



2019-2020 Highlights

Staff Reorganization

In April, we adopted a new staffing structure designed to make the CCCE easier to navigate and to allow each of our staff to focus on what we do best.

Adapting to Coronavirus

With our collaborators, we found ways to continue supporting emergency food access, educational equity, inclusive archives, Carls' civic learning, and more.

Racial Justice Action

Students researched philanthropy's complex role in social change and selected six organizations to support through CCCE and College Communications donations.

Emergency Food Access: Building Local Infrastructure through Partnership

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, food insecurity has remained elevated at record levels. 2020 data shows that in the third week of June, 13.9 million children lived in a household characterized by child food insecurity, which is 5.6 times as many as in all of 2018 (2.5 million) and 2.7 times as many than did at the peak of the Great Recession in 2008 (5.1 million). Due to increased food insecurity, the utilization of food shelves has skyrocketed across the country. In the State of Minnesota, Second Harvest Heartland predicts a 65 percent increase in food shelf demand by September. Thanks to a recent grant supported by Carleton students, the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC)'s Food Shelf is better able to accommodate this increase in demand. Carleton's student-led Food Recovery Network worked on a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant that purchased a \$54,000 walk-in cooler/freezer unit for the local food shelf, increasing the CAC's capacity to store fresh and rescued foods. This collaboration enabled the CAC to receive an additional 14,000 pounds of food from local farmers in 2019, produced a 20% increase in the amount of retail rescued food over the grant period (2017-2019), and yielded a carbon offset of 56,000kg /annually. Food Recovery Network also participated in dining hall recovery, retail recovery and farm recovery efforts, assisting with the transport of over 100,000 pounds of rescued food annually. In addition to assisting with the MPCA grant, students wrote a grant proposal to the Otto Bremer foundation that was funded to support the launch of a new satellite food shelf at the Greenvale Community School.

Academic Civic Engagement

Many ACE courses rose to this unprecedented moment with tremendous vision. Here are examples of ACE projects from Spring 2020:

- Professor Susannah Ottaway of the History Dept. reframed Historians for Hire under a civic learning & digital public scholarship model.
- Inspired by Professor Kelly Connoles' long standing Empty Bowls project, students in Professor Greg Hewetts' advanced Poetry Workshop created a chapbook of poems and visual art reflecting on their experiences of COVID to encourage donations for the Community Action Center's (CAC) COVID relief work.
- Students enrolled in Professor Melanie Freeze's Political Psychology of Mass Behavior class constructed an online experiment to explore the effectiveness of various public messages regarding the COVID-19 crisis.





Madres Latinas de Faribault en Acción with their vision boards.

Advancing Education Equity through Participatory Action Research

2019–20 was the second year of the Carleton–Faribault Participatory Action Research (PAR) project focused on addressing educational equity in Faribault, MN and funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service with leadership from co-PIs Professor Anita Chikkatur and Associate Director Emily Oliver. This community-engaged research project’s accomplishments this year include a new academic support program at Faribault High School called “Realizing Individual Student Excellence” or RISE and a successful pivot to online organizing. Following the transition to remote learning in March, the Faribault community research teams moved their work to Zoom and focused on responding to both ongoing and new education challenges introduced by the pandemic. The High School Student Team initiated social media accounts to post positive and encouraging messages to their peers while the Somali Young Adult Team created a podcast called “Somalis Out Loud.” Organizers also found ways to adapt project plans to address the urgency of the moment, including directing funds from the project’s translation budget to create videos in Spanish and Somali for parents on how to access online platforms that allow parents to keep track of their students’ assignments while they’re home learning online. These partnerships have also fueled community-engaged academic experiences at Carleton: Co-PI Anita Chikkatur co-developed a course with St. Olaf colleagues Professor Heather Campbell and Professor Jill Watson titled “Refugee and Immigrant Experiences in Faribault, MN” that she will offer in Fall 2020. CNCS Latinx Parent Team Community Researcher Cynthia Gonzalez and co-PI Emily Oliver secured an internal Public Works award to support the development of a course titled “Community-Based Learning & Scholarship: Ethics and Practice,” which they will co-teach in Fall 2020. Research from this project was presented by Cynthia Gonzalez (Latinx parent research team), Amina Aden (Somali parent research team), and Emily Oliver and Anita Chikkatur (grant co-PIs) at the CNCS research summit in Washington, DC, in September 2019 and a video made by Latinx parent team about their PAR experience was presented at the “Imagining America” gathering in October 2019 as part of a PAR workshop led by co-PI Anita Chikkatur.

CCCE Alum Continues Commitment to Systemic Change

After graduating in 2019, former Health and Wellbeing Fellow Juliette Bobrow began working at the Omaha Women’s Fund in Nebraska through the Weitz Fellows Program. Bobrow supports their Freedom from Violence project, which seeks to create a coordinated system response to domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and other related forms of violence that is just and equitable for all survivors of violence in Nebraska.

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“My two years with the CCCE taught me so much about forging strong, authentic and meaningful community partnerships which has been critical to my work now,” said Bobrow. “Like the CCCE, the Women’s Fund is committed to learning from community-based knowledge and being led by the lived experiences of those most impacted by the issues the organization addresses. My experience supporting Health & Wellbeing programs with volunteer recruitment, communications, program evaluation and event planning has also guided me in the work I’ve done for the Women’s Fund to support our Freedom from Violence grantees.”

- Juliette Bobrow '19,
Weitz Fellow at Omaha Women’s Fund.

Pandemic Pivot Highlights



Addressing Hunger: The first ever virtual Empty Bowls event held in May generated over \$5,000 in donations. From March to July, the Food Recovery Network rescued around 26,000 pounds of fresh, donated produce from Cub Foods and Target. Both efforts benefited the Community Action Center’s food shelf.



Fostering Belonging: During the Covid-19 crisis, the CCCE’s partnership with the Project Friendship mentoring program transitioned online, and 90 Carleton students continued to foster positive connections with local young people.



Sharing Facts in the Face of the Pandemic: [Student-created immunology content on Wikipedia](#) developed by Debby Walser-Kuntz’s class started trending when the pandemic hit, with 46,650 views of Carl Cecily Choy’s article by the end of April as the public tried to understand immune response.

