Greetings from the Office of PittServes and Student Civic Engagement Council! We are excited to share with you our 2019-2020 impact report that will highlight the council’s various accomplishments and initiatives that have propelled civic engagement at the University of Pittsburgh.

Embracing the University of Pittsburgh’s strategic goal of “Strengthening Communities” we have set our goals to deepen the commitments to our communities and student’s civic growth by focusing on our 3 programmatic areas of student development, campus commitment and community engagement. With this programmatic focus, we collaborated with several nonprofit organizations and neighborhoods, with deepen connections to Hazelwood, Northside, Homestead and the Brookline/Beechview neighborhoods. With this combined effort, we sought to demonstrate volunteer activities that are mutually beneficial and responsible with communities and neighborhoods in the Pittsburgh region.

Within this report you will find evidence of the programs and engagement experiences of our council members and the impact they made alongside communities. Within the past four years, our office has witnessed tremendous growth in student volunteer involvement, partnerships and overall civic engagement. Working together with our university and community partners, we were able to accomplish over 2,300 student volunteer service hours for the academic year, and over 120 unique service opportunities. These accomplishment and many more, are due to the great work of the SCEC and partners.

On behalf of the Office of PittServes and our amazing student leaders, we are excited to contribute to the University’s commitment for student and community success through service that promotes justice, equity and civic engagement.

Thank you,

Shenay D. Jeffrey
Assistant Director & Student Civic Engagement Council Advisor
Office of PittServes
Katelyn Bailey
Hi everyone! I am currently a senior majoring in Public Service and Administration with a certificate in National Preparedness and Homeland Security. I am very passionate about service, especially when it comes to environmental health and diversity. I joined SCEC so I could work with people who are just as passionate about service and civic engagement as I am. I want to help students find service and engagement opportunities that they are passionate about. Throughout this year, I hope to learn more about the Pittsburgh community and develop my civic engagement skills so I can continue my passion in service in my career after college.

Lalit Molleti
Hello! I’m a senior studying Asian Studies, Psychology, and Korean on the pre-Med track. I’m passionate about understanding how culture can influence and shape the conversation of healing and growth within community settings. To that end, I’m working with immigrants, refugees, and other diverse populations. This year I’m excited to learn about more communities in Pittsburgh and how to strengthen the communities through understanding the cultures of the community.

Eric Chiu
Hello! I am a junior studying Rehabilitation Science with a minor in Chemistry and certificate in Pathokinesiology. I am passionate about many areas of service but some of my top interests are environmental preservation and working with children. I also love working with animals! I joined SCEC because I wanted to learn more about the city of Pittsburgh and provide students an opportunity to do the same through meaningful service. I look forward to working with many passionate and like-minded people this year! I hope to broaden my knowledge of service in areas that I’m less experienced in. I also hope to learn more about Pittsburgh as a whole!

Caitlyn Crowder
Hi! I’m a junior majoring in Psychology and Sociology with a certificate in Nonprofit Management. I have been volunteering sporadically since middle school, but college is where I’ve truly been able to cultivate this passion. I am particularly passionate about issues involving education, mental health reform, criminal justice reform, and environmental preservation. I joined SCEC because I have a passion for service work, and I wanted to network/make connections. Also, I think it’s very motivating to work around like-minded individuals. During my time on SCEC I hope to further develop my professional and leadership skills as well as inspire others to get involved in an area they are passionate in.

Abigail Kallmyer
Hi! I am a sophomore nursing major with a French minor. I am passionate about serving those who live below the poverty line, particularly children and those who don’t have access to adequate healthcare. With SCEC, I’m glad to have a platform to be able to learn, grow, and impact the Pittsburgh community in a real and concrete way!

Dylan Sloat
Hi there! I am a Junior studying Political Science and Economics, with a minor in History. I was born and raised in the Pittsburgh area, specifically being from Cranberry Township which is about 30 minutes north of the city. I joined SCEC because it is a great opportunity to be able to continually develop a culture of service on campus by providing students with opportunities to serve communities in a variety of meaningful ways. Throughout my time on SCEC I look forward to connecting with students, gaining a deeper understanding of communities throughout Pittsburgh, and learning as much as I can about what we all can do to better serve our communities.

Khadajah Muhammad
Hi. I am a junior and political science major working on a global studies certificate in the peace, conflict, and security concentration. I was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and as a freshman I joined Jumpstart in an effort to explore Pittsburgh as well as my campus more while also serving a community. I joined SCEC with that idea in mind and also with the idea to help create more opportunities for other students to volunteer and lend their time to service opportunities whether it is on campus or off.

Caitlyn Crowder
Hi! I’m a junior majoring in Psychology and Sociology with a certificate in Nonprofit Management. I have been volunteering sporadically since middle school, but college is where I’ve truly been able to cultivate this passion. I am particularly passionate about issues involving education, mental health reform, criminal justice reform, and environmental preservation. I joined SCEC because I have a passion for service work, and I wanted to network/make connections. Also, I think it’s very motivating to work around like-minded individuals. During my time on SCEC I hope to further develop my professional and leadership skills as well as inspire others to get involved in an area they are passionate in.

Katya Slozina
Hey! I’m a junior studying Civil Engineering. I’m passionate about sustainability and sustainable innovation, as well as primary education. I believe good and fair education is an important factor in reducing systemic inequality and raising socially conscious adults. I’m the Service Chair of Theta Phi Alpha sorority and love the feeling of being surrounded by empowering, strong women. Women’s rights and empowerment are really meaningful to me and I try to incorporate them into my everyday life, as well as my service projects. I joined SCEC with the hope of making service more accessible, fun and meaningful for students on campus; I want people to be able to volunteer their time with organizations whose mission means something to them. This year I hope to learn more about Pittsburgh and its different communities.
NEIGHBORHOODS

BEECHVIEW/BROOKLINE

Beechview and Brookline are hidden gems in the city of Pittsburgh. Both neighborhoods boast cultural uniqueness found nowhere else around the city. Beechview and Brookline both have thriving business districts where on many occasions I’ve seen a diverse population shopping, eating, and hanging out with friends. Whether doing community cleanup with Pretty Up Beechview or working in Brookline Teen Outreach, the people of the communities are passionate about advocating for their needs, such as increased transportation routes, and passionate about sharing their world views with the rest of the Pittsburgh Community. - Katelyn

Brookline is an amazing place with wonderful people that make the place thrive. I’ve had the pleasure of working with Brookline Teen Outreach, which is a central organization for many of the community events in Brookline. One event I had the pleasure of being a part of was their annual Halloween parade. It was a wonderful time of community in which local businesses on Brookline avenue gave out candy to kids in a vibrant parade. Despite the rain, the people showed up nonetheless and was a testament to the strength of the community. Brookline and Beechview are also home to a sizable latino population. Casa San Jose is an amazing organization that helps provide legal services and other resources in order to help promote local integration and self-sufficiency. Through the work of Casa San Jose, they are creating a culture in which Latino immigrants are treated with dignity, respect, and kindness. Beechview and Brookline are communities defined by the strength of their people and will continue to thrive as these organizations help the people organize. - Laili

BEECHVIEW ASSETS

Casa San Jose, Beechview Farmers Market, Market on Broadway, public schools such as Beechwood Elementary School, Pretty Up Beechview, public transportation-the T and buses.

BROOKLINE ASSETS

Brookline Avenue (Various local businesses), Brookline Teen Outreach, Brookline Together, Brookline Now (bimonthly publication on community), Brookline Christian Food Pantry and the Clothing Room, public schools and libraries, churches such as Tree of Life Open Bible Church.

HOMESTEAD

Homestead’s Rainbow Kitchen, a soup kitchen and food pantry, exposed me to the extensive network of resources and opportunities that they are able to provide to those who are struggling with food insecurity in the Homestead area. Assisting with the food pantry efforts on their big fresh produce shipment day showed the importance of a safety net food source for families and individuals in challenging economic times. Furthermore, Rainbow Kitchen was able to link their clients to additional assets in the community to meet their specific needs, such as educational programs, clothing resources, and job opportunities. Their continued dedication to serving the residents of Homestead is admirable and links assets together forming a fluid and substantial network. - Eric

Though I have not had the opportunity to work at Rainbow Kitchen, I have been in contact with the community partner Community Life in Homestead. This community partner is the recipient for my DIY Box: Stress Balls for Arthritis. I chose this organization as my stakeholder because they are really concerned with the health of older adults in Homestead and Pittsburgh and I find that amazing. They are dedicated to helping older adults stay healthy and at home. As regional experts in advanced chronic illness management, Community LIFE is an all-inclusive program tailored to meet the healthcare needs of seniors. Participants in the program have access to individualized, coordinated medical care, therapies, and in-home services. They can enjoy a variety of activities at one of our Health and Wellness Centers and take advantage of our convenient transportation options. When I reached out to Community Life about the use of my DIY Box they were immediately willing to connect me with their physical and occupational therapists on hand to make sure this was something that would go to use. This is one of the many ways this organization has continually shown commitment to their community. - Khadajah

HOMESTEAD ASSETS

Waterfront shopping center, walking/biking trails along the river, green spaces/parks, produce garden, assistive care centers for elderly (Community Life, LifeSpan Senior Center), assistance for those experiencing homelessness (Rainbow Kitchen), public schools, many churches, other services (Salvation Army, funeral services, police/fire, car mechanics).

HAZELWOOD

My experiences with Hazelwood have been ones that have allowed me to be a part of a proud community that treats everyone who comes in like they’re one of their own. Through my work with Hazelwood Initiative and their partnering garden programs, I was able to see that local, fresh produce is something that the residents of Hazelwood value highly, as many of them plant their own vegetables in the community gardens. I also have seen firsthand how residents have stepped up in the past decade to fill community need, namely when Hazelwood became a food desert, a local resident opened a local grocery store called Dylamato’s, where every resident that stops by is known by name. Hazelwood is an incredible neighborhood where neighbors look out for one another and I’m glad I was able to be a part of such a great group of people through my work there. - Dylan

Hazelwood is a neighborhood that I love more and more every time I go! I recall the delicious smells of the local bakeries and the vivid Elizabeth Street mural. When I walked along Second Avenue, I am inspired by the vibrancy of the neighborhood. There are unexpected green spaces that act as sanctuaries from the tumult of the rest of the city. By working with the Center of Life’s after school program, I was able to witness the excitement and friendliness of both the children and the adults who coordinate it. I really enjoyed getting to know the Kindergarten students, who welcomed me and the other volunteers as if we were family. I’m very glad that I was assigned to work with Hazelwood and am grateful for all the remarkable people I’ve met throughout the year! - Abigail

HAZELWOOD ASSETS

Hazelwood Greenway, Chatsworth Flower Garden, Burgwin Public Park & Pool, Hazelwood Community Garden, Elizabeth St. Park, Lewis Parklet, Gladstone Field, Hazelwood Branch of Carnegie Library, Hazelwood Initiative, Center for Life, Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, baseball fields, bike trails, local businesses (auto shop, grocery stores, pastry shop, recycling center), churches & other houses of worship, firehouse, proximity to Monongahela river, colorful bridge mural.

NORTHSIDE

Often times when people think of the Northside of Pittsburgh, they are thinking of the North Shore (Heinz Field, PNC Park, etc.). However, the Northside of Pittsburgh is a hidden gem with a lot of neighborhoods that are focusing on community engagement and sustainable growth. Organizations like Urban Impact and Providence Connections are helping to foster a love of learning, while others, like Brother’s Brother, collects, sorts, and ships medical supplies to areas in need. Northside has a strong grasp on community outreach and providing programs that support the youth of their communities. - Caitlyn

Through my work in the Northside I have been able to see all that the community is able to offer for its residents. The Northside is full of nonprofits dedicated to enriching the community, like food kitchens and educational establishments. Northside is home to the Andy Warhol museum, Mattress Factory, and Randyland which are one of the biggest tourist attractions in Pittsburgh. Close to the Mattress Factory is the city of Asylum, a non-profit that hosts writers and literature exiled from their home countries. City of Asylum is a gem amongst many other non-profits on the North side that focuses on resettling and providing health care and social benefits to Writer refugees. - Katya

NORTHSIDE ASSETS

Allegheny Commons, Ballfield Farm in Perry South, Peace Garden in Troy Hill, River of Words Art Project, Randyland, Civil War Fort in Northview Heights, 4 Health Ride Bike Share, Finievew Fitness Trail, Northside Food Pantry, Legion Park in Brighton Heights, City of Asylum, Spring Garden.
Committees

SIGNATURE DAYS COMMITTEE
The SDOS Committee is a 14-member committee that works on a transitional board structure with each service day. Each service day has a new board that takes over and organizes for the day of service. The chair is then responsible for facilitating new responsibilities for the upcoming service day.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Drea Buczeskie, Jade Chang, Elaine Yates, Garima Patel, Kush Patel, Lily Nong, Makaylia Gerver, Mary Tsvetkova, Olivia Pav, Rachel Bayer, Sam Huynh, Shannon Stall, Wendeline Frederic, Vibha Chauhan

PMADD DATA
3,175 volunteers attended
19,006.00 hours served
90 projects

MLK DAY OF SERVICE DATA
1,030 volunteers attended
5,135.15 hours served
32 projects

COMMUNITY PARTNER AND STUDENT ORGANIZATION GRANTS
A Signature Day of Service grant allows a community partner or a SORC registered organization on campus to apply for funding for a community improvement project to be conducted on any signature day of service or any other community volunteer opportunity. The applications for these grant proposals are separated between community partners and student organizations and each can request any amount of funding up to $10,000 each.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FAIR
This committee established the first annual Civic Engagement Networking Fair to get a more interconnected feeling amongst service organizations on campus. There was a total of 13 student service clubs in attendance, connecting several students’ opportunities to be civicly engaged.

UNIVERSITY LIAISONS COMMITTEE
Over the course of the year we spent our time building a list of connections both internal and external to the university that we were able to send out SCEC’s upcoming projects to. In total we compiled a list of about 20 organizations whose service chairs we kept regular contact with and were able to compile a further list of organizations that used our DIY boxes, amounting to a total of over 140 connections.

Outside of the continued connections that we utilized through our bi-monthly email updates, we each took on other projects as well with other Pitt departments, namely Residence life. Throughout the course of the year we have been able to open a dialogue with Res-Life and utilize their vast infrastructure to get the word out about student service projects.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
The Operations Committee provides administrative and logistical support for the Student Civic Engagement Council. These tasks include but are not limited to managing the website and email account, authorizing material and transportation service grants, and fulfilling Do-it-Yourself box requests.

MATERIAL GRANTS
The materials grant is designed to support University of Pittsburgh student organizations material costs in their efforts to assist the greater Pittsburgh community. During this year, a total of $800 was awarded to 6 student organizations for material costs.

TRANSPORTATION GRANTS
Transportation grants are designed to support student projects at more difficult to reach locations. SCEC will schedule a bus for student organizations for up to $750 per project. Transportation grants were awarded to two student organizations this school year.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Our main social media platform is @pittserves_scec on Instagram. Posts that reach the largest number of people are those that showcase who we are and what we do. SCEC has used Instagram to connect with students and other organizations and companies in our area to expand our network and influence.

STATISTICS
Followers: 330
Profile Visits: 150 weekly
Interactions: 125-415 weekly

SERVICE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
The Service Leadership Committee is a group of 16 students who engaged in meaningful service all around the city of Pittsburgh with a wide variety of differing areas of service interest. Projects have included environmental stewardship, assisting in services for those experiencing homelessness, assisting families and the elderly population. There were 65 projects planned in the academic year.

SLC’s continuous dedication to the development of the culture of service at Pitt was evident by the number of projects planned and the consistency demonstrated throughout the school year. Their peer support between each other’s projects was great to see and the group grew together as a whole through new experiences.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Noor Ahman, Alec Birnbaum, Sam Garner, Pooja Gupta, Olivia Koisesar, Helen Lam, Emily McCarrick, Alyssa Miquilino, Lailah Moyer, Reyna Nagarkar, Sandeep Rajaan, Taylor Sole, Jamie Stuckey, Daniel Volpone, Kayla Yellen

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Do It Yourself
SERVICE BOXES

CULTURAL FLASHCARDS
50 Products Donated • Lalit Molleti
Community Stakeholder: FORGE (Facilitating opportunities for Refugees in Growth and Empowerment)
This box provides refugee and immigrant families in the community of Pittsburgh resources to help learn English more easily.

BOOKMARKS FOR YOUTH
200 Products Donated • Katelyn Bailey
Community Stakeholder: Environmental Charter School, Brookline Teen Outreach
This DIY Box was created to engage elementary aged students in reading and keep them interested every time they open their book.

COLOR-YOUR-OWN ACTIVITY BOOKS
110 Products Donated • Abigail Kallmyer
Community Stakeholder: Center of Life in Hazelwood
This box provides children from low-income families with educational activities to perform after school to reinforce what they’re learning in school while stimulating creativity.

T-SHIRT DOG TOYS
271 Products Donated • Eric Chiu
Community Stakeholder: Humane Animal Rescue
This box was created to use t-shirts in a sustainable way to comfort animals in need and make their stay at the shelter a little more bearable before they are able to find a forever home.

STRESS BALLS FOR ARTHRITIS AND HAND-WORKOUTS
50 Products Donated • Khadijah Muhammad
Community Stakeholder: Life
I chose this service box, DIY Squeeze Balls, with the idea of helping the elderly population to workout their hands in easing their arthritis pain in a sustainable way. Many DIY stress balls are made from balloons and sand which are not very good for the environment. By using socks I am able to reuse materials that have been available in the PittServes office in order to achieve projects that lean towards zero-waste.

T-SHIRT HEAD WRAPS
129 Products Donated • Dylan Sloat
Community Stakeholder: Allegheny Health Network Cancer Centers
This box re-uses the ample supply of unused t-shirts in Pitt Student Affairs to create meaningful head wraps that are donated to patients in surrounding area hospitals who suffer from treatment related hair-loss.

SENSORY BOOKS
36 Products Donated • Caitlyn Crowder
The purpose of this DIY box is to create sustainable, educational sensory books that introduce children, and children/adults with learning disabilities, to different textures and textiles.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

ERIC
SCEC has given me the resources and freedom to explore the city of Pittsburgh through meaningful service while developing the culture of service at Pitt. I encourage future SCEC member’s to keep an open mind with their service and be willing to get out of their comfort zones in order to appreciate the many cultures and opportunities that Pittsburgh has to offer. SCEC has helped me build valuable leadership, communication, and teamwork skills that have guided my college experience.

CAYTLYN
Through the work I have done in SCEC, I have been able to find an area of work that I am truly passionate about and importantly explore my passions of leadership and service. To future SCEC members, I would say this: there are so many opportunities that this experience can give to you but only if you truly take advantage of all of the support and guidance that your peers and mentors will provide to you. Quality communication is by far the most important skill I have learned from SCEC because I apply this skill in every conversation (no matter the mode of correspondence) in both professional and personal aspects of my life.

ABIGAIL
SCEC has given me the ability to incorporate service into the everyday lives of my fellow students and has challenged me to personally grow in empathy and confidence. I would advise future members of SCEC to use the valuable resources offered to you to form close relationships with the partners you build along the way. My time on SCEC has transformed the way I look at our beautiful city of Pittsburgh and all its diverse residents and helped me to find joy in every small act of service.

KHADAJAH
Through my two years on the Student Civic Engagement Council I have been able to explore my community and learn how to tie civic engagement into my interests both academically and recreationally. With SCEC I have had the chance to engage in community service both locally and internationally and also been able to help promote a culture of service on Pitt’s campus. SCEC has greatly increased my leadership skills and confidence within myself while giving me a chance to do something I love.

KATELYN
The Student Civic Engagement Council has taught me many things since I joined in the two years ago, especially how to interact with community partners in a constructive way and how to work together as a team to best support our community. The skills I’ve learned in this organization and from my peers have taught me how to be a better leader, communicator, and organizer in a large-scale and long-term way. To all future SCEC members, I hope you are able to learn as much about Pittsburgh and its natives as I have, and I can’t wait for your passion for service to grow in every way!