

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## AT CONCORDIA



Community engagement enables students to integrate classroom learning with real-world contexts, practice skills necessary for engaged citizenship, and develop the mindset necessary to navigate a changing, diverse world. Community engagement supports the college's Pivotal Experience in Applied Knowledge (PEAK) requirement, Concordia's signature integrative learning opportunity.

### **A Central Part of Concordia Leads: The Plan for 2030**

Through community engagement, we will “deepen the college’s connection with the local region, working in collaboration with partners committed to building stronger communities.” This is a key part of the commitment that “Concordia will offer a transformative education that shapes 21st-century learners ready to address complex challenges in their professional, public, and personal lives with agility, imagination, and moral insight.”

### **Goals of Community Engagement at Concordia**

- Equip students to become engaged citizens by providing them with experiences that contribute to personal development, vocational awareness, and career-readiness.
- Enhance the vitality and flourishing of communities in the Fargo-Moorhead region by working with partners to address problems and meet pressing needs, while deepening community resilience.
- Achieve recognition in Fargo-Moorhead as a valued partner and attractive destination for learning, career preparation, and high-impact investments.



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# Types of Community Engagement and Examples

## Internships and Practicums

- Family Healthcare Center Internship – working to create more equitable healthcare across the region
- Marketing and Operations Internship at Hope Blooms – assisting the nonprofit to inspire hope and emotional healing through repurposed flowers



## Independent Community-Based Research

- “Global Narratives, Local Stories: A Collection of Immigrant Narratives in the Journey to Normalizing Cross-Cultural Interaction,” project by Anna Kronbeck
- “Light and Noise Pollution Related to Property Value and Environmental Justice in Fargo, North Dakota,” project by Parker Delorme

## Community-Based Project in a Course

- Environmental Politics and Policy – students work on issues such as climate policy, recycling, and pollinator-friendly landscaping.
- Strategic Communication – students assist nonprofits with publicity and marketing.
- Engaged Citizenship in a Nation of Immigrants – students work with adult English language learners, culminating in the creation of a book of poetry.
- Operations Management – students created a program that generates new, optimized routes automatically for the Great Plains Food Bank.



## Special Cross-College Initiatives

- Reading for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Program – pairs Concordia mentors with 8th-grade students at Horizon Middle School to explore identity issues, and recognize markers of cultural difference, equity, and inclusion.
- Mentoring Opportunity for People of Color – this is a partnership between the student group Club Access and Moorhead High School, with Concordia students of color mentoring MHS students, building their confidence and inspiring them to find and follow their passions.

## Short-Term Trips

- Justice Journeys
- HILT Sustainability Leadership Trips
- Fall and Spring Interim Breakaways
- Habitat for Humanity Trips

