Greetings!

Vassar students are very lucky to have community-engaged learning opportunities with incredible community partners.

We asked community-partners to share their experience with the community-engaged learning program and this is what they had to say.

This is what our partners would like:

- More students
- Early applications
- Opportunities to meet with faculty advisors
- Opportunities to see reading lists assigned to students by faculty sponsors

Important dates:

Pre-Registration for Spring Semester placements: November 6-17.

Our partners say....

Vassar students are a key piece of EPIC! We empower high school students to be the first people in their families to go to college, so having first-gen college students integrated into the life of the program is a big deal for us. Our Vassar students are inspiring, they help us cook dinner, they have computer skills that help the program go more smoothly, they’re funny and relatable-- and I know that they are learning A LOT along the way from their hands-on, dynamic, constantly evolving, and deeply meaningful work with EPIC members. Thank you! :)

- Abby Nathanson, EPIC (Engaging People in Change) Millbrook

The Exploring Science at Vassar Farm program has three main goals: To provide Vassar students with the
opportunity to teach young students science curriculum-based lessons. Secondly, to engage local children in age-appropriate ways of learning and third, to become a resource for teachers in our community. Without the staffing of college students, this program could not exist.

- Lynn Capozzoli, Exploring Science

Our organization has a very small staff, which makes it nearly impossible to meet the needs of our entire community. A huge goal for us is to create and provide culturally relevant, bilingual programs for the Spanish-speaking families in our community. Through planning and executing these programs, our Vassar interns help us meet the needs of a too often overlooked part of our community.

- Neena McBaer, Pawling Free Library

… Vassar fellows have functioned as tutors for our elementary, middle, and high school students. Vassar students have helped with supervision and chaperoning of our elementary students… created programs… such as a performing arts program called Hip Hop Theater…. A select few interns have shown an interest in administrative and clerical work that has led to more organized practices in the office and the raising of thousands of dollars in funds for our organization through grant writing…. Our director has a saying "Give me two Vassar students with laptops and we can do anything." Vassar students are a part of the backbone of this organization and we intend to uphold that legacy.


Having the Vassar students present over the years has provided our school the opportunity to model our educational principles and practices. This gives us the chance to actively reflect, mentor and also benefit from a two-way conversation because VC students actively ask questions and engage. Ultimately, we’ve been fortunate to have a few students placed as student teachers over the years, and in one recent instance, this placement turned into a full-time position for a VC student.

- Karen Nichols, Poughkeepsie Day School

The students from Vassar make an extraordinary contribution to this fledgling program. They bring not only their talents as developing artists but their insights as to the sensibilities of the young...
people who participate in the program. The Vassar students are engaged, enthusiastic, and caring of each other and of each the participants. I feel extraordinarily lucky to have them on board.

- Shawn Fischer, Poughkeepsie Youth Theatre

Our staffing ratios in our day programs are generally approximately 1:5, and the community-engaged learning program allows some of our participants to get invaluable 1:1 attention and assistance. This may be in the form of assisting an individual in a project on the computer, working individually on social skills development, or just teaming up with them/supporting them in a recreational event or endeavor. Since many of our participants live in group homes with a similar (or even greater) ratio, this 1:1 attention is rare, and the obvious positive impact on them is immeasurable.

- Charles Bender, Abilities First

The community-engaged learning program is extremely helpful to our program since we sometimes have difficulty keeping up with the demand for advocacy, especially in the area of Family Court. The students are trained to assist with victims of crime and offer services and emotional support throughout the process which is invaluable.

- Kathy Peluso, Family Services’ Center for Victim Safety and Support

The CEL program allows us to assist local organizations that are working on conservation efforts through community action activities such as gardening in city parks and local park and creek clean ups. CEL students also provide important support for current projects working with the city of Poughkeepsie, such as the development of a Natural Resources Inventory for the City.

- Jen Rubbo, Vassar Environmental Coop

This program allows us to work with engaged young adults in making a difference in our community - the students also experience the layers of actions needed to get a project completed.

- Linda Marston-Reid, Arts Mid-Hudson