



We CU Community Engaged Scholars *Addressing Champaign-Urbana community needs Fall 2022*

Program Summary

The We CU Community Engaged Scholars program empowers students to make a positive impact in the community while building their resume 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

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
- Track at least 20 hours of service over the semester to gain university recognition as a We CU Scholar

What do students receive as We CU community engaged scholars?

- Access to dozens of semester-long service projects
- Opportunities to get involved and develop a stronger connection to the CU community
- 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
- Guidance on how to communicate their service experience on resumes and in interviews

What kinds of projects will scholars complete?

There are many kinds of service projects and ways to choose them! Students may complete a variety of remote or in-person, community-based projects. 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:

- Packing groceries for Channing-Murray Foundation's Budget Brigade food pantry
- Leading Kindergarten - Fifth grade STEM activities at Booker T. Washington STEM Academy
- Writing and creating social media content for local efforts like the Urbana Arts and Culture Program

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 participate in We CU by logging the service they are already doing as part of their classes, majors, or extracurricular activities.

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 to learn more.