

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM OFFICE

Annual Report
2020 - 2021

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 (2019 - 2020)
- Partnered with over 70 agency partners
- 120,000 volunteer hours (2018-2019)
completed by EIU students
- 400+ one time volunteer opportunities
- Offered two brand new programs; Social Justice Series and Operation EIU Votes
- 30+ Service to Go Requests

Note from the Director

What a year we have come through. Covid-19 impacted each of us personally and professionally and Civic Engagement and Volunteerism was not alone in having to re-imagine how to serve our students and our community in a completely different way that kept everyone safe. We were able to offer new programs to engage in meaningful and educational ways through the Social Justice Series which included EIU Reads, Cinema and Conversation, Faculty Chats, and the Social Justice Seminars. We also were able to continue to offer volunteer opportunities for our students 5 days a week. We were able to come up with creative ways to support our community partners while keeping our students here on campus and keeping everyone safe.

The one thing that didn't change over the past year was the heart and drive of our students and our campus to make the world a brighter and better place for those around them. We are grateful for every hour of service we were able to complete together and look forward to continuing to impact our community together over the next year.

Beth Gillespie
Director
CEVO

WEEKLY SERVICE PROGRAMS

POP UP SERVICE

This was an easy way for students to pop in and give their time based on how it fit into their schedules. If they had 20 minutes, or an hour, we had projects that were easy and quick to complete. We offered this program multiple times each week.



PEN PAL PROJECT

We partnered with local nursing homes and started an old school pen pal exchange. We would write short letters and then deliver them to nursing homes, while we weren't able to go in and serve in person due to covid, we still wanted to connect and make an impact with this population.



SECRET SERVICE

The intent with this program was to do random acts of kindness. With the onset of Covid-19 we wanted to focus this program on saying thank you to people on the front lines right here in our community. We sent notes of gratitude to front line health care workers, our local police staff, the EIU Health Clinic, and the county Health Department.

SERVICE TO GO

This is a way for groups of students doing service while they were gathering in groups- as a Registered Student Organization or a Residence Hall Council Meeting. They would get supplies from our office so they could complete service projects during the time they were together either in person or virtually. We received over 30+ service to go requests throughout the year.



SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

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. This last year, we raised over 1,000 can food items. HUAH, or Huddle Up Against Hunger is a partnership with EIU Athletics teams.

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 served over 1300 meals summer of 2020 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 1200 blankets.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES

There is a lot happening in our country and across the globe right now. A lot of those events/issues are asking for your attention and effort. This program explores the concept of Social Justice, systematic oppression, and institutional racism. Monthly programming includes: Faculty Chats, EIU Reads, Living Room Conversations, Cinema and Conversation, and Social Justice Seminars.

WOMEN UP CONFERENCE

New this year we were thrilled to introduce the Women Up Conference. Our intent was to bring all women together to engage with, learn from, and talk about issues we face as we walk through the world as women today. This conference was a free event for all women 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 6 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.



AWARDS/HONORS

STAFF RECOGNITION/ASSOC. COMMITTEES SERVED ON/AWARDS

- Lead Institute for Civic Engagement with NASPA
- 2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients:
Emerging Leader: Rianna Rothermel
Panther of the Year: Niondina Nystroem
Panther of the Year: Sihile Mwalongo
Making a Difference: Anna Sipes
Making a Difference: Kaylee Spinner
Making a Difference: Grace Fosu
- Panther Service Award Recipients:
Outstanding Academic/Educational Program: Latin American student Organization
- Staff members serve and work on local, regional, and national boards and committees as related to various non-profits and the service sector.



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

- Unknown



Civic Engagement &
Volunteerism Office

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

