

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM OFFICE

Annual Report
2019 - 2020

Eastern Illinois University



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MISSION STATEMENT

Eastern Illinois University's Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office (CEVO) is dedicated to cultivating citizens of character and integrity. We do this by offering EIU students purposeful opportunities and resources to compliment the academic experience.

By participating in these programs and services, students are challenged to explore their leadership potential through student-centered programming, service, and experiential opportunities. Our programs and activities support Eastern's mission of enhancing the learning, educational growth, and development of students.

YEAR IN REVIEW

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST YEAR:

- over \$5,500 in donations
- 75 agency partners
- 120,000 volunteer hours (2018-2019) completed by EIU students
- 400+ volunteer opportunities (2018-2019)
- 30 agencies at Volunteer Fair
- 30+ Service to Go Requests

96%

of the volunteers that volunteered through Civic Engagement and Volunteerism believed that they made an impact in their local community.

96%

of volunteers said they had an enriching volunteer experience through the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office.

100%

of volunteers reported feeling as if they made more of an impact after their volunteer experience than they originally thought they would.

ONE VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE:

"As an education major, I would also like to gain teaching skills and the various skills I will need for working with children, lesson planning, encouraging volunteering and collaborative group work, and building those one-on-one connections with students. Most importantly, I am motivated by the idea that this work can be fun, hands-on, and applicable to my major."



SIGNATURE SERVICE DAYS

JUMPSTART

21 projects,
1500 students

Jumpstart is a partnership between the offices of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism and New Student and Family Programs. It is part of the Prowl activities planned for freshmen and transfer students on the Saturday during move-in weekend in August each year. This service day cultivates interest in a great variety of service opportunities throughout the year.

PANTHERS AND FAMILIES IN ACTION

This service day happens in conjunction with Family Weekend activities. We offer our students and their families both an off campus direct service opportunity and an on campus indirect service project. This allows out students and their families to give back together!

MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE

200+ volunteers

EIU's annual MLK Jr. Day of Service is truly "a day on and not a day off" every January. The annual event honors Dr. King's legacy and is an opportunity for Americans to renew their own personal vows of citizenship through the service of others.

PANTHER SERVICE DAY

(2018-2019)
300 + volunteers

EIU is proud to host Panther Service Day each April. This annual day of volunteering and service began in 2003. Panther Service Day has evolved into a large-scale event allowing EIU students, staff, alumni, and community members to work side-by-side through volunteerism and service in Charleston and the surrounding areas.

"This is important because it gives us college kids great opportunities to help out our community, meet new people, and grow into ourselves." -**STUDENT VOLUNTEER**

WEEKLY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Each week, EIU students have an opportunity to volunteer a variety of different service programs.

YOUTH

PLAY

PLAY stands for Partnership through Lifelong Active Youth. Through this program, volunteers help at a variety of after-school programs. The programs include homework help, social development, and physical activity. PLAY currently features 7 different programs working across all of Coles County and serving youth in PreK-8th grade.

FARM-2-TABLE & GENERATION-2-GENERATION

Farm-2-Table and Generation-2-Generation are projects completed through Fit-2-Serve. Farm-2-Table serves approximately 150 1st graders from our local schools to learn how food grows, how to prepare and serve it, and then consumed as they gather around the table. 560 elementary students from our local schools visit area senior living facilities and engage in ISL (Intergenerational service learning).

YOUNG ATHLETES

Young athletes is a partnership with Special Olympics where volunteers help kids 2-7 to learn to play sports. The kids work on building sports skills like running, kicking, and striking.

HUNGER

FOOD PANTRY

EIU Volunteers coordinate one night each week at the local Charleston Food Pantry. Volunteers get a chance to help serve our local community by helping to organize and distribute food to local food pantry clients. Over the past year on Thursdays alone, we supported over 842 families which totaled over 2,230 people.

STANDING STONE RE-STOCK

Standing Stone is a community resource that offers a thrift store and a food pantry for local families. We help support them by unloading the truck and stocking the food pantry twice a month with student volunteers.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

Through a partnership with the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, once a month our EIU students support a mobile food pantry with 20-30 volunteers. During a 3 hour time frame, we unload the food, set up the pop up pantry, and then on average serve over 130 families with much needed food.

NEWMAN FOOD PANTRY

The Newman Food Pantry was created to support anyone from the EIU community that has a Panther Card. Individuals are allowed to visit the pantry once a week for any support they need.



WEEKLY SERVICE PROGRAMS

BABY BOOMERS

LIFE'S JOURNEY

Each week we send our EIU students to a local nursing home to interact with seniors with dementia or Alzheimer's. While there, together they complete an activity that is appropriate for the seniors based on where they are in the aging process.



NATURE

DOUGLAS HART

Volunteers work to help with conservation efforts at a local nature center. The Douglas-Hart Nature Center consists of 65 acres of native Illinois habitat including prairie, woodland, and wetland.



SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

Charleston Transitional Facility (CTF)

CTF offers programming and support for adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Once a week they come to campus, have lunch with students in the Union, complete some type of physical activity, and then explore various departments on campus.

CAMP NEW HOPE

Camp New Hope provides camp and weekend respite activities for adults and children year round who have physical or developmental disabilities. We send our EIU students out multiple times a year to help with projects, fundraisers, and events!

ANIMALS

ANIMAL SHELTER

Currently we send student volunteers out to our local animal shelter three times a week to help keep the animals awaiting adoption socialized. This is one of our most popular volunteer opportunities!



SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

HUNGER ACTION MONTH + HUDDLE UP AGAINST HUNGER (HUAH)

Every November, EIU students, faculty, and staff work to raise awareness and funds for the local fight against hunger. Activities include educational lectures, silent auctions, and other fun events such as the Price is Right and Pie-A-Cleb. This last year, we raised over 2,200 can food items and collected over \$1,300 in donations for local food pantries. HUAH, or Huddle Up Against Hunger is a new initiative to work with EIU Athletics on raising awareness while working with athletes.

SUMMER MEALS

In partnership with the local Salvation Army, CEVO coordinates and provides a free lunch every weekday during the summer for local youth. The program serves hundreds of meals each summer as CEVO provides a year round commitment to our local community.

ONE STOP COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

This program helps families in our local area by providing items such as blankets, clothes, toys, food, household supplies, and more. Annually, this event serves 900+ families and over 2,300 local children. CEVO coordinates the collecting of local fleece blankets for families. Annually, EIU students and staff collect and create over 1500 blankets.

CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM

New this year we kicked off the Chasing the American Dream series. This 3 semester long program is to educate and engage with our students with issues our country and society are facing today as we lead into the next Presidential election. We want our students to know that their voice, and their vote matter. A monthly signature program included our Panther Fire Side Chats, which were formatted after Ted Talks, and voter registration events.

WOMXN UP CONFERENCE

Also new this year we were thrilled to introduce the Womxn Up Conference. Our intent was to bring all womxn together to engage with, learn from, and talk about issues we face as we walk through the world as womxn today. This conference was a free event for all womxn connected to EIU's campus, and was being hosted in partnership with Fraternity and Sorority Programs. The schedule included an keynote opener, the choice of 10 breakout sessions, and a closing speaker.

We actually bonded with students. I made new friends. I love working with people and today I got to do that."

-STUDENT VOLUNTEER



CORE VALUES

Promoting these values is integral to our success in helping students take advantage of all that Eastern and our broader community has to offer.

A DIVERSE AND JUST SOCIETY

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism embraces diversity in all its forms including the multiple identities of ethnicity, race, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, and socio-economic status as well as every aspect of life that defines our humanity. Our commitments to a diverse and just society involves valuing, respecting and including all people and developing and environment where this is possible.

QUALITY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism demonstrates a consistent commitment to quality by exceeding community expectations in our programs, facilities, staff and services. Customer service is the cornerstone of this experience.

"Today was important to me not only because I feel like I was able to help but also because I met a lot of my peers and cool new people."

-STUDENT VOLUNTEER



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism staff is committed to building and creating opportunities for every student to interact with their community according to their interests, activities and curiosities -- be they intellectual, athletic, or just plain fun.

LEARNING AND RESPONSIBILITY

As educators, the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism staff is committed to providing learning opportunities and experiences that encourage student responsibility, accountability, personal growth and development.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Fit-2-Serve

Eastern Illinois University students and the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism staff have been a tremendous blessing to our organization as we seek to engage our mission of equipping people for works of service. Throughout the academic year, they have faithfully participated in our Community Bridges programming, Generation-2-Generation and Farm-2-Table. As a result of this partnership, Fit-2-Serve has been able to expand the number of youth served. It is difficult to express the depth of the impact

this partnership is making in the lives of students served as well as those who are serving as volunteers. We are confident our community is and will continue to be positively impacted through EIU student engagement and volunteerism.

-Bill Duey
Director of
Fit-2-Serve



Douglas Hart

Eastern Illinois students volunteer with Douglas-Hart several times throughout the year, coming out weekly during parts of the semester in spring and fall and bringing groups of students out for Jumpstart and Panther Service Day, as well as students volunteering on their own. We have had students work at all 3 of our sites. Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Friendship Garden, and The Whiteside Garden. Students are very engaged with the projects they are helping with. We are lucky to have such a great partnership with EIU students. When EIU students come out to volunteer, they are ready to jump right in and get the job done.

-Marissa Grant
Director of Douglas-Hart Nature
Center

AWARDS/HONORS

STAFF RECOGNITION/ASSOC. COMMITTEES SERVED ON/AWARDS

- Lead Institute for Civic Engagement with NASPA

- 2019-2020 Scholarship Recipients:

Emerging Leader: Rylee Lorton

Panther of the Year: Chloe Irish

Making a Difference: Brianna Bartosz

Making a Difference: Takira Wilson

Making a Difference: Alecia Stacey

Silent Inspiration: Amber Salutric

- Staff members serve and work on local, regional, and national boards and committees as related to various non-profits and the service sector.

Panther Service Award Recipients:

Outstanding Academic/Educational Program: The National Association of Colored Women's Club Inc.

Outstanding Collaborative Program: The National Association of Colored Women's Club Inc.

Outstanding Impact: Sociology-Anthropology Club



“Those who can do,
do. Those who can do
more, volunteer”

- Unknown



Civic Engagement &
Volunteerism Office

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

