



2019-2020

IMPACT REPORT



Roger Williams
University

One Old Ferry Road
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
401-254-3500

Thank you for your
support of **CIVIC SCHOLARS**



Hassenfeld Community Engagement

Hassenfeld Community Engagement Programs have been instrumental in advancing Roger Williams University's mission to strengthen society through engaged teaching and learning. Since 2016 three programs funded by the Hassenfeld Family Initiatives have advanced RWU's community-engaged teaching and learning practices and helped to build centers of excellence to support them into the future.

Supported through a series of mini-grants, the Hassenfeld Community Projects enable collaborations between RWU faculty and students and community partners to address community concerns in a more focused way than through typical community-engaged courses or student placements with partners. In 2019-20, three projects were pursued as Hassenfeld Community Projects:

The Immigration Coalition Detention Response Project: The Immigrant Coalition Detention Response Project is a collaboration between Roger Williams University School of Law's Immigration Clinic, the Immigrant Coalition of RI, Dorcas International Institute of RI, and the Pro Bono Collaborative. The goal of the project is to provide legal rights information and other direct assistance to the ICE detainees at Wyatt Detention Center in Central Falls, RI.

Oyster Enhancement in Warren, RI and a Survey of Northeastern Shellfish Restoration: Since 2016, the Town of Warren has been culturing juvenile oysters on the Town Wharf for release into town waters for stock enhancement and recreational harvest. The the Luther H. Blount Shellfish Hatchery in the Center for Economic and Environmental Development has provided equipment, technological assistance, and oyster seed to the town in support of their efforts.

Supporting Healthy Families Video for Families in RI Family Court System: Research current best practices in the field of parenting, after divorce and to create a new updated version of a parent education video working closely in conjunction with the RI Family Court system.

Highlights

In our first four years, we have rapidly established ourselves as a recognizable leader in civic involvement and engagement, not only in Rhode Island but around the United States. This is signified by our receipt in January 2020 of the highly selective **Carnegie Community Engagement Classification**. As a distinction held by one of only two colleges or universities in Rhode Island and 359 institutions nationally, it testifies to the depth and breadth of our institutional commitment to community engagement.

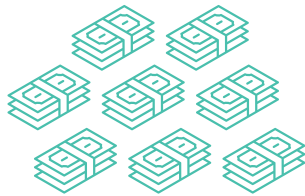
Through our **Faculty Fellowship Program in Community Engagement**, we have provided financial and technical support to 42 faculty members over the last three years, enabling them to incorporate community engagement partnerships and projects into their courses and, perhaps even more importantly, to work together to develop best practices for engaged teaching and learning across all schools and disciplines at RWU. Through the work of these faculty leaders, the scholarship and pedagogy of community engagement is becoming an established practice at RWU, recognized above all for its power to enhance the educational experience of our students.

For many students, the opportunity to become more deeply engaged as Civic Scholars depends on finding sources of financial support that enable them to serve in community while also earning a stipend or a paycheck. The Feinstein Center and Community Partnerships Center have consolidated our student fellowship and community job programs to engage 60-75 undergraduates per year in a **Community Engagement Fellows Program** that links community service with earnings of up to \$1500/semester. The students also meet monthly and participate in a co-curricular program designed to enhance their leadership skills and understanding of civic and community engagement challenges.

Community and Civic Engagement have been accorded a prominent place in the key strategic planning efforts of RWU. The University's **Equity Action Plan**, for example, calls for "increase[ing] the number of community-engaged courses with a service component aimed at enhancing students' intercultural fluency that include RWU-specific Undergraduate Service Learning/Community Engagement Learning Outcomes."



Please note that all photographs were taken before the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic.



\$3,326,095
RAISED



1,225
DONORS



3,261
STUDENTS INVOLVED



3,132
GIFTS



166,026
HOURS VOLUNTEERED



323
PROJECTS



226
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Future Projects made possible through the support of Civic Scholars

In keeping with its commitment to civic education and engagement, RWU recently joined the "ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge," a national, nonpartisan initiative that supports and recognizes colleges and universities working to improve civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation. A student-led committee is spearheading efforts across the RWU campuses in Bristol and Providence to encourage community members to register and exercise their right to vote in November. Participation will also enable RWU to collect important baseline metrics around this important measure of civic engagement.



In the spring of 2020, RWU received a \$207,000 grant from the **Davis Educational Foundation** to design and implement a Community-Engaged Core Curriculum. Led jointly by the Associate Provost for Community Engaged Learning and the Associate Dean of General Education, this important initiative will integrate community engagement and experiential learning into RWU's multi-faceted Core Curriculum, with a special focus on the first-year student experience. As a required 4-3-credit course of study that spans the entire four-year undergraduate experience (from first-year seminar to senior capstone), the Core Curriculum holds significant promise for advancing our commitment to engaged teaching and learning and providing a truly transformational educational experience for our undergraduates.

Since 2017, the Stempel Corps for International Community Engagement has supported domestic and international students in global community engagement to build their skills, increase their personal capacity to affect change, and have more impact on the community by creating pathways for cultural exchange. The Stempel Corps includes international students working with local non-profits, engages domestic students with international NGOs like Scholars at Risk, and study abroad community-engaged courses in the Dominican Republic, Northern Ireland, and Ecuador.