

UW-Whitewater Community-Based Learning Newsletter



Community-Based Learning Director's Letter

Greetings and welcome to another semester!

I hope that your Spring semester has gotten off to a wonderful start and is already full of engaging work that allows you to connect with our dynamic campus and surrounding communities. As you pursue your work this semester, I wanted to encourage you to look for ways that you can incorporate CBL into your existing or new courses. For inspiration, take a look at our website, which includes examples of how to integrate CBL across a variety of disciplines:

<https://www.uww.edu/ce/cbl/impact>

In this semester's newsletter, we have also included a spotlight on a new international CBL course that was highly successful. If you are interested in developing something in your own field, please reach out- we are happy to share tips!

We've also shared reflections from three dynamic CBL students, giving a glimpse into the type of impact this pedagogy can have on their learning. I'd encourage you to spend some time hearing from other students at our testimonial page:

<https://www.uww.edu/ce/cbl/student-testimonials>

In short, we hope to highlight WHY this work matters so much and encourage you to consider adding a CBL component and designation to your course. In fact, if you have a story or testimonial to share, please reach out to parysi@uww.edu! We'd love to highlight your class, CBL project, and/or students!

Not sure where to start? Check out this site or contact us for a 1:1 consultation: <https://www.uww.edu/ce/cbl/getting-started>

I also strongly urge you to secure CBL Designation for any course containing a community-based learning (which includes field work,

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internships, etc.) or community-based research component. Our CBL Course Designation Process is ongoing and we are offering 15 CBL courses this semester alone, with over 350 student participants! We have over 35 courses designated, with more being added each year.

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- The deadline for CBL Course Designation applications for **new Fall 2023 CBL Courses** has been extended to February 6. This process only takes about 10 minutes. If you are interested in learning more about CBL and the benefits to faculty, students, and the community, please view this [CBL Impact Video](#)
- Please see the CBL Website <https://www.uww.edu/ce/cbl/cbl-course-designation> for additional information.
- To apply, please complete the following Qualtrics Survey: https://uwwhitewater.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37Rop3nIHY2BZqG
You will need to have your course syllabus and supporting information.

I have two more important announcements to bring to your attention:

- We will hold our Spring CBL Celebration and Breakfast on Thursday, April 27 from 8:30-10:00 am in UC 259. Please **SAVE THE DATE**
- We are soliciting nominations for three awards, which will be presented at the Spring 2023 CBL Breakfast. They are:
 - Exemplary CBL Practitioner (Faculty or Staff) for 2022-2023
 - Exemplary CBL Community Partner for 2022-2023
 - Exemplary CBL Student for 2022-2023

Please nominate yourself, your colleagues, your community partners, and/or your students! Nominations should consist of a 1-page letter that includes a description of the CBL project and why it is exemplary. You may submit multiple nominations.

Nominations will be accepted through March 31, 2023, and should be submitted to parysj@uww.edu.

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

In service,

Jodie Parrys

parysj@uww.edu

262-472-5070

3130 Laurentide Hall

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CBL Course Spotlight: Spanish 491 / Public Health 491 / Social Work 491: Health and Aging in Costa Rica

16 UWW students recently participated in an inaugural international CBL travel study course to Costa Rica focused on Health and Aging. The Spanish, Social Work, and Public Health students spent 11 days in country learning about all aspects of health, including:

- Interactive lectures on the country's "caja" or socialized medical system and how it works in conjunction with the privatized system
- A visit to an Indigenous territory to learn directly from a shaman about their belief system and how it applies to healing and medicine
- A 3-day stay in the Nicoya Peninsula, one of the world's 5 Blue Zones, where people live the longest and have the greatest health outcomes. While there, students prepared and enjoyed locally-grown, organic food cooked in solar ovens and met with elders in their 90s and 100s and learned their secrets to live the "pura vida"
- Two days at a senior center in San Jose, engaging with elders through storytelling, dance, and conversation. This CBL aspect of the course allowed students to learn so much about the importance of social connection to promote longevity, well-being, and health while directly impacting the lives of the elders with whom they were working
- A tour of an organic coffee farm to learn about the importance of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture
- A visit to a medicinal herb farm, where an ethnobotanist taught us about the healing power of specific plants and students enjoyed a 6-course tasting meal made entirely of food grown on-site
- Homestays throughout the travel study, allowing students to live the aspects of health that they were studying and learn first-hand the power of human connection



Click [HERE](#) to apply for CBL Designation!

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How to Apply for CBL Designation

Fill out form to submit a proposal and supporting documentation.

- Indicate specific term, course, and section number(s)
- Attach a syllabus plus additional course material as necessary

1

The proposal first goes to the Department Chair for acknowledgment, the Chair is affirming their support for this CBL offering.

2

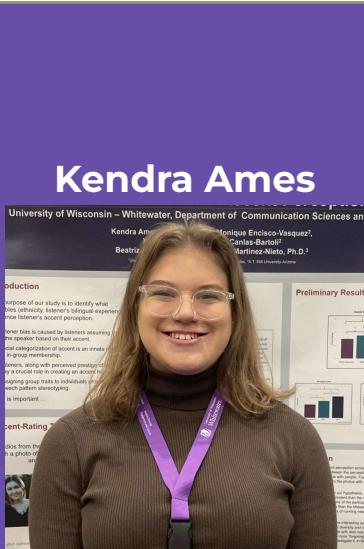
The proposal is then reviewed by the CBL Council, which is comprised of CBL practitioners from each UWW College and chaired by CBL Coordinator.

3

4

If the proposal is approved, the CBL coordinator will direct the Registrar to add the CBL designation and a standard explanatory note to the relevant course section(s).

UW-Whitewater Community-Based Learning Newsletter



Kendra Ames



Double Majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders & Spanish

[Open Arms Free Clinic Student Testimonial](#)

Grady Gruchow



Double Majoring in Supply Chain Management & Spanish

[Enactus Student Testimonial](#)

CBL Student Spotlights: Q&A

Q: What was the most impactful part of CBL for you?

A: Developing a close relationship with this community has been the most meaningful part of all my CBL experiences. I now have a deeper connection with the Whitewater area, and I've learned a lot about the community. These experiences have always helped me remember that there is a need for volunteer help everywhere.

Q: How has CBL prepared you for your future career?

A: Having CBL courses has helped me learn and retain the subject matter, as well as develop a deeper appreciation for the necessity of Spanish-speakers and the importance of being culturally aware and appreciative. Of course, beyond affecting me personally and academically, I am also more marketable because I can prove that I can connect what I've learned in my university courses with any job position I will have in the future. Next year, I will be attending graduate school, so having these experiences has helped prepare me for the deeper learning I will be doing in grad school. Employers, admission boards, and scholarship committees all recognize the merit of CBL courses.

Q: What was the most impactful part of CBL for you?

A: The experiences have given me a platform to develop my Spanish language listening and speaking ability that I would not otherwise get in the classroom. Engaging with the community in this intentional way also gives me a better sense of who is living in the area.

Q: How has CBL prepared you for your future career?

A: CBL has fundamentally defined my collegiate experience. Engaging in community-based learning has helped me realize that the UW Whitewater campus does not stop at the intersection of Prairie and Starin street. I've been able to engage with the community in ways that have fundamentally changed how I view community involvement and set a precedent for how I want to interact with communities in the future.

Kolden Severson



Majoring in Elementary Education with a Minor in Spanish Education

[Whitewater Unified School District Student Testimonial](#)

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Q: What was the most impactful part of CBL for you?

A: The most impactful part of CBL was getting to know the kids, and developing relationships with them. At first I was very hesitant with how to interact with them, as my Spanish was still a little rough around the edges, but I soon realized that the students I was working with could not connect with other teachers because of the language barrier. Even my limited Spanish made such a difference. The students I have worked with through CBL have been through so much, but remain positive and have become vital parts of the school's community.

Q: How has CBL prepared you for your future career?

A: CBL has really improved my Spanish so much. Just the 30 hours I did in Spring of 2022 grew my vocabulary exponentially and helped polish my conversational ability. As I have continued to work in that same school from my CBL, the students have even recognized my growth just as I have recognised theirs. I know that my ability to speak Spanish will greatly benefit me as a teacher!



If you are interested in learning more about the CBL program, our partnerships, or ways to get involved with CBL, please visit our website or email Jodie Parys at parysj@uww.edu.

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COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING



2022 Statistics

15

CBL courses in Spring of 2022

17

CBL courses in Fall of 2022

330

Students enrolled in CBL-designated courses in spring 2022

356

Students enrolled in CBL-designated courses in fall 2022

15

minimum hours of CBL in the community per student

10,500+

hours of CBL in just the 2021-2022 academic year!

According to the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), **71%** of Executives and **78%** of Hiring Managers indicated that they are more likely to hire employees with experience in service-learning, community-based learning, and community-based research.

Between the 2020-2021 academic year and the 2021-2022 academic year, there was a **37% increase** in CBL-designated course enrollments! Participants of CBL programs are very sought after and preferred by recruiters and executives.

If you are interested in learning more about the CBL program, our partnerships, or ways to get involved with CBL, please visit our website or email Jodie Parys at parysj@uww.edu.

Upcoming Regional and National Online Events



Register at:

[Bridging the Divides](#)

Bridging the Divides, Including All Students

February 6-7, 2023 @ 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm EST

The second in a series of planning and action forums on college civic learning. This forum will discuss diversity and equity in civic learning, and how to engage all students in a democracy-focused learning framework

Campus Structures and Functions for Equitable Engagement (Webinar)

February 23, 2023 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

In this webinar, hear from college and university campuses that have integrated diversity, equity, and inclusion into their civic and community engagement structures. This session will feature a number of panelists who share more about the department structures and cross-campus collaborations that position them to advance equitable engagement.

Curriculum Redesign Institute

March 1, 2023 - March 2, 2023 / All Day

This Campus Compact Faculty Development Series brings together faculty from across institutions, disciplines, and varying levels of community engagement expertise to participate in an intensive interactive learning community.

[Curriculum Redesign Institute](#)

