CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP AND LEARNING

Many students who come to the University of Denver want to contribute to the public good and continue their civic development. The Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL) leads the campus in embracing the University of Denver’s commitment to “being a great private university dedicated to the public good.” CCESL’s vision is to be a university working with communities to improve lives. Therefore, CCESL programs focus on activating student, faculty, and community potential through partnerships that are guided by a community organizing framework. Community organizing is about people working together for systematic social change.

CCESL works with students and faculty across multiple programs and initiatives. Students tackle grand challenges and connect with university and community change-makers when they apply their academic learning to public problems through DU Grand Challenges. Students connect learning and doing through community-engaged classes that involve reciprocal relationships between classrooms and communities. These courses offer students opportunities to advance critical thinking, develop civic skills, address public problems and become leaders. Students advance discovery by working with faculty to do research and creative work with community partners for the public good. Honing skills to become tomorrow’s civic leaders, students take on leadership roles in research and creative work through CCESL’s Scholar Shop or assist faculty partners as Public Good Associates. Students develop their civic identities while preparing for active participation in civic life through public good work and community organizing. Students connect service activities to academic learning through critical reflection, examination of root causes, community building and increasing campus and community capacities.

From engaging with public school students through the Public Achievement program to the Puksta Scholars civic development program and DU Service and Change student-led service activities, CCESL is a gateway for students to find their voice and apply what they are learning in our world. Please visit our website at www.du.edu/ccesl or call at 303-871-3706, or email ccesl@du.edu.