



UW-Whitewater Community-based Learning Newsletter

CBL Coordinator's Letter

Happy Spring!

I hope that you are staying well and finding creative strategies to stay connected and engaged, despite our distance. We are ever mindful of the challenges involved in all aspects of our jobs as educators and are working hard to continue to be a source of resources and tools that support your Community-Based Learning work as you engage differently with your students and community partners. We continue to add content to our [Website](#) and hope you will find the abundance of resources useful as you plan for next year. Of particular interest is our fully updated [Resources](#) page, which includes numerous tips on how to integrate CBL into online and hybrid courses. For those new to CBL, you might find our [Start Here](#) page particularly useful.

We are thrilled to announce that our CBL Course Designation Process has continued, and we offered 33 new CBL courses this year, despite the pandemic! For those interested in learning more about the process, I encourage you to register for our upcoming Virtual [LEARN Center Presentation on Tuesday, April 6](#). The purpose of this workshop is to demystify the CBL Course Designation process by providing an overview of the requirements for CBL Designation, along with examples of successful CBL courses. Members of the CBL Council will provide insight into how courses are reviewed and participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive detailed feedback and suggestions on how to successfully receive CBL Designation. Please click [here](#) to register!

As you make plans for summer, I encourage you to think about applying for CBL designation for your Spring 2022 courses. Applications will be due by September 15th.

As always, we are here to help and are happy to meet 1:1 to guide you in your CBL work.

In service,

Jodie Parys

Director, Community-Based Learning Program

Community Partner Page: <https://www.uww.edu/ce/cbl/cbl-partners>

Is your community partner agency interested in expanding their partnerships with UW-Whitewater? Are there other departments that could benefit from a CBL partnership with your agency? If so, we ask you to encourage your community partners to fill out a Community Partner template, which will be shared with our campus community on our newly created Community Partner Page. Please contact Jodie Parys at parysj@uww.edu for more information.

CBL Partnership Spotlight: Sara Nichols – Open Arms Free Clinic



Open Arms Free Clinic is a community based, non-profit organization located in Elkhorn WI and is open to serve all of Walworth County. The clinic served their first patient in December of 2012, and since then their organization has grown tremendously. Open Arms Free Clinic provides a plethora of services to the individuals of Walworth County, including: primary medical care, general dentistry, behavior health counseling, lab work, and even free medication.

Their mission statement is “to better understand and serve with compassion the health and wellness needs of the uninsured, low-income, and underserved residents of Walworth County,” as stated by Sara Nichols, the Executive Director of Open Arms Free Clinic.

Sara Nichols has been involved with Open Arms since 2012. She had been working with community-based organizations previously, and was looking to volunteer in another community-based organization in Wisconsin. After meeting the founder, Father Dan Sanders regarding the dental initiative for the clinic, she saw great potential in the organization and has been involved ever since.

While Open Arms provides free health care, the organization is also able to work with UW-Whitewater to provide a community-based learning experience for both faculty and students. In the past, students have volunteered at Open Arms Free Clinic by utilizing what they have learned in a classroom setting and applying that information in a real-world environment by participating in tasks such as translating documents from English to Spanish, creating a patient satisfaction survey, creating a marketing video for the organization, and assisting with Covid-19-related assistance. Ms. Nichols also mentioned that their learning environment at Open Arms is in sync with our learning institution here at UW-Whitewater. By providing students with an integration of their learning from the university, students are able to learn different disciplines all across the board.

Ms. Nichols shared that they measure a lot of service factors at Open Arms in “doses of compassion.” This ranges from a patient’s first call they receive, to their first visit at the clinic, to their third, fourth, fifth visit to the clinic. Compassion does not have a rubric, which means when students are volunteering, they are also learning how to include these doses of compassion within their work and communication with others.

As a nonprofit, Open Arms is always eager to learn and can look for guidance from an academic institution to integrate learning disciplines within the organization. Every organization thrives off of innovation and creative thinking, and creating opportunities for students to learn and volunteer with Open Arms not only enriches the student, but the organization as well. Ms. Nichols shares that an opportunity can be created for any type of student at UW-Whitewater across all colleges to enrich the learning going on within the classrooms at UW-Whitewater.

The future is bright for Open Arms, as Ms. Nichols says that she hopes to constantly improve systems and quality of care at the clinic. There will always be people who will need additional support, and until there is universal health care, Ms. Nichols and Open Arms will continue to provide hope and health care to those who need it most. As faculty, encourage students who may be struggling to provide healthcare for themselves or families to reach out to Open Arms, since educators can be connectors in these hard times.

For more information or to discuss potential Community-based learning partnerships, please visit <https://openarmsfreeclinic.org/>

CBL Student Spotlight: Megan Bartz



Megan Bartz is a third-year student at UW-Whitewater double majoring in Psychology and Spanish and minoring in English as a Second Language, who has volunteered at Open Arms Free Clinic for Community-Based Learning. When volunteering, Megan had the opportunity to serve as a medical interpreter in medical appointments. This allowed her to feel competent and capable in serving patients, which continued to spark her interest and passion in continuing Spanish.

In regard to utilization of classroom learning, Megan shares, “This fully related to our classroom learning because in class, we were learning medical vocabulary, how to be a medical interpreter, including techniques, etiquette, rules, etc. We were also learning about different cultural elements to allow us to be cultural liaisons, if needed. We were working on medical translating, so we were also all able to translate a document they used at Open Arms. The CBL partnership at OAFCl gave us real work experience of what we were learning.”

Megan believes that students would benefit by being involved with CBL because “it is an opportunity to connect with the community and to take your learning beyond the classroom.” She states that it also takes your learning to a new level because you get actual experience in the community and less time sitting at a desk. CBL has positively impacted Megan’s college experience because she was able to volunteer and make a difference in something that she really cares about and is more passionate in her assignments as it may be something she uses beyond the classroom.

When asked if she had any advice or recommendations for students getting involved in CBL, Megan said, “I would recommend to give it your all. For me, at my experience with CBL at Open Arms Free Clinic I was originally very nervous, but when I gave it my all and asked questions when I had them, it turned out to be a very rewarding experience. It is important to be involved with the CBL element of class!”

For more information, please visit <https://openarmsfreeclinic.org/>



CAMPUS COMPACT IN ACTION

February 2021

Upcoming Regional and National Events: Campus Compact houses a trove of events related to community-based learning. To find out more information, please visit:

<https://wicampuscompact.org/events/>

Upcoming Events

Flipping the Online Classroom

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

This session will focus on designing and implementing courses with high levels of student interaction, engagement, and community-based learning. We will introduce strategies and approaches for enhancing students' skills in leadership, teamwork, and problem solving through supportive learning communities, student-led activities, and student-directed learning. We will discuss strategies for balancing and effectively utilizing both synchronous and asynchronous class time in order to make courses meaningful, relevant, and content-rich. Participants will leave the session with concrete plans and goals to support students' online learning experiences with a "flipped" mindset and approach.

You can learn more and register at <https://events.compact.org/fusion-webinars>

Scholarship & Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference

April 8 - April 9, 2021

Since 2015, over 100 undergraduates from across the nation have gathered to present research that amplifies historically muted voices to address issues of equity and justice. The conference has become an opportunity for both faculty and undergraduates interested in community-engaged scholarship in the academy to come together as a community of established and emerging scholars.

You can learn more and register at <https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu/ssj>.

Critical Consciousness for Community Engaged Teaching and Learning

April 22nd, 2021 3:00pm – 4:00pm EDT

Campus Compact's National Webinar series returns for 2020-2021 with more to support and inspire you. Topics touch on issues of relevance to faculty, staff, students, and their partners in education and community building. Be sure to tune to each session for information, tools, and resources to help you in your work.

You can learn more and register at <https://compact.org/event/critical-consciousness-for-community-engaged-teaching-and-learning/>

2021 A Virtual Rural Summit

April 26th- April 30th, 2021

Partners for Education at Berea College and co-host Campus Compact New Hampshire are excited to invite you to the 2021 Rural College Access and Success Summit. This virtual event will be held April 26th to April 30th, 2021. Sessions will run from 1:00pm to 3:30pm (EST) each day preceded by 30 minute networking sessions beginning at 12:30pm. One of the few national convenings to focus on rural America, the Summit brings together teachers, principals, superintendents, higher education leaders, legislators, and non-profit leaders to share ideas and strategies for ensuring that rural youth have the opportunity to successfully transition from high school to college and career.

You can learn more and register at [The Rural Summit - Partners for Education \(bera.edu\)](https://www.berea.edu/partners-for-education/2021-rural-college-access-and-success-summit)

Campus Compact Midwest Region Conference

May 25th, 2021 12:00pm – 3:00 pm (Pacific)

Conference participants, students, community partners, national service members, veterans, faculty, staff, and administrators will explore how to partner in renewing the promise of full participation in higher education, a flourishing democracy, and productive, meaningful and gainful careers. In keeping these promises we will support the development of student, community and campus resilience by achieving and defining a civic consensus on our collective boundary-spanning responsibilities for racial and environmental justice.

You can learn more and register at [Campus Compact Midwest Region Conference - Campus Compact](https://www.compact.org/midwest-region-conference)