



COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICATION



OVERVIEW

The Community Engaged Scholar Program is an initiative aimed at establishing and strengthening relationships between CCSU and local community partners. The goal of the program is to recruit an academically-diverse group of faculty who share the common value of creating engaged and immersive learning experiences for our students. This cohort experience is open to all full-time CCSU faculty across all academic fields of study. All faculty ranks are eligible, and junior faculty are strongly encouraged to apply.

COHORT OBJECTIVES

Approximately ten Engaged Scholars will be selected for the 2024-2025 academic year. Selected faculty will work towards one of two goals: (1) designing or re-designing a course with a prominent service-learning focus, or (2) conducting research that aligns with the needs of the community partner. The overarching goal is to create long-standing and mutually-beneficial relationships with new community partners.

Community Engaged Course Pathway

- This could be either a new course offering or a redesigned version of an existing course.
- The goal is to create or revise a syllabus to include a substantive engaged learning experience.
- The syllabus must identify the community partner(s), as well as how their needs will be a focal point of the engaged learning experience.
- The goal would be to offer the course during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Community Engaged Research Pathway

- This pathway entails identifying a community partner and establishing a new engaged and sustained research project that is to be started no later than Spring of 2025.
- The research project must involve a minimum of three undergraduate students.



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FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

A core value of this program is creating a community that cohort members can lean on as they embark on their community engagement journey. To help nurture this community, cohort members will be expected to attend regular team-building sessions. This includes:

- Attending two virtual learning workshops during the summer.
- Attending monthly cohort meetings in which faculty update one another on their projects.
- Attending two cohort retreats (one in August 2024 and one in January 2025);
- Participating in one of numerous Spring 2025 campus-facing events in which cohort members share their experiences in the program (examples of events include CTI workshops, cohort open houses for the next round of applications, and more).
- Developing a portfolio that includes different types of project reflections, such as growth narratives and a submission to the CCESR newsletter.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BENEFITS

Engaged Scholars will:

- Network with other faculty who share a passion for helping our local community.
- Enhance their understanding of how community engagement promotes mutually-beneficial exchanges of knowledge and resources.
- Use service learning and community engagement to improve critical areas of promotion and tenure assessment, including teaching, research, and professional service.
- Cultivate unique hands-on learning opportunities for CCSU undergraduates.
- Receive a \$3,000 stipend, payable in three installments.

ABOUT THE APPLICATION

Applicants are not expected to have a fully designed course or project in mind at the time of application. With that said, we do ask that applicants share a general sense of their community engagement interests, as well as which option they would be most interested in pursuing (course or research). Applications are due on March 29th at 5:00 PM and should be emailed to our faculty liaison, Diana Velasco. Cohort application decisions will be made by mid-April.



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Application Questions

Please complete each of the three questions listed below. Please answer all three questions in no more than 4 pages.

Teaching Philosophy

Describe how community engagement fits—or could fit—into your teaching philosophy. Include the critical issues with which you focus or are most concerned.

Program Vision

Describe how you envision contributing to the Engaged Scholars Program. What unique perspectives do you bring to the Cohort?

Field Experience

If you have participated in community engaged scholarship or teaching practices, briefly describe your experience. If you have not participated in community engaged scholarship or teaching before, what do you believe it can look like in your field of study?

Submitting your application:

Applications are due on March 29th at 5:00 PM and should be emailed to our faculty liaison, Diana Velasco at d.velasco@ccsu.edu. Please submit your application as a single pdf attachment.