



## We CU Community Engaged Scholars *Addressing Champaign-Urbana community needs Summer 2021*

### Program Summary

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The We CU Community Engaged Scholars program empowers students to make a positive impact in the community while building their resume/CV and enriching their university experience. We CU honors students for their community-based work and provides them with training, connection to like-minded peers, access to service opportunities with partner organizations, and support from We CU program leaders. Scholars will complete all projects individually or as part of a course or group and track their service hours and activities online.

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### **What are the expectations for participating students?**

- Participate in an informational session and training
- Be respectful, compassionate, professional, and accountable to our community partners and the people they serve
- Complete and track at least 40 hours of service over the summer using the GivePulse platform

#### **What do students receive as We CU community engaged scholars?**

- University support and distinct recognition for community service
- Eligibility for the mini grants program to offset costs associated with service activities
- Cultural competency trainings to enrich their service work and strengthen their relationships
- A certificate for their achievements during a ceremony near the end of the 2021–2022 academic year
- Addition of We CU program and individual service activities to their resume

#### **What kinds of projects will scholars complete?**

There are many kinds of projects and ways to choose them! Students may complete a variety of remote, community-based projects from campus or from anywhere in the world. Students may identify their own community-based projects, sign up for projects through GivePulse, or be matched with service opportunities through service learning classes, unpaid internships, and fellowships. Examples of projects completed during the past year include:

- Researching best practices to help the United Way move their K–12 tutoring programs online
- Conducting literature reviews for the Central Illinois Neuropsychological Services
- Developing social media content for community organizations like the Education Justice Project

#### **How will the projects be matched?**

The Community Learning Lab (CLL) in the School of Social Work works with more than 200 community organizations in Champaign County to fulfill community needs through student projects. The We CU team will collect these projects and match them with classes, student groups, and individual students. Students may also self-identify projects and log their hours as part of We CU.

#### **Join We CU!**

The first step toward joining We CU is to attend or view an online information session. We require that all students view the information session before joining We CU because it explains how to register, track hours, and fulfill program requirements. It is also the best way to learn about the variety of opportunities and resources available to participants. Visit [wecu.illinois.edu/join-we-cu](http://wecu.illinois.edu/join-we-cu).