

20th Anniversary Timeline Center for Community Engagement

University of Rochester

The University of Rochester's Center for Community Engagement fosters collaboration between students, faculty, staff, and community partners to create positive change in the Rochester area and beyond.

1988



Wilson Day of Engagement

Piloted as one of the first of its kind in the nation—drawing national media coverage. The program introduces new students to the local community, impresses upon them the importance of community engagement to their education, and strengthens bonds with their new classmates.

2002



Rochester Urban Fellows

Piloted through the collaborative efforts of community members—especially in Rochester's 19th Ward--the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and faculty and staff from multiple area colleges and universities.

2005



Rochester Center for Community Leadership

The center is founded as the Rochester Center for Community Leadership within the Office of the Dean of Students at the University. Dean of Students Jody Asbury becomes its founding director.

2006



Rochester Youth Year

The Center pilots the Rochester Youth Year fellowship program as a means of retaining recent graduates in Rochester to provide capacity-building support for organizations working to alleviate poverty for youth and families.

2008



AmeriCorps VISTA Grant

The Center is awarded an AmeriCorps grant to support the development of the Rochester Youth Year Fellowship program; the grant will later also lend support to the Rochester Urban Fellows program.



Full-time Director

The Center gains its first full-time director as Glenn Cerosaletti '91, '03 (MA), is appointed to this role, which supervises an AmeriCorps VISTA leader and shares administrative support with the office of the dean of students.

2009



Learning and Exploring at Play (LEAP)

The Center becomes the home of the University's early childhood reading and math literacy program, now known as LEAP, after it was established in 2004 in the career center.

2010



Transition Opportunities at the University of Rochester (TOUR)

The Center begins collaboration with Monroe One Educational Services for Transition Opportunities at the University of Rochester (TOUR), an inclusive post-secondary education initiative through which undergraduates serve as academic and social mentors for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2011



Committee for Political Engagement (CPE)

The Center expands its efforts to foster non-partisan political engagement for students with the creation of the student Committee for Political Engagement, a student advisory board to lead voter registration and education and other efforts to ensure students are informed and active participants in democratic processes.

2012



National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement

The Center leads the University in becoming a founding participant in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement administered by Tufts University. The Study provides data on voting registration and participation by students for even-year elections in the United States.

"King For A Day"

In collaboration with the Rochester Regional Network, an advisory group consisting of community engagement representatives from other area colleges, and in partnership with the local not-for-profit, Rochester Cares, and student organizations, the Center coordinates efforts to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King national day of service through a service program called "King For A Day." The Center receives a sub-grant from Campus Compact for the effort.

2013



Lattimore Hall

In recognition of its growing size and importance, the Center relocates from the fifth floor of Wilson Commons to Lattimore Hall, gaining its own dedicated administrative support for the first time. The Center has 3.5 staff members, including the director, plus a dozen AmeriCorps VISTA members in service and several dozen student employees.

2014



Community-Engaged Learning

The Center launches its community-engaged learning initiative, which builds a community of practice among faculty, staff and community partners for designing and delivering coursework in collaboration with non-academic community partners.

2016



Certificate in Community-Engaged Learning

The Center designs the certificate of achievement in community-engaged learning and begins offering seminars to support students in learning fundamental concepts and skills for effective community engagement, culminating in a capstone project jointly

2017



Medallion Leadership program

In close collaboration with Wilson Commons Student Activities and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, the Center develops the Medallion Leadership program to enable students to develop leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities. The Center contributes civic engagement workshops to the program.

2018



"Breaking the Bubble"

In collaboration with the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services, the Center launches the "Breaking the Bubble" community conversation series to address timely topics and innovative work being done in the local community by students, faculty, and community changemakers.

2019



Carnegie Classification

The Center plays a leadership role in the University's first successful application for the elective classification in community engagement offered by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University becomes one of only a handful of Research 1 universities to achieve the classification, which recognizes the University's alignment with best practices in the field.

2020



Voter Education

With support from the University's Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Center launches a partnership with Democracy Works to develop a portal to support voter education and participation by students and other members of the University community.

2021



Center for Community Engagement

The Center rebrands as the Center for Community Engagement in recognition of the growth of this area of its work and its strategic importance to the University and the local community.

2022



Student Organization Advocacy

Working in collaboration with Wilson Commons Student Activities, the Center serves as advocate for more than 20 student organizations whose missions focus on community engagement or politics, helping to connect them to community partnerships and existing campus programming and resources.

2023



Faculty Fellows Initiative

The Center creates the faculty fellows initiative provide engaged faculty with part-time appointments to serve as ambassadors for community-engaged learning with other faculty and departments. Rachel O'Donnell and Rose Pasquarello-eauchamp become the inaugural faculty fellows, later to be joined by Jonathan Holz.

2024



New Partnerships For Literacy

Adapting to changing community needs, the Center forges new partnerships for its early childhood literacy programming, collaborating with Allendale Columbia Summer Leap and the Roc Reading Partners program at the University's Warner School.

2025



Celebrating 20 Years

With 8.5 employees, 8 AmeriCorps VISTA members, and more than 60 student employees, the Center shifts reporting lines to the new senior vice provost for academic excellence, giving it a University-wide purview and the prospect for supporting both undergraduate and graduate students across the University's seven academic colleges. The Center also works in close coordination with the University's vice president for community partnerships, Dr. Shaun Nelms.

Read more at: www.rochester.edu/college/cce

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