

Community Engaged Learning

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU

Opening minds, transforming lives, changing the world—one student at a time.

When the pandemic turned our world upside down, you stepped up.

As a community engaged learning partner, you were there—offering Western students hands-on opportunities to use their knowledge, skills and creativity for making the world a better place.

Thank you for sharing our belief that experiential learning can be a powerful teacher that benefits everyone involved. And thank you for investing your time and energy when our students needed you most.

Your partnership is not only solving today's challenges, it's developing tomorrow's leaders.

Yours sincerely,



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.

The CEL team at Western has prepared this report to share data, reflections, and highlights from the programming we supported this year.

In 2021-22, 4,408 Western students participated in CEL. They worked on 257 projects and events in collaboration with 155 community partner organizations. As many community organizations continued to operate remotely this year, CEL projects often operated in a hybrid format. Community partners visited classrooms via Zoom, and virtual team meetings and work sessions between students and community partners were common. This flexible approach to CEL programming meant that even when gathering limits prevented in-person work, students and community partners were able to continue collaborating and making progress together on their projects.

We are incredibly grateful to our community partners for their versatility, generosity, and perseverance throughout the last year.

"I can confidently say the Community Engaged Learning course has been integral to my undergraduate experience. It is rewarding to feel as if I have made a difference in the London community, which I view as my second home. As I conclude my undergraduate career at Western, I will graduate with more enhanced collaboration skills, an ability to persevere when facing adverse or novel situations and I will continue to think outside of the box to produce significant work, wherever my science-based education takes me."

Natalie Rae Hill | *Seminar in Biology*

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 placement or project 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.


3,116
students

31 CEL courses
across **9** faculties


5 CityStudio
courses

185
projects


54,324
hours of engagement

112
partners

SELECT 2021-22 CEL PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Creation of a walking tour, online map, and pamphlet highlighting historical landmarks in St. Thomas, in collaboration with STEAM Education Centre (Scholar's Electives Capstone course);
- a policy brief on funding sources for grassroots organizations, for Queer Events (LGBTQ Politics: Policy and Representation);
- a series of podcast interviews with individuals who have lived experience with addiction, as part of Recovery Addiction Awareness Day (Addictions: Theory and Research); and
- environmental scan and literature review focused on Indigenous food sovereignty to support Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle programming and approaches to diabetes prevention and care (Environmental Health Promotion).

“For organizations that are invested in social justice work, there is always more to be done than can be achieved by our colleagues, especially when resources are limited. Many people are reluctant to take on students in case it is more work than just doing it yourself, but after supervising two projects this year I can say that what both project teams achieved greatly surpassed anything we would've been able to do ourselves in house. The students were highly organized and kept the project on track, were self-directed but asking important questions...the outcome of both student projects has meant that we have new resources that were previously put on the backburner for development. This will have a positive impact for us as an organization in meeting our mandate and for our community members. I hope that this is the beginning of a partnership with CEL for future years.”

Kat Hamilton | Senior Manager, Advocacy and Public Education, CNIB Foundation

CITYSTUDIO LONDON

CityStudio is a proven model of experiential learning that started in Vancouver and is being adapted across Canada. The CEL team was a founding partner of CityStudio London when it launched in September 2019. CityStudio London is a collaboration between the City of London, Pillar Nonprofit Network, Fanshawe College, Brescia University College, Huron University, King's University College, and Western University. Together, the partner organizations co-create experiential learning opportunities through which students can apply their knowledge and skills to tackle challenges facing our community, and contribute meaningfully to our City's future.

In this third year of the program, five Western courses ran as CityStudio courses, with 871 students, spanning three Faculties. These courses addressed five City of London projects/problems over four City Service Areas and two Strategic Priority Areas.

SELECTED CITYSTUDIO PROJECTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

- re-designing the anchoring system for the City of London's public park waste bins (Foundations of Engineering Practice) – *Judge's Choice Award at Hubbub Student Project Showcase*;
- creating a new bench design for East Lions Park (Foundations of Engineering Practice);
- developing infographics for homeowners to repair or replace their windows or insulation in heritage homes, and writing a policy brief and set of recommendations on the relationship between heritage and climate change solutions (Environment and Sustainability Interdisciplinary Research Seminar);
- creating a virtual map of the City of London's interpretive signage on Google Maps, and creating an associated guide to aid in the production of future City of London signage efforts (Public History); and
- assess the different responsibilities and outcomes for the stakeholders of Queen's Park, with the intention of mapping out a shared vision for the park space (Policy Process in Theory and Practice).

"My Public History class and I were delighted with the experience of working with the CityStudio team this past year. The students had the invaluable opportunity to become immersed in the production of hands-on community projects with The City of London.

One group implemented a comprehensive research plan exploring Indigenous Veterans' Day in Canada, working closely with the City's Manager of Culture Services and the Indigenous Community Liaison to give voice to Indigenous Veterans' experiences.. A second group worked with a professional community heritage researcher to create content and digitally map the city's heritage signs to identify ways that the city can better reflect London's diversity. The group also compiled guidelines for how the process of heritage signage works here in London, a very useful resource to aid those making future requests.

In public history, we put history to work in the world. These collaborative projects enabled my students to bring their love of history and skills learned in the public history program out into the community where they could make a meaningful impact"

Professor Mike Dove | *Public History (CityStudio London)*

"Our team had a great time at the event hosted by CityStudio. It was amazing to see all the innovative ideas that our fellow students in London had come up with. HUBBUB 2022 was an excellent opportunity to interact with others in the community and share our own ideas. It was an honour winning the Judge's Choice award. We look forward to attending another CityStudio event in the near future—hopefully this time it's in-person!"

Anthony Dicriscio, Owen Dufour, Roy Hong, Annie Johnston, Haris Malik & Jonathan Seo
Foundations of Engineering Practice: Anchor Group

CO-CURRICULAR CEL

OSERVES

1,152 students **50** partners **64** projects **4,608** hours of engagement

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the CEL team partnered with 50 incredible community organizations to deliver the fifth annual Orientation Serves (OServes) event as part of Orientation Week. More than 1,100 first-year students learned about the local community and built meaningful connections by engaging in on-campus, off-campus, and virtual volunteer opportunities. They developed social media plans, cleaned up waterways and gardens, wrote fun and thoughtful letters to seniors, created murals, planted trees, assembled meal kits, deepened their understanding of anti-racism work, and more. The opportunity to volunteer during their first week helps students feel a connection to their new home and better understand the importance of community engagement. We want to thank the organizations that provided these fantastic experiences and the more than 900 Orientation Volunteer Leaders (Sophs) who provided leadership during the program.

WESTERN SERVES NETWORK

115 students **9** partners **5** events **1,150** hours of engagement

The Western Serves Network (WSN) exists to connect Western students to the broader London community and raise awareness about community issues through co-curricular experiential learning. This year, the WSN hosted five events in relation to poverty, ethical global volunteering, mental health, and mindfulness. Each event included a panel of community speakers and an experiential learning opportunity. Non-profit partners were able to connect with students, invite perspectives and ideas, and identify potential candidates for future opportunities. Students gained experience, contributed to solutions, developed transferable skills, and developed a sense of civic engagement.

The WSN would like to give a shout-out to the Western student group **Purple Hands** for their commitment to bridging the gap between the student body and the London homeless community. WSN had a lot of fun partnering with this team and is proud of the support we could offer as Purple Hands works to educate the Western community around policy and frontline work to combat homelessness.

IMPACT EXPERIENCE

24 students **2** partners **3** projects **300** hours of engagement

After a two-year COVID break, Western's signature Reading Week program, Impact Experience, returned in a virtual format. This year, students spent their February Reading Week working with two community organizations, STEAM Education and Nexos Comunitarios.

A team of 10 students spent three days collaborating with STEAM Education developing trail signs to welcome newcomers to St. Thomas and Aylmer's outdoor walking trails. Students learned to consider local demographics, messaging, and ways to create inclusive and welcoming spaces. These signs will appear in the St. Thomas Elevated Park and the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority over the summer months.

A team of 14 students spent three days working with our long-standing international community partner Nexos Comunitarios from Peru. This experience focused on engagement with Peruvian community members, exploration of global and local issues, and People Need People sessions (part of the Warm Data Lab process).



**“THE IDEA OF
COMMUNITY
ENGAGED LEARNING
IS A UNIQUE
CONCEPT THAT
ALL UNIVERSITIES
SHOULD EMBRACE.**

Partnering students with a charitable organization not only helps organizations like ours to achieve its goals but it also provides a real world experience for the students involved. The students that join with us always meet new industry partners and learn ways of researching, networking, and learning that will benefit them in their future endeavors. We love being a part of the CEL program. The students work hard and produce quality work that truly has an impact on our community!”

Denise Love | *Fundraising and Program Manager, STEAM Education Centre*

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, Jessie Tu (4th year, Medical Sciences), and the following Community Engagement Champions:

Catherine Andary

3rd year, Medical Sciences

Jason Emmanuel Jang

2nd year, Science

Kareem Sadek

4th year, Medical Sciences

Jia Yi Deng

2nd year, Management & Organizational Studies

Greeshma Rosario

3rd year, Management & Organizational Studies

Garvin Tran

3rd year, Medical Sciences

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING PARTNERS

The following 155 organizations partnered with CEL at Western this year. Organizations with an asterisk (*) were new partners this year. Organizations in **bold** partnered with more than one course or event during 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.

42*81 (London Open Mic Poetry)

Across Languages

Aeolian Hall - El Sistema

ALUS Elgin*

ALUS Middlesex*

Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners

Antler River Rally*

Aplastic Anemia & Myelodysplasia Association of Canada

Arthritis Society of London

ATN Access for Persons with Disabilities Inc.

Autism Ontario

Beyond Me London*

Black Student's Association Western

Boys and Girls Club of London

Cafézia*

Cambridge Fire Department*

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee

Canadian Cancer Society (RIOT)

Canadian Health Information Management Association

Canadian Centre for Activity & Aging

CAN-Bike London

Carrefour Communautaire Francophone de London

Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, Western University*

Child & Youth Network

Child Welfare PAC Canada

Childcan

Children's Environmental Network, London Health Sciences Centre

City of London

CityStudio London

City of Richmond Hill*

Climate Action London

Clinic 528

CMHA Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services

CMHA Thames Valley Transitional Supportive Housing for Youth

CNIB

Cobomax Academy*

Community Living London

Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada

connexOntario

Crafting for a Cure

Crooked Crow Studios*

Cross Cultural Learners' Centre

Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre

Curveball Creative*

Downtown London

Dr. Laurie L. Consaul Herbarium (UWO)*

Dynamic Doulas of London

Egale

Embroiderer's Guild London

EnviroWestern

Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

Forest Edge Community Pool

Friends of Kilally Meadows ESA

GF Farms*

Girl Up Canada

Good Neighbours Canada

Goodwill Industries

HEAL - ParkSeek Canada

Health Canada

Heart Links

Hindu Cultural Centre

Human Environments Analysis Laboratory

I Love Community - Thorndale

Immploy

Inclusive Instruments

Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle

Indwell*

Innovation Works

Jabez Therapy Ranch

JGrief Counselling

Kids Kicking Cancer

L'Arche London

LEADS Employment Services

Let's Talk Science UWO

LIFE*SPIN

London Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

London Black History Coordinating Committee

London CAREs

London Children's Museum

London Community Resource Centre

London Cycle Link

London Environmental Network

London Food Bank

London InterCommunity Health Centre

London Middlesex Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Direction Office*

London Poverty Research Centre at Kings

London Regional Cancer Program (LHSC)

Luke's Place

Make-A-Wish Foundation and Health Science Dream Team

Middlesex-London EMS

Middlesex-London Food Policy Council

Middlesex-London Health Unit

mindyourmind

Montessori Academy

Motionball

Muslim Resource Centre

Nexos Comunitarios

Oakville Public Library*

Oasis Program, Queen's University

Old East Village BIA

Ontario Shores

OpenMedia

Parkinson's Society of Southwestern Ontario

PHSS

Preschool of the Arts

Project Hope London

Project Lightbulb

Queer Events*

Recovery Addiction Awareness Day

ReForest London

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection

Regional Municipality of Durham

Rights and Responsibilities Awareness Initiative

Salvation Army - Centre of Hope

Seniors with Skills

Sherwood Fox Arboretum*

Soroptimist International London

South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

Southdale Education Fund

Spirits Whisper Ranch

St. Leonard's Community Services

STEAM Education Centre

Stem2Stem

Student Experience - Wellness and Equity Education

Terence Kernaghan's Office

Thames Talbot Land Trust

The Aga Khan University

The Sunshine Foundation

Town and Gown Association of Ontario*

Town of Espanola*

Town of Halton Hills*

Town of Whitby*

Township of Zorra*

TVDSB - Experiential Learning Division

TVDSB - Louise Arbour French Immersion School

Type Diabeat-it

UHN OpenLab

Unity Project

Upper Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Urban Roots London

USC Accessibility

USC Ethnocultural Support Services

USC Food Support Services

USC Gender Equality Network

UWO Landscape Services

UWO Sustainability

Vanier Children's Mental Wellness

VHA

Waves Family Medicine

West Elgin Community Health Centre

Western Heads East

Western Law - Community Legal Services

Western Muslim Students' Association

Westover Treatment Centre

Women's Executive Network

Young Artists Pre-College Academy

Young London

Youth Opportunities Unlimited

CURRICULAR CEL FACULTY

The following is a list of the instructors who taught CEL courses in the 2021-22 academic year, and their course titles. We would like to express our thanks to the faculty members listed below, for integrating CEL into your 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. Barbara Bruce	Arts & Humanities 4491F/G to 4494W/X	Experiential Learning in the Arts and Humanities
Amrapali Chatterjee	Intercultural Communications 2500G	Bridging Classroom & Community: Languages & Cultures in Action
Dr. Alba Devo Colis	Spanish 2200/3300	Intermediate and Advanced Spanish
Tricia Johnson	Studio Art 3692B	Special Topic: Embroiders' Guild
Dr. Kim Solga	Theatre Studies 2202G	Performance Beyond Theatres
CONTINUING STUDIES		
Janis Wallace	Public Relations 6036	Media Relations
	Marketing 6013	Advanced Marketing Strategies
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING		
Dr. John Dickinson	Engineering Science 1050	Foundations of Engineering Practice*
FACULTY OF INFORMATION & MEDIA STUDIES		
Jeremy Copeland	Master of Media in Journalism and Communication 9503	Shoot for the Heart
Dr. Sandra Smeltzer	Media, Information & Technoculture 4999	Media & the Public Interest Practicum
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES		
Dr. Denise Grafton	Health Sciences 3240B	Environmental Health Promotion
Dr. Carri Hand	Occupational Therapy 9652	Engaging in Occupation: Community and Population Level Practice+
Dr. Aleksandra Zecevic	Health Sciences 3710B	Aging Body
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY		
Dr. Alison Allan	Biochemistry 4455G	Translational Concepts in Cancer Biology
Dr. Nicole Campbell & Jedd Sardido	Medical Sciences 9603	Experiential Community Rotation+
Dr. Sarah McLean	Medical Sciences 4300F	Addressing Healthcare Misconceptions using Scientific Inquiry
DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC		
Dr. Cathy Benedict	Music 3812A/B	Music Education in Community
FACULTY OF SCIENCE		
Dr. Christina Booker & Dr. Gulpaul Kochar	Integrated Science 3002A	Science in the Community
Laura Reid & Bryan Sarlo	Computer Science 1033A/B	Multimedia and Communication
Dr. Ben Rubin	Environment and Sustainability 9430/9440	Interdisciplinary Research Seminar**
Dr. Graeme Taylor	Biology 4920F/G	Seminar in Biology
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE		
Lauren Barr	Sociology 2259	Sociology of Deviance
	Sociology 4425G	Advanced Sociology of Youth+
Dr. Dan Bousfield	Political Science 3365G	Global Political Economy
	Political Science 3201G	International Law
Dr. Mike Dove	History 3813E	Public History **
Dr. Riley Hinson	Psychology 3315E	Addictions: Theory and Research
Dr. Bill Irwin	Public Administration 9915	Methods and Issues in Program and Policy Evaluation+
Dr. Joe Lyons	Political Science 2201G	Policy Process in Theory and Practice**
Nicole McMahon	Political Science 4419G	LGBTQ Politics: Policy and Representation+
Dr. Karen Pennesi	Anthropology 9201	Research Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology
Dr. Leora Swartzman	Psychology 3317E	Community Psychology
	Psychology 3995E	Social Science in the Community
Lucas Thung	Master of Management of Applied Science	Project Management
MULTIDISCIPLINARY		
Associate Deans	Scholar's Electives 4400Y	Scholar's Electives Capstone Course

*CityStudio London course.

+New course. These courses were designed in the 2020-21 academic year to include a CEL component, and were taught for the first time in the 2021-22 academic year.

“Those of us who run organizations and businesses often get stuck in our everyday routines. We are often short on time trying to fulfill our responsibilities within our organizations and do not, or can not, find the time to think outside the box and see the world through another lens. The students in the CEL program come to the table with that other lens...”

**THERE IS A FRESH PERSPECTIVE
THAT COMES FROM A YOUNGER
APPROACH – AN APPROACH
GUIDED BY THE WISDOM AND
INSIGHT OF AN INSTITUTION
OF HIGHER LEARNING AND
GUIDED BY THE COLLABORATIVE
EFFORTS OF A WHOLE GROUP OF
STUDENTS WORKING TOGETHER
FOR ONE COMMON PURPOSE.”**

David Vine | *Stem2Stern*

HIGHLIGHTS

STORIES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING

In the 2021-22 academic year, we celebrated the launch of a video storytelling project, funded in part by the **Government of Canada's Innovative Work-Integrated Learning** program and CEWIL Canada's **iHub**, which provides grants to projects that enable and promote curricular work integrated learning experiences.

We invited students to tell us about their experiential learning activities in Winter 2021. We weren't sure what to expect in the middle of a pandemic, but the stories we got back were full of energy, passion, and hope. You can view these inspiring videos [here](#).

EXPANSION OF RESOURCES

Since the rapid shift to online learning in 2020, our team has developed a suite of resources for virtual CEL and curated a resources webpage. The webpage now houses 20+ **in-person and virtual CEL resources** for students, community partners, and faculty, including "Supports for Students in CEL/CityStudio Courses", "Tips for Engaging Students Remotely", "Critical Reflection in a Virtual Environment", "VoiceThread Presentation – Introduction to Community Engaged Learning and Importance of Reflection", among others. The CEL team is currently collaborating with the Career Programming Specialist, EDID at Western to build an EDID-focused resource for CEL faculty.

INNOVATION WORKS

As COVID restrictions lifted, the CEL team was thrilled to return to 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.

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. Some past CoP topics have included: Consultation on Western's Experiential Learning Typology, Visioning and Learning Outcomes Workshop, New Dimensions of CEL: Graduate and International Opportunities, Deepening Reflective Practice in CEL Courses, Ethical Considerations When Doing Community Research, and Exploring the Connection Between CEL and Career Readiness.

SCHOLARSHIP AT WESTERN SITE

In 2017, the CEL team developed and launched a public repository on Western Libraries' **Scholarship@Western** site to showcase students' final CEL course deliverables. Sharing the course outcomes in this way highlights the important work of our community partners, provides exemplars for future partnerships, and enables students to display their work. The site has grown to include 48 projects, highlighting 31 community partners and 18 CEL courses. These numbers will grow each semester.