Welcome to Voices of CEL! A monthly newsletter where you can learn about CEL opportunities, read stories about student, staff and partner experiences in the program, as well as find volunteer and job opportunities. This newsletter has something for everyone and great opportunities to explore. The newsletter will come out the first week of every month.

VOICES OF CEL

Humans of CEL

Featuring Robyn Valentine

I’ve always loved to get involved with my community. I was exposed to volunteering and community engagement at a young age through the ringette world. When I was 13 years old, I began volunteering as a goalie coach for various ringette and hockey teams, and this love for the sport turned into years of giving back to the ringette community which then turned into getting involved in and working with many different communities. Working for the CEL team at Carleton has been life-changing. I’ve had the chance to not only engage with various non-profit community organizations but also help other students realize their love for community-engaged learning. Through programs like the Community Partnership Project, I’ve been able to learn more about many local community organizations, meet and get to know some amazing Carleton students and develop skills that I wouldn’t have been able to gain without community-engaged learning.

CEL Updates!

Community Engaged Learning (CEL) is a method of experiential learning that emphasizes action, reflection and real-world engagement. It allows individuals to participate in hands-on experiences while gaining critical thinking, problem-solving and reflection skills by creating mutually beneficial relationships between individuals and communities.

The Community Partnership Project (CPP) uses a community-engaged learning model to encourage students to participate in service. CPP connects Carleton students with community organizations (charities, non-profits, and social service organizations) in Canada. Following four months (October 2021 to January 2022) of self-paced modules on community-engaged learning and project management, students will spend their winter reading week (February 2022) remotely supporting community organizations with the research, planning, and execution of community-identified projects. Applications to participate as a student in the CPP are open and will close on September 30th. Successful candidates will be notified the first week of October with the program beginning shortly after.

The benefits of community-engaged learning include: Participants can link their academic experience to their community, better understand the larger effects of their contributions, and understand their roles as global citizens in relation to social change.

To partner with CPP as an organization, charity, non-profit, or social service organization, please complete a partner request form by September 28th, 2021. Questions can be directed to cpp@carleton.ca.
'Do good, do better.' That statement means a lot to me, it’s kind of my north star – a guiding force in my work and life. I spend my teenage years volunteering with charities and non-profits, but I didn’t think critically about the organizations I volunteered with, the services they provided, or the impacts of those services on underserved, oppressed, and marginalized communities. My first CEL experience – Alternative Spring Break – changed that. I learned about the importance of centring the lived experiences and knowledge of individuals, over the aspirations of institutions. I learned that how we support someone is just as important as the support we provide. I learned that we can all do good, better. That’s what CEL is about; it encourages us to think deeper, do better, and ultimately provide better support to those who need it most.