Why do faculty sponsor CEL placements?

“To help students apply ideas explored in their classes to real-life settings. This helps them critically evaluate concepts articulated by academics. In addition, Vassar students who are planning to become teachers gets valuable hands-on experience working with children and observing experienced educators.”

- Christopher Bjork, Professor of Education on the Dexter M. Ferry, Jr. Chair and Coordinator of Teacher Education

“Students who participate in Community-Engaged Learning projects become more widely attuned to their own humanity and spirit in the act of serving others, whether in a soup kitchen, a Buddhist monastery, after-school tutoring, or a women’s shelter. They become more generous thinkers, writers, and media artists but also grow calmer, happier, and more engaged in all the
aspects of their richly busy lives."

- Michael Joyce, Professor of English

“I often learn a great deal from students' experiences and lenses into their community-engaged placements. Now that I live in downtown Poughkeepsie, I feel all the more vested in different communities, from local politics and political campaigns, to community organizing for basic rights, public school education in the city, family court, and more.”

- Katherine Hite, Professor of Political Science on the F. Thompson Chair and Director of Research Development

NEW: Focus on Volunteering

The purpose of Vassar Food Rescue is to raise awareness about the problems of food waste on campus by collecting leftover food from the campus dining centers, events on campus and donors in the Poughkeepsie area, and delivering it to local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. We also collaborate with campus and Poughkeepsie organizations to host various educational events surrounding food waste. Through food rescue efforts, we hope to address the environmental issues of food waste, to feed those who are hungry in our community, and to form sustainable partnerships and to bridge the gap between Vassar students and the wider Poughkeepsie community. We are affiliated with a national food rescue organization, Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, that is based in New York City.

Contact: Siennah Yang, siyang@vassar.edu

For community partners:

Please tell us your story! How has community-engaged learning impacted your organization?

Erratum: We mis-titled the following:

Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services

Prison Public Memory Project

Lisa R. Kaul, Director

Main N- 167

likaul@vassar.edu