OFFICE OF COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Who we are

Greetings from the Office of Community-Engaged Learning at Vassar College! Formerly called “Field Work,” the office seeks to create mutually beneficial relationships with community partners to provide students with experiential learning opportunities.

This semester, 164 Vassar students are able to pursue their passions, deepen classroom learning, and engage in civic life thanks to the following partners:

- Abilities First
- Arlington High School
- Arts Mid-Hudson
- Blind Hummingbird Productions
- Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services
- City of Poughkeepsie: Building, Planning and Zoning
- City of Poughkeepsie: Public Art Commission
- Democratic Committee of Dutchess County
- District Attorney’s Office
- Driven Society
- Dutchess County Court
- Dutchess County Transportation Council
- Dutchess Outreach
- eGrace.Love
- End New Jim Crow Action Network/N.Y.C.L.U.
- Environmental Monitoring and Management Alliance
- EPIC: Engaging People in

Why did you choose CEL?

“I wanted to intern at an organization that focuses on minimizing the trauma of incarceration. The CEL program has always complemented my sociology courses at Vassar, and has helped me to determine my career goals.” - Emily ’18, Greater Hudson Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents

“...I was so excited to get involved. Not only to bring the beauty of acting and community to a group of people ...... but also to have the chance to learn from their experiences growing up in an area completely different from my own both culturally and socially, and hopefully grow as an individual as a result.” - Marc ‘20, Poughkeepsie Youth Theatre

“I wanted to engage in an opportunity I wouldn’t have access to through regular academics, and to explore some of my interests.” - Thomas’ 19, Hudson Valley Design Lab
Trying a CEL placement for the first time:

“I wanted to be involved with the city of Poughkeepsie’s art community and I’m striving to be more civically engaged.” - Annie’19, Public Arts Commission of the City of Poughkeepsie

“I believe that the separation between Vassar and the Poughkeepsie community is unnecessary and takes away so many opportunities to learn and to give back. Poughkeepsie/Arlington has carved out a physical portion of its urban space to accommodate our campus ….. If we Vassar students are going to vote in Arlington, to use the Arlington civil infrastructure, and to call this space home, then the least we can do is engage, and learn from and participate in robust work being done to continue to build up this community.” - Math Major ’19, Exodus Transitional Community

“I chose to do a CEL placement because I wanted to gain valuable experience working in a new environment outside of Vassar to further future career interests and to give back to the Poughkeepsie community.” - Patrick ‘19, Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum

“Having some experience matters when you are applying to a job. … My community-engaged learning placement offered me a chance to experience the legal field during the school year and it did not cost a penny. I choose this placement this semester because it is in the field that I love.” - Lorice ’20, Dutchess Family Court

“Having been on campus for 2 years, I know what an isolating place Vassar can become. I believe that CEL provides students with an opportunity to diversify their college experience, interacting with individuals who are not faculty and fellow students…. I think this experience will give me a chance to learn about community organizing, something that I could not necessarily learn about in the classroom.” - Achal ’20. Family Services: SNUG program

“As an exchange student from overseas, I felt the CEL program would be a good opportunity to not only be involved in positive change in Poughkeepsie, but allow me to experience working in a US context and build relationships with people outside of Vassar as well.” - Jerald ’18, Vassar Environmental Coop