagement. These individuals have worked collaboratively with local organizations to build capacity and to strive for a more equitable community. [Read more.](#)

2022 Lars Lyon
Volunteer Service Award:
Emily Gitlin (T'23)

For collaboration with Lincoln Community Health Center on their hypertension outreach project

2022 Duke Employee
Community Service Award:
Shana McAlexander

For advising of the Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center (TNVLC)'s Student Action Board (SAB)

DOING GOOD COMMUNITY FUND

Duke Civic Engagement administers the Doing Good employee giving Community Fund, which awarded grants to 37 organizations in 2021 for a total of \$150,774.

LOOKING AHEAD: PLANNING FOR A CENTER FOR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A year ago, the Duke and Durham Today and Tomorrow Task Force of the Board of Trustees recommended establishing a Center for Civic and Community Engagement to “coalesce resources and connect academic and community affairs.” This past year, the Duke Civic Engagement team facilitated planning efforts by synthesizing past data, feedback and reports; consulting with colleagues and stakeholders; and coordinating a Working Group to offer recommendations for core functions and features of the Center.

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