LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Western is located on the lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Peoples connected through four pre-confederation treaties: the London Township Treaty (Treaty 6), Longwoods Treaty (Treaty 21), Sombra Township Treaty (Treaty 7), McKee Purchase (Treaty 2), and the Dish With One Spoon Covenant Wampum. There is also a substantial amount of unceded land in the area we now call Southwestern Ontario. In the work that we do, we partner with communities within and beyond this area, and support students in engaging in experiential learning globally. We encourage students, faculty, and partners to research and understand the lands where they engage in experiences.

As an Experiential Learning team, we commit to working to dismantle colonialism by developing and honoring long-standing relationships with Indigenous community partners. We recognize that, historically, when universities have engaged with Indigenous communities for scholarly work, the process has been extractive and exploitative. We aim to support the disruption of the colonial relationship between Indigenous communities and our institution by focusing our work on partnerships and projects that are community-led and that prioritize reciprocity.

We commit to fostering a culture of inclusion for students in experiential learning, including taking action to remove systemic barriers that prevent or limit Indigenous students’ engagement. We will create safe and positive experiences for Indigenous students by recognizing and respecting their diverse identities, cultures, languages, learning styles, and perspectives, as well as centering their interests and needs. We will support students in growing their understanding and appreciation of Indigenous communities through experiential learning, and by engaging with Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
Your partnership is creating bright futures.

Strong relationships are the foundation of a successful community engaged learning program.

By partnering with us, you’re providing invaluable opportunities for our students to put their knowledge, skills, and creativity into practice.

On behalf of all of us at Western, thank you for sharing our belief in the transformative power of experiential learning.

Thanks to you, tomorrow’s leaders are discovering their potential.

Best regards,

Alan Shepard
President & Vice-Chancellor
Western University
COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL) ALLOWS STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR SKILLS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE COMMUNITY.

“My CEL experience was one of the highlights of my undergrad. I was partnered with the TAP Centre for Creativity to create an event from the ground up with my team. During that process, I learned many skills that I never experienced in an in-class setting, including how to problem solve as a group and how to manage self-made deadlines. One of the focuses of our class was to lessen interdisciplinary gaps; with my team’s varied backgrounds, we combined science and business with the arts, all in order to put on an event that would create even more connections outside of Western. Through the CEL component, I was able to pull on what I’d been taught from our series of guest speakers, all while learning about the artistic community in London and how to apply the skills I’d learned as an arts student to real-world settings. I feel more prepared to graduate and enter the workforce thanks to ARTHUM 3200 and my community partners, and I have a new appreciation for individuals who seek to bridge interdisciplinary divides.”

Ellie Poole | Knowledge Creation Through Performance

“Our class, Knowledge Creation Through Performance (ARTHUM 3200E), was a pilot created with the support of Western’s Experiential Learning Innovation Scholars program. Our premise was simple: how could students from across our diverse campus benefit from opportunities to learn about cross-disciplinary research through arts-led, interdisciplinary projects, helping them to better see the relationship between the arts and their own areas of interest? In the fall term, we hosted over a dozen guest speakers with expertise in music, somatics, brain science, applied theatre, forensic psychology, art history, computational technology, and more. In the winter term, students put their learning from those speakers into practice in CEL projects that ranged from creating theatre for newcomers, to building a research project about empathy using VR tools, to creating a bespoke gallery event focused on sustainability at TAP Centre for Creativity.

Kim Solga | Knowledge Creation Through Performance
Curricular CEL integrates service to the community with specific course curriculum. As part of the requirements of earning course credit, students complete a project or fulfil a placement that is defined by a community organization to advance their mission. This hands-on, practical experience in the community enables students to gain a deeper understanding of course content as it applies to local and international contexts.

**SELECT 2022-23 CEL PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR INCLUDE:**

- Creative writing self-published in the form of novelettes and online zines | *SASAH Learning from Experience*
- Refrigerated community pantry developed for accessibility to fresh food beyond standard working hours | *Mechanical & Materials Engineering: Mechanical Engineering Design Project*
- Educational video to teach English to newcomers in Elgin County | *Theatre Studies: Knowledge Creation Through Performance*
- Research and knowledge dissemination about culturally grounded healing within urban-Indigenous community through social media | *Health Sciences: Environmental Health Promotion*

“As a community partner it was truly amazing to see the teamwork and personal growth these students went through when working to build solutions to our project. The quest for a good grade became secondary to the importance of giving back to the community. The impact of creating community art pieces that encourage belonging, promote environmental awareness and welcome newcomers will be felt in our community for years to come. Thank you for letting us be a part of this wonderful experience.”

**Denise Love | Fundraising and Programs Director, STEAM Education Centre**
Launched in Vancouver in 2011, CityStudio is a proven model of experiential learning and civic engagement. This innovation hub has been adapted in 15 cities around the world and its network is continually expanding. From 2019 to 2023, CityStudio London was a collaboration between the City of London, Pillar Nonprofit Network, Fanshawe College, Brescia University College, Huron University, King’s University College, and Western University. By connecting with City Hall, academic institutions, and the local community, students gained meaningful opportunities to apply their skills, creativity, and entrepreneurial goals to real-world challenges facing London’s community and contributed to a brighter future for our city.

**PROJECTS FEATURED AT HUBBUB SPRING 2023: STUDENT PROJECT SHOWCASE**

- Joining with the London Arts Council to research successful Arts Prescription programs in other cities and examining the feasibility of implementing such programming in London to improve health in patients via the arts (*Well-being: Its Nature and Practical Significance*)
- Research to better understand how other municipalities are tackling the challenges of committing to net-zero carbon emissions within industries and government—strategically and financially (*Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Masters/PhD*)
- Connecting to the UNESCO Cities of Music Voyage of the Drum initiative to examine how it has been undertaken by other UNESCO Cities of Music to create a similar, London-specific initiative, aiming to integrate multiple, interconnecting histories (*Public History*)

The CEL team maintained their on-site space at Innovation Works, where we are co-tenant members. The space is a unique gathering space for community organizations and members to come together and share ideas, best practices, and experiences. We are very fortunate and appreciative to have Innovation Works and the Pillar Nonprofit Network as longstanding partners.
As part of Orientation Week, the CEL team collaborated with 12 community organizations to host the sixth annual Orientation Serves (OServes) event on Saturday, September 10, 2022. Over 1,400 first-year students participated in volunteer activities that fostered their connection to the local community and facilitated meaningful relationships. They engaged in diverse projects such as crafting zines, cleaning waterways, recording biodiversity, planting trees, writing letters to seniors, and creating craft kits for children. Moreover, they gained a deeper understanding of anti-racism initiatives and community engagement. Participating in volunteer work during their first week at the university allowed students to establish a sense of belonging and recognize the significance of community involvement. We extend our gratitude to the exceptional organizations that provided these enriching experiences and to the more than 900 Orientation Volunteer Leaders (Sophs) for their excellent leadership during the event.

The main purpose of the Western Serves Network (WSN) is to facilitate connections between Western students and the larger London community while promoting awareness about community issues through co-curricular experiential learning. This year, the WSN organized six events that focused on topics such as poverty, menstrual equity, and sustainability. These events involved community speakers and opportunities for hands-on learning. By partnering with non-profit organizations, students were able to share their perspectives and ideas while also gaining valuable experience and developing transferable skills. Ultimately, the WSN’s efforts helped to cultivate a sense of civic engagement among the student body.

Western’s signature Reading Week program, Impact Experience, continued to empower students to engage in community service and apply their skills to real-world challenges. In 2022, Impact Experience returned to an in-person format, providing students with a unique opportunity to collaborate with STEAM Education on Food Security and the development of a 24-hour food pantry in St. Thomas.

Over the course of the week, a team of 13 students worked closely with STEAM Education, immersing themselves in the local community and gaining a deep understanding of food security and its complex interplay with social support systems. Through their hands-on experience, students developed recommendations for a CEL Engineering course, which then created a prototype of a food cupboard that could be accessed outside of business hours.

The Impact Experience program continues to demonstrate Western’s commitment to experiential learning and social responsibility, and we look forward to the next iteration of this valuable program.
“EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IS A POWERFUL TEACHING TOOL

...and this joint activity provides a wonderful occasion to introduce a younger generation to embroidery which can be used in the creation of new forms of textile art or as a leisure activity throughout their life. The Guild members love being part of the CEL Program and having the opportunity to interact with the students and share our love and knowledge of stitching and working with textiles. The students have always proven to be very enthusiastic and really enjoy the mindfulness and community that is created while stitching together. We hope that many of the students will carry on this practice of stitching and go out and form sewing circles of their own to encourage and share the love of stitching and embroidering.”

Patricia Ferries  |  Embroiderer’s Guild London
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHAMPIONS

- Felix Cai
- Jia Yi Deng
- Jiya Sahni
- Salima Zabian

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING PARTNERS

519 Pursuit
ALUS Elgin
ALUS Middlesex
Accommodation Training and Networking (ATN)
Alice Saddy Foundation

Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners
Antler River Rally
Argyle BIA
Aya Afrika Foundation
Bark at the Moon Animal Rescue
Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area
Boys & Girls Club of London

Camp Kee Mo Kee
Canadian Cancer Society (RIOT)
Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging

Canadian Embroiderer’s Guild, London
Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Cats and Beans
Chesire Independent Living Services
Childcan
Childreach WildChild Program
Children’s Museum
CHIMA

City of London
CityStudio London
Clinic 528

Community Living London
Connected Canadians
Crafting for a Cure

Dandly Inc.
Department of Midwifery
Downtown London

Dr. Laurie L. Consaul Herbarium – Western University
El Sistema South
EnviroUSC
Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
Faculty of Health Sciences – Western University

Gender Equality Coalition of Ontario
Grade 5 ACT-i-Pass Program – HEAL
Growing Chefs
Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario
Hutton House
Inclusive Instruments

Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle
Individual community members partner with IC 2500: Bridging Campus and Community
Indwell

Indwell (London)
John Gordon Home – Regional HIV/AIDS Connection
KidsAbility
Kids Kicking Cancer

Landscape Services - Western University
LIFE*SPIN
Let’s Talk Science

London Citadel Corps - Salvation Army
London Cross Cultural Learner Centre
London Cycle Link
London Environmental Network
London Food Bank

London Health Sciences Centre – Children’s Environmental Health Network
London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

London Pro Musica Choir
London Regional Cancer Program

Louise Arbour French Immersion Public School
Love Western!
L’Arche London
LRCP Patient and Family Advisory Council
Make-A-Wish Foundation
March of Dimes Canada
Middlesex-London EMS
Montessori Academy of London
Motionball
Municipality of Middlesex Centre
Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration
Nameless Project
Nokee Kwee
Nutrition RX
Office of the Dean – Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Office of the Dean, Knowledge Mobilization Unit – Faculty of Health Sciences
Old North Public School
Ontario Shores
Orchard Park Public School – Thames Valley District School Board
Oxford County Community Health Centre
PHSS Medical & Complex Care in Community
ParkSeek Canada – HEAL
Participation House Support Services
Planning Services – City of London
Preschool of the Arts
Prisma Health Care Collaborative
Project Hope
Project Hope London
Project Sunshine
Railway City Lofts – Indwell (St. Thomas)
Random Acts of Greens
ReForest London

Recovery Addicatior Awareness Day
Rights and Responsibilities Awareness Initiatives
STEAM Education Centre
Science For Everyone
Seniors with Skills
Sewer Outreach and Control – City of London
Shannon Rolph, Pediatric Occupational Therapist
Single Women in Motherhood
Sound Remedy
St. Joseph’s Health Care London
St. Leonard’s Community Services
Stem2Stern
Stevenson Children’s Camp
Studio Cirque
Sunshine Foundation
TAP Centre for Creativity
Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services – Canadian Mental Health Association
The Canada Network
The Parkinson Society of Southwestern Ontario
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Centre of Hope
The Sherwood Fox Arboretum – Western University
Type Diabeat It
Urban Roots
VAW Joint Venture
Western LibrarieS – Western University
Western Sustainability – Western University
Western University
Westover Treatment Centre
Withdrawal Management Centre – Salvation Army, London Centre of Hope
Young Artist Pre-College Academy
Youth Opportunities Unlimited

RESOURCES

CEL FACULTY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
To support the work of CEL faculty, the CEL team facilitates a Faculty Community of Practice (CoP). The CoP connects throughout the year to discuss challenges and successes, share CEL resources, and explore themes identified by the members.

SCHOLARSHIP AT WESTERN SITE
CEL has a public repository on Western Libraries’ Scholarship@Western site to publish students’ final deliverables from CEL courses. This open access platform showcases valuable contributions that students have made within the London community and the important work that CEL partners engage in. The site enables students to publicize their work, while exemplifying possible achievements for future partnerships and projects. CEL publications currently include 36 articles, 1 presentation, and 11 reports, with the total number of downloads exceeding 5,000 and continually growing.
CURRICULAR CEL FACULTY

The following is a list of the instructors who taught CEL courses in the 2022-23 academic year, and their course titles. We would like to express our thanks to the faculty members listed below, for integrating CEL into their teaching and creating opportunities for students to apply their learning and contribute to the important work of our community partners.

FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Dr. Anthony Skelton : Arts & Humanities 2200 : Well-being: Its Nature and Practical Significance++
Dr. Barbara Bruce : Arts & Humanities 4490X : SASAH Experiential Learning Capstone
Amrapali Chatterjee : Intercultural Communications 2500G : Bridging Campus Community: Languages and Cultures in Action
Dr. Carolyn McLeod : Philosophy 4901G : Honours Capstone: Community Engaged Learning+
Tricia Johnson : Studio Art 3672B : Community Engaged Learning - Embroidering with the Guild
Dr. Kim Solga : Theatre Studies 3200E : Knowledge Creation Through Performance+

CONTINUING STUDIES

Janis Wallace : Marketing 6013 : Advanced Marketing Strategies
Janis Wallace : Public Relations 6036 : Media Relations

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Dr. John Makaran : Mechanical and Materials Engineering 4499 : Mechanical Engineering Design Project+

FACULTY OF INFORMATION & MEDIA STUDIES

Jeremy Copeland : Master of Media in Journalism and Communication 9503 : Shoot for the Heart - Harnessing the Power of Video Storytelling
Dr. Sandra Smeltzer : Media, Information & Technoculture 4999 : Media & the Public Interest Practicum

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. Tara Mantler : Health Sciences 3010F : Introduction to Rural Communities
Dr. Denise Grafton : Health Sciences 3240B : Environmental Health Promotion
Dr. Carri Hand : Occupational Therapy 9652 : Engaging in Occupation: Community and Population Level Practice

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Dr. Sarah McLean : Medical Sciences 4995E : CEL and Research Skills and IMS
Dr. Nicole Campbell : Medical Sciences 9603 : Experiential Community Rotation

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC

Dr. Betty Anne Younker : Music 3812A/B : Music Education in Action

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dr. Graeme Taylor : Biology 4920F/G : Seminar in Biology
Laura Reid & Bryan Sarlo : Computer Science 1033A/B : Multimedia and Communication
Dr. Ben Rubin : Environment and Sustainability 9430/9440 : Interdisciplinary Research Seminar*
Dr. Christina Booker & Dr. Gurpaul Kochhar : Integrated Science 3002A : Science in Your Community

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Dr. Mike Dove : History 3813E : Public History *
Ajit Unnithan : Management and Organizational Studies 9330 : Project Management
Dr. Dan Bousfield : Political Science 3201G : International Law
Dr. Riley Hinson : Psychology 3315E : Addictions: Theory and Research
Dr. Leora Swartzman : Psychology 3317E : Community Psychology
Dr. Bill Irwin : Public Administration 9915 : Social Science in the Community
Dr. Joe Lyons : Public Administration 9931 : Methods and Issues in Program and Policy Evaluation*
Lauren Barr : Sociology 4425G : Advanced Sociology of Youth

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Associate Deans : Scholar’s Electives 4400Y : Scholar’s Electives Capstone Course

*CityStudio London course
+New course
“I am grateful to Western’s CEL program for arranging placements for our students in local non-profit organizations. The students gain real-world experience which helps them realize that they are developing transferable skills in their coursework that they can adapt to different roles. Their confidence in their abilities grows, and they feel less anxious about entering the working world after university. Many of our students are looking for careers in which they can serve the greater good.

THE CEL PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO PREVIEW SUCH CAREERS, FEEL LIKE THEY’RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW, AND FORM FRUITFUL AND LASTING CONNECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY GATES.”

Barbara Bruce | SASAH Experiential Learning Capstone