Enthusiastic Engagement

Creating Meaningful Community-Student Learning Opportunities
Best of Intentions

There are challenges to keep in mind with community-engaged learning.

- It takes more time to prep and requires more engagement with students, at a time when resources are continuing to be cut.
- Students need to be prepped effectively for the projects.
- It can be isolating to do community-engaged work.
- Relationships may need to be repaired in the community.
- There are often more needs than one department can engage in.
- Despite your best efforts, sometimes it doesn't go as planned.
Identifying Needs

- One on One Meetings
- Survey of Community Partners
- Follow Up with Partners
- Student Needs (Courses)
- Student Inquiries (Informal)

How does your community want you to show up?

What SLO's do you have that could be met with a community project?
Identifying Partners

- What committees do you currently serve on?
- What community events are you attending or asked to speak at?
- Whom do your student organizations identify as partners?

Survey and Follow Up

- Identify a simple survey tool for your current partners to list the things they may need or desire from your organization.
- Schedule one-on-one meetings with people you've not met with, are not currently partnered with, or have not engaged with recently. Now is a great time to do that!
- Ensure you have a plan for follow-up and service changes within your department.
- Don't waste people's time. Don't student dump. It needs to be meaningful for students and for partners.
• Define and explain sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and the factors that contribute to this victimization.

• Prepare and produce statistical fact sheets and definitions that counter myths related to this victimization.

• Identify and examine compound victimization related to this victimization, community responders, and areas of improvement from the criminal justice system.

• Develop a storyboard that identifies facts, myths, impact of trauma, criminal justice responders, and areas of future research.

• Design and implement trauma-informed questions for survivors and community partners.

• Create and produce a documentary to be shared publicly to raise awareness and increase support for local anti-trafficking agencies and initiatives.

Based upon feedback from community partners, we knew they needed a way to educate the public and showcase survivor voices but did not have the funds or time to do so. As such, it became a project that our Human Trafficking course took on!

Breaking Barriers: Survivor Voices in Kansas City

A PROJECT OF THE 2021 UMKC HUMAN TRAFFICKING COURSE, THIS ONE-HOUR DOCUMENTARY EXPLORES THE SCOPE OF SEX TRAFFICKING FROM A NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL AS SURVIVORS, PREVENTION EXPERTS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS EXPLAIN HOW AND WHY SEX TRAFFICKING OCCURS AND WHY HOPE IS AN ACTION WE MUST CHOOSE.

EMAIL UMCCJC@UMKC.EDU TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Human Trafficking
I personally think that I engaged very well and deeper with community partners and survivor leaders. I feel very confident and well of the oral history/survivor leader documentary, furthermore, I actually would like to spend more extra time (if you allow) on this project of final editing and touch up to publish on social media more looking professional and neat. Again, so far overall, I really like this class and all the materials, guest speakers. This is legitimately educating me a lot.

I honestly can’t wait until the finished product of the movie is done for our documentary. It is one of the most unique, genuine, and meaningful projects I have done in all my years of school. Plus, from the law enforcement aspect it shows me how to react and talk to victims I will interact with once I graduate. All in all, a hands down 100% pure assignment.

I found the experience very rewarding in itself. Although, the finish product is not done yet, but having the opportunity to be involved in some way to make a difference means a lot. I found the survivor leaders empowering to listen to and having more knowledge after the interviews taking place is very moving. Hearing about each experience from each individual is interesting to see the different perspective that takes place in trafficking. The documentary will be great to show others and share the information to the best ability to make a difference in our community. The community needs more small projects like this one to make one big difference and make a movement for the better good of the future.
This course provided students an opportunity to volunteer at 6 different justice-oriented agencies/institutions within the greater KC area. Students developed learning plans for a Police Athletic League, an all-day event for those at an Adult Residential Center, assisted with a fundraising event for a CASA center, provided services (and received training) at a youth center, engaged in strategic planning with an anti-violence organization, and helped with identification and data collection for a local anti-trafficking organization.
Before this experience I had limited knowledge on how residential centers work and after visiting, I learned about how residential centers operate, who their primary clients are, workshops, and the specific details of the only 6 month residential center in Kansas. I also learned more about the biology and health issues related to trauma and higher ACE scores, specifically how life threatening disorders and illnesses are an increased risk for those with higher ACE scores. I also learned more about trauma informed care from this experience as it was the first ‘hands-on’ situation I’ve been in since studying this type of care. I was able to see how trauma-informed care looks in person and how to communicate effectively, listen, and support the clients.

This visit made me deeply appreciate the role of community collaboration in responding to social issues. I came out with a heightened sense of responsibility to the community.

It was very rewarding to know that Veronica’s Voice was using the work we did on the same day to let the families of the missing people we researched know that they are not forgotten and that people still care. We were able to end the day on a more positive note by learning how Veronica’s Voice uses this information to find and help people who may be trafficked. It was rewarding to know that this information and data is helping Veronica’s Voice and other stop trafficking organizations who are then talking to families.

This visit made me deeply appreciate the role of community collaboration in responding to social issues. I came out with a heightened sense of responsibility to the community.
Building Upon Current Events

In 2020, we enhanced our 16th Annual Career Expo by building a conference around it (and completing it on Zoom). This project was completed by our CJC Career Expoloration Course.

This project addressed the need to develop networking skills, project management competencies, group collaboration, identification of career opportunities within different agencies/institutions, and development of professional social media engagement.
I felt really empowered listening to Klassie speak. It's encouraged me to think more boldly about the changes I can make for my community with my career.

Student Attendee

The career expo was great. As a professional who goes to a lot of these events, I thought this was a great use of my time. We had several high quality interactions with a lot of students. Thank you for doing this!

Practitioner Attendee

Very beneficial and informative conference. Would like the opportunity to visit UMKC and speak with their students at future events.

Practitioner Attendee

One of the best virtual career fairs I've been to all year.

Practitioner Attendee

I'm not a CJC major but I thought this was a really great experience. I'll be attending your next one!

Student Attendee
Internships/Externships

Internships provide students an opportunity to engage with a justice-oriented agency/institution for 15-20 hours per week.

Externships provide students an opportunity to work with a collaborative community group (or agency working within one) for 6 hours a month. They also attend an hour long meeting each week focused on professional development.

Students receive weekly material related to various development opportunities, there is a bi-weekly check in with all students and community partners, a mid-term evaluation, and a final evaluation.
Involving your student organizations is a great way to start networking with the community!