

# Community Engaged Learning

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



# 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.

## PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU

### **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

# INTRODUCTION

## COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL) ALLOWS STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR SKILLS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Through CEL courses and co-curricular programs, students partner with organizations in the London region and abroad to tackle important challenges and issues. At the heart of this work is the promise of community-driven problem solving, collaboration, and mutually beneficial outcomes for students and community partners.

This year, 4,439 Western students participated in CEL. They created 271 projects in collaboration with 226 community members across 124 organizations, and they organized and hosted curricular and co-curricular events, both on and off campus. Most activities took place in person throughout the London area, with the incorporation of some hybrid formats for accessibility and efficiency, such as meetings, work sessions, and presentations. This flexible approach allowed CEL partners to choose which option worked best for them, whether out in the community, on campus, or via Zoom. Students and community partners collaborated on semester and year-long projects to create greater impact within London.

We are so grateful for our community partners' generosity, enthusiasm, and dedication mentoring our students' and contributing to the next generation of leaders in our 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

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.

  
**2,530**  
students

**39** CEL courses  
across

 **9** faculties

**233**  
projects

 **55,982**  
hours of engagement

**195**  
partners

## 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

# CITYSTUDIO LONDON

**85** students **4** courses **8** partners **4** projects

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*)

## INNOVATION WORKS

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.

# CO-CURRICULAR CEL

## OSERVES

**1,472** students **12** partners **5,728** hours of engagement

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.

## WESTERN SERVES NETWORK

**78** students **11** partners **6** events **305** hours of engagement

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.

## IMPACT EXPERIENCE

**13** students **1** partner **1** project **195** hours of engagement

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

Community Engagement Champions are student leaders that assist with the planning and execution of OServes, Western Serves Network, and Impact Experience. These volunteers work closely with the CEL team to design, promote, research, and support year-long co-curricular CEL programming.

We would like to thank this year's Community Engagement Coordinator, Catherine Cassels, and the following Community Engagement Champion volunteers:

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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING PARTNERS

226 community members across 124 organizations partnered with CEL at Western this year. Organizations in **bold** partnered with more than one course, project, or event throughout the year.

To our partners—thank you for sharing your expertise, your time, and your enthusiasm with our students. These incredible learning opportunities would not be possible without your partnership.

### **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**

Cheshire 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!**

### **Luke's Place Coffee House – St. Luke's Church**

### **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 Addication 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](mailto: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
	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
	Political Science 3365G	Canada-US Relations
Dr. Riley Hinson	Psychology 3315E	Addictions: Theory and Research
Dr. Leora Swartzman	Psychology 3317E	Community Psychology
	Psychology 3995E	Social Science in the Community
Dr. Bill Irwin	Public Administration 9915	Methods and Issues in Program and Policy Evaluation*
Dr. Joe Lyons	Public Administration 9931	Research Project*
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*