

Community-Engaged Fellows Position Description

Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning

and the

DU Grand Challenges initiative

AY 2022-2023

What is Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL) and DU Grand Challenges (DUGC)?

The [Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning \(CCESL\)](#) connects students, faculty, staff, and community partners through programming to promote far-reaching and sustainable outcomes for the public good. We advance scholarship and creative work that is rooted in reciprocal relationships with community partners. [DU Grand Challenges \(DUGC\)](#) is a university-wide initiative powered by CCESL that brings together community and university change-makers to address complex public problems. We support community-engaged work that builds toward our vision of a world in which all communities thrive.

Who are Community-Engaged Fellows?

Successful candidates for the Community-Engaged Fellows program (CEF) are DU graduate students or advanced undergraduate students who are passionate advocates for the public purpose of higher education and DU's public good vision. They have experience working with communities to address identified needs and solve public problems. They believe in the power of authentic community engagement to support thriving communities and understand its utility as a method for research, teaching, and creative work. They seek to integrate community engagement into their own scholarship and future professional endeavors and are interested in serving as an advocate for community engagement across the DU Campus and beyond.

What do Community-Engaged Fellows do?

Advancing Community Engagement at DU

A primary goal of the Fellows program is to deepen and expand community-engaged work at DU. Fellows serve as ambassadors of community engagement within their units as well as across campus. Fellows support the work of CCESL in a variety of ways, including attending and supporting CCESL events, tabling to raise awareness of CCESL, support Scholar recruitment, and giving presentations to departments/units, student organizations, and classes.

Additionally, Fellows will engage in work that addresses identified gaps/needs relating to community engagement at the University of Denver. Past projects have included supporting repositories of discipline-based engagement literature, toolkits for interdisciplinary collaboration, reviews of DU policy/practice related to community engagement, assessment of community partner experiences, youth organizing projects, etc.

Mentorship

Each Fellow mentors a cohort of DU Grand Challenges Student Scholars, providing guidance and facilitating critical reflection on action-planning, relationship development, ePortfolio creation, and topics specific to Scholars' community engagement projects. If applicable, they work with Scholar Shop, a CCESL platform with projects identified by community partners, to connect DUGC Student Scholars with community partners. Fellows provide leadership and oversight for the projects that emerge. They may support Scholars in writing Advancing Community-Engaged (ACE) Student Scholars grant proposals and implementing ACE projects.

Each fellow will be matched with DUGC Student Scholars based on shared research interests, personal and professional goals in social justice, and/or community-engaged endeavor.

Community-Engaged, Collaborative Work (e.g. Scholarship and/or Creative Work)

Over the course of the academic year, all Fellows develop and implement a community-engaged project, with at least one community partner, aligned with their personal, professional, and academic development goals. Fellows may come into the program with a project idea or may develop an idea early in the Fall Quarter. Fellows may select a project from [Scholar Shop](#), where the ideas are identified by community organizations who are interested in collaborating with DU students to meet their project needs. Community-engaged projects include scholarship (e.g. as part of their thesis/dissertation research) as well as other creative, collaborative work. Through these projects, CCESL Fellows cultivate and demonstrate their proficiency across the four CCESL-pathways to the public good: [THINK – CONNECT – ACT – REFLECT](#).

True to their name as CCESL Fellows, all Fellows' projects generate Community-Engaged Scholarship & Learning, whether new understanding is shared through formal academic reports and articles, through shared experiences and reflections within learning communities, and/or through e-portfolios and social media. For example, previous Fellows have used this space to workshop their own community-engaged scholarship (thesis/dissertation projects), share lessons learned, practice presentations, etc. Several have co-authored articles as appropriate for academic journals.

Fellowship & Peer Learning

Fellowship – including peer learning and support – is a core benefit and responsibility of CCESL Fellows. Fellows actively participate in weekly professional and personal development hosted by CCESL Staff for hands-on workshops and peer support.

Workshop topics include but are not limited to mentorship, youth/adult partnerships, power/privilege/oppression, community-engaged methods, collective impact, and theories of the public good in contemporary American higher education. Therefore, Fellows are **required** to attend a weekly 90-minute meeting which will be determined by taking everyone's quarterly schedule into account.

Reflection

Fellows engage in ongoing reflection and support the reflective practice of the Scholars they mentor. All CCESL students, including Fellows, create a critical reflection ePortfolio to curate artifacts, document and assess their learning, and make connections between their work and their field of study, professional identity, etc.

The Details

Fellows must be able to commit 10 hours a week to the program. That commitment includes a standing 90-minute weekly team meeting and an individual bi-weekly 30 minute check-in. Fellows are asked to spend at least 4 hours a week in the CCESL office and/or at CCESL-sponsored events. The CCESL office is located in the Community Commons. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Fellows receive access to project funds, opportunities to participate in ongoing community-engaged research efforts, professional development, mentorship, and access to a network of peers who are using community engagement in their scholarly pursuits. They are paid an hourly wage of \$20.00/hour for 10 hours/week during the academic year.