



We CU Community Engaged Scholars *Addressing CU Community Needs during COVID-19 Summer 2020*

Program Summary

Community engagement has more importance now than ever as organizations across our community are facing unprecedented challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The We CU 10-week summer scholars program empowers students to respond to these challenges. Scholars will be matched with community-based projects that can be completed remotely, track their service hours and activities, and receive training and support online. Participating students may apply for mini grants to offset costs associated with service activities. Students who complete at least 40 hours of service during the 10-week summer program will be recognized for this achievement with a We CU honor ceremony and certificate of completion.

Supported by the Center for Social and Behavioral Science, College of Education, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute, School of Social Work, and Siebel Center for Design.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the expectations for participating students?

- Participate in an informational session and training
- Complete and track at least 40 hours of service (minimum 3 hours/week) from June 1 – Aug. 10, 2020, using Givepulse software
- Complete a pre- and post-experience survey

What do students receive as We CU summer scholars?

- University support and distinct recognition for community service
- Eligibility for the mini grants program to offset costs associated with service activities
- Honor and certificate for their achievements during a ceremony at the end of the summer
- Addition of We CU summer program and individual service activities to their resume/CV

What kinds of projects will scholars work on this summer?

- A variety of new or existing community-based projects related to COVID-19 may qualify for the program.
- Projects may address disease-related issues (e.g. students organizing to create masks).
- Projects may address issues related to the economy/isolation/remote work (e.g. phone calls to isolated seniors, managing social media content for an organization to improve messaging, translating materials into other languages).

Which organizations have submitted projects and how will the projects be matched?

- The Community Learning Lab (CLL) in the School of Social Work works with more than 200 community organizations in Champaign County.
- Organizations that have already submitted summer projects include Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, Children's Home and Aid, and New American Welcome Center.
- CLL will match projects with classes, student groups, and individual students.

Students may submit their interest in joining the program at go.illinois.edu/WeCUsummer2020.