

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

To enrich the lives of our faculty, students, staff, and community through service-learning, active citizenship, meaningful community service, engaged scholarship, and mutually-beneficial partnerships.

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"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."
-Pablo Picasso

Dear Friends,

It is hard to imagine a visual record of the 20th century without Pablo Picasso's bold shapes and characteristic angles. The Spanish artist captured everything from the horrors of war to the boundless possibilities of humanity. He found his gift, gave it away, and thereby lived a full and meaningful life. Long ago, a visit to the Picasso museum in Barcelona was one of my favorite experiences.

Many young people find their gift when in college. It is a time for intellectual and social growth, especially when coupled with reflection. I never discourage a student that wants to change majors because they have found out that they are not passionate about their first choice. Much of success in life is in knowing what you don't want to do or are not particularly skilled at. I also advise students "to go for what you truly love and you will be successful." Finding your true gift will always make work enjoyable and life meaningful.

One of the ideals of the Leduc Center is to have our students develop an identity that is larger than their career. So, we would love for them to say "I'm an accountant, artist, biologist, engineer, nurse etc... and I volunteer at (fill in the blank). This relates to the second part of the quote above. Our gifts are not just meant for our financial well-being but to be generously shared with humanity. We work hard to develop meaningful curricular and co-curricular activities that when coupled with reflection help students to see the positive impacts of their gifts on others.

This report has been designed to provide a snapshot of our activities for the 2022-23 academic year. It is representative of our ideal - that through service we can brighten our lives and our futures. The data presented shows the impact on our students and our community. However, it may not speak to the most important aspect of our work – having our students understand the true meaning of life



The Weeping Woman, 1937 Pablo Picasso

and generosity and their link to lifelong happiness. When we serve others, we live happier and more meaningful lives. We are eternally grateful for your willingness to partner with us in this journey of service.

Yours in Service,

Matthew H. Roy, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Career & Civic Engagement

STAFF & SUPPORT

Matthew H. Roy, Ph.D.
Deirdre Healy
Gary Marden
Medora LaPlante

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Career & Civic Engagement
Director, Community Service & Partnerships
Civic Engagement Program Officer
Administrative Assistant

Advisory Board

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Carl Alves
Positive Action Against Chemical Abuse (PAACA)

Nicholas Christ
BayCoast Bank

Jack Chopoorian
Mansion Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Joseph Cordeiro
Retired New Bedford Police Chief

Elizabeth Duffy
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

Julie Gagliardi '87
SouthCoast Community Foundation

Michelle Hantman
United Way of Greater New Bedford

Jeanne Leduc
Retired ER Nurse

Robert Leduc '78
Retired CEO

Rev. David Lima
Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford

Rep. Christopher Markey
Massachusetts House of Representatives

Jim Mathes
Dennison Memorial Community Center

Bill Perkins
People, Inc.

Denise Porche
The Island Foundation

Gina Purtell
Allen's Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

Michele Roberts
Bristol County Savings Bank

Sen. Michael Rodrigues
Massachusetts State Senate

Dr. Bruce Rose
Retired Asst. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Corinn Williams
Community Economic Development Center

UNIVERSITY MEMBERS

Dr. Carlos Benavides
Global Languages and Cultures Chairperson

Paula Cruz '14
Boston Children's Hospital

Joshua Encarnacion '14
Leadership Development Consultant
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Dr. Memory Holloway
Professor Emerita

Narcisse Kunda '22
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Dr. Jean MacCormack
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Dr. John Quinn
UMass School of Law

Peter Schock '12
Boston Consulting Group

Maggie Sullivan '21
Henry Lord Community School

Matthew Witzgall '15
Carl's Collision Center

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning

Service-Learning (SL) is defined at UMass Dartmouth as a pedagogical method used in credit-bearing courses that is designed with the dual mission of:

- a) Student attainment of discipline-specific knowledge through creatively designed, active-learning community based projects and
- b) Community benefit through the thoughtful identification and completion of community-based service.

The methodology of Service-Learning requires:

- a) A clear link between academic objectives and service experience that is mutually beneficial to the goals of the course and community need.
- b) Student reflection as a means to gain a greater understanding of course content and a broader sense of civic responsibility.

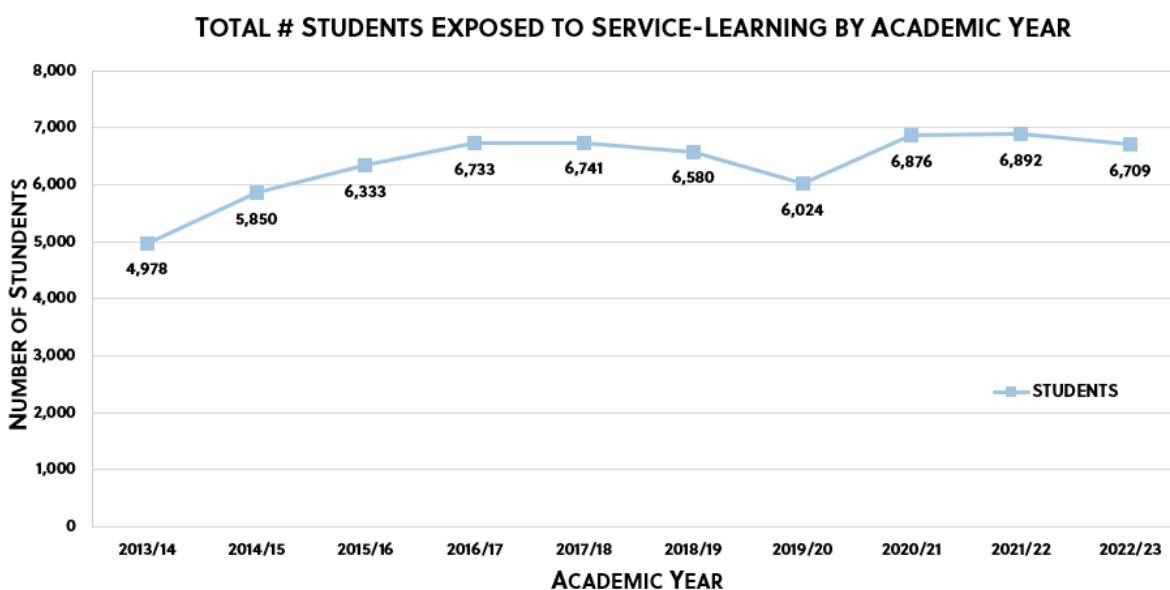


Figure I

AT A GLANCE...

6,709 students were exposed to service-learning in Academic Year 2022-23

SERVICE-LEARNING

Figure I shows there is a positive trend of increased student exposure to service-learning with a slight decrease a few years ago that was due to academic policy changes and declining enrollments. In this academic year, 6,709 students were exposed to service-learning pedagogy. Figure II shows the growth of faculty and class sections offered from 2013/14 to this year 2022/23. The trend here also mirrors that of student exposure to service-learning.

**Summary Of Service-Learning Involvement
(# Faculty, # Class Sections)**

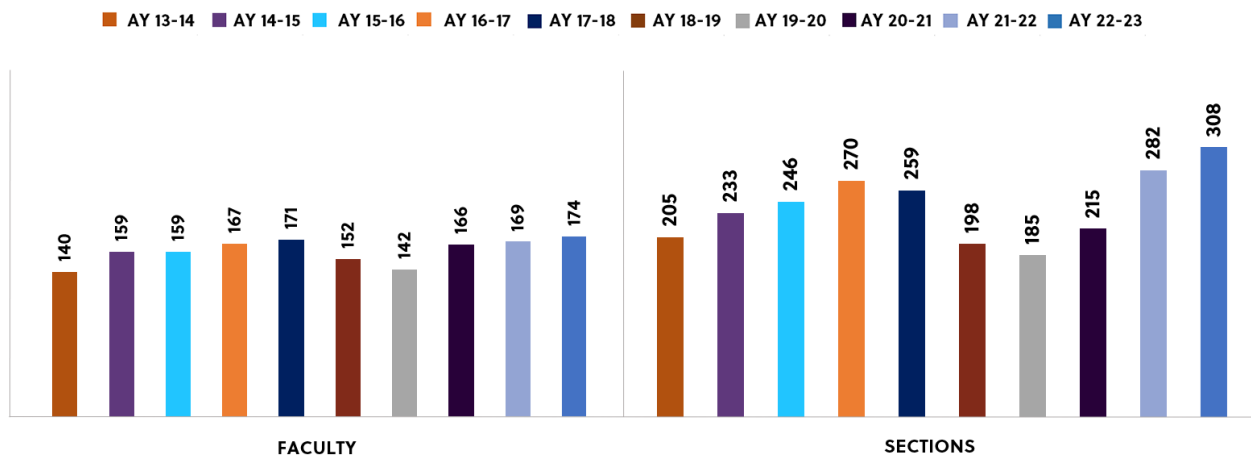


Figure II

2022-2023 Faculty Fellows

Sankha Bhowmick, *Biomedical Engineering*
Aleta Deyo, *Fashion Design*
Qinguo Fan, *Bioengineering*
Robert Gegear, *Biology*
Thomas Hertweck, *English & Communication*
Jamie Jacquart, *Sustainability*
Uday Jha, *Decision & Information Sciences*
Genevieve Kozak, *Biology*
Vanessa Lovelace, *Crime & Justice Studies*
Jonathan Mellor, *Civil & Environmental Engineering*
Nancy Osborne, *Taxation*
Ashley Ruderman-Looff, *Crime & Justice Studies*
Mary Beth Sosa, *Adult Nursing*
Bridget Teboh, *History*
Ruolin Zhou, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program

Students' exposure to SL pedagogy requires faculty understanding of and commitment to this method of teaching. The primary means to develop faculty knowledgeable in SL methods has been through The Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, which has grown from 6 faculty members in FY2008/09 to a total of 136 faculty members trained to date.

Assessment of SL

Each year the Leduc Center surveys students across all the colleges to determine the impact of SL classes on civic knowledge, skills, and abilities; class learning objectives; and desire to stay at UMassD. The data has been overwhelmingly positive. This academic year we surveyed 130 students.

College participants reported increases in their civic skills following their participation in service-learning classes. The following table shows the difference in the civic skills of participants before and after program participation. The means below are based on a 5-point scale; with 1 being "I cannot do this at all" to 5 being "I can do this very well." Mean scores of skills before and after program participation were compared using a paired samples t-test. The t-test shows that there is a positive relationship between participation in the service-learning classes and reported gains in civic skills relating to addressing social problems. All the line items below are statistically significant showing the positive impact of service-learning classes on these skills.

Table I

Civic Skills	Pre-mean Skill Score	Post-mean Skill Score
Identify needs and resources of the community.*	3.31	4.12
Apply knowledge and skills gained to real problems/opportunities in my community.*	3.56	4.30
Make connections between learning and issues/needs of the community.*	3.51	4.23
Articulate the value of engagement to other members of the community.*	3.39	4.10
Communicate effectively orally and in writing.*	3.90	4.46
Evaluate and integrate information from multiple sources.*	3.82	4.39
Organize other students to take action on a community problem.*	3.18	3.80
Create a plan to address the issue.*	3.47	4.16
Get people to care about the problem.*	3.35	4.03
Organize and run a meeting.*	3.27	3.88
Find and examine research related to the issue.*	3.61	4.28
Apply what I learned in my service-learning class.*	3.34	4.29

*p < .001

AT A GLANCE...

80.4% of the students in the class of 2023 had a service-learning experience

SERVICE-LEARNING

Future of Work

UMass Dartmouth prides itself on designing a curriculum to prepare UMassD graduates for the challenges they will face over the course of their careers and soft skill competencies, such as, resilience, optimism, and sense of humanity that will be critical to lifelong success. In an effort to assess how service-learning helps to meet the future of work competencies and mindsets, we incorporated a series of questions in our annual survey.

Table II

Future of Work Competencies	Pre-mean Skill Score	Post-mean Skill Score
Use different thought processes to generate creative ideas.*	3.45	4.35
Articulate thoughts/ideas in written and oral form.*	3.65	4.36
Value, respect, and learn from individuals different from me.*	4.29	4.77
Demonstrate professionalism, accountability, and effective work habits.*	4.26	4.71

*p < .001

Table III

Future of Work Mindsets	Pre-mean Skill Score	Post-mean Skill Score
I felt optimistic - hopeful and confident about the future.*	3.66	4.15
I felt resilient about my ability to recover from and/or adjust to change or misfortune.*	3.59	4.09
I am interested in life-long learning - the ongoing, voluntary pursuit of knowledge.*	4.01	4.34
I am confident in my emotional intelligence - the ability to manage your own emotions and recognize/influence others emotions.*	4.03	4.38
I am confident in my ability to act based on moral principles .*	4.36	4.63
I embrace an entrepreneurial outlook - innovation and continuous improvement.*	3.63	4.11
I have an orientation for community service and engage in ongoing efforts for the betterment of others.*	3.60	4.07

*p < .001

All future of work competencies are statistically significant. The competencies we surveyed included divergent thinking, communication, global fluency, and professionalism. All future of work mindsets are statistically significant. Service-learning has proven itself as a valuable tool to prepare students for the future.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

On March 31, 2023, the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement hosted the “Engaged Scholarship Symposium on Anti-Racist Community Engagement.” The event was sponsored by UMass Dartmouth, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, Campus Compact, the New England Equity and Engagement Consortium, and Dartmouth College.

The hybrid event occurred at Woodland Commons on the UMass Dartmouth campus and virtually worldwide. It featured panels and workshops led by authors from a forthcoming book on Anti-Racist Community Engagement published by Campus Compact in Summer 2023 and members of the New England Equity and Engagement Consortium on civic learning outcomes grounded in racial equity. It also featured opportunities for participants from across the country to engage in conversations with each other. Over one thousand participants attended.



Zoi Burns '24, Political Science

Keynote speaker, Tara Yosso’s talk, was titled “A Community Cultural Wealth Approach to Racial Equity & Engagement” and was an overview of her community cultural wealth model, which has been received nationally and internationally as a paradigm shift for the ways we have traditionally thought about schooling structures, practices, and discourse. She offered timely insights about how a community cultural wealth lens can inform our continued efforts in racial equity and engagement with our many communities.

Participants included UMass Dartmouth officials, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Commissioner Noe Ortega, and faculty and staff from public universities nationwide.



Panelists and facilitators of the Engaged Scholarship Symposium on Anti-Racist Community Engagement 2023.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

America Reads & Counts

The America Reads & Counts program continues to improve since the pandemic. In total, 61 UMass Dartmouth students provided 2,504 hours of tutoring and mentoring at four sites in Fall River and New Bedford. Sites this year included: Henry Lord Community School, Bay Village Housing Authority, Fall River Boys and Girls Club, and the New Bedford Boys and Girls Club.

"At first it took a while to build trust with the kids, but the minute I did they really grew on me and I loved getting to see and talk with them. I saw myself in them at times. I truly believe this program impacts these kids in a meaningful way." - Yesenia, America Reads Tutor

Jumpstart

Jumpstart is a national early education organization that prepares preschoolers for kindergarten through language, literacy, and social-emotional programming. This year marked our third year of Jumpstart programming, and the first year fully in-person. Our Corps members at UMass Dartmouth served with three New Bedford Preschools - PACE Headstart, NorthStar Learning Centers and Little People's College - and impacted 99 children.

Throughout the year we were able to recruit 34 students to join Jumpstart. There were many barriers to students completing the program this year including financial need, school transfers, prioritization of academics and residual pandemic stressors. There were 11 members who completed their 300-hour commitment with Jumpstart, receiving the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. In total, 4,363 hours were served. Through our Community Engagement Coordinator's efforts, we were able to distribute over 100 Literacy Kits to the preschoolers we serve and their families.



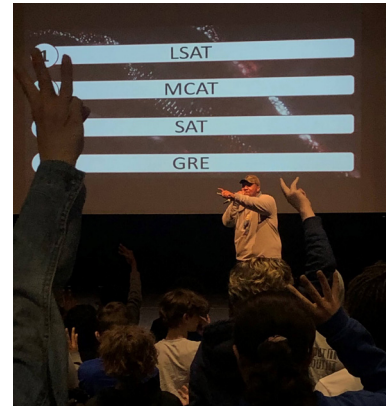
COLLEGE AWARENESS

College Positive Campus Tours

The College Positive Campus Tours continue to expose seventh graders to the possibility of attending college by demonstrating that it can be affordable. Sponsored by BayCoast Bank, the program was managed by 27 UMass Dartmouth students trained as tour guides. 2,940 seventh grade students from Fall River and New Bedford public schools were hosted at UMass Dartmouth.

Survey results from the College Positive Campus Tours showed that the overwhelming majority of Fall River and New Bedford public school 7th graders felt well informed about college, got a strong sense of what it would be like to be a college student, and their level of interest in college increased as a result of the tour.

Youth Summit



The Eighth Grade College and Career Awareness Summit is designed as a follow-up to the College Positive Campus Tours to keep the importance of higher education at the forefront of area youth. On April 26th and April 27th, we hosted our annual College and Career Awareness Summit for 738 8th grade students from Fall River and 959 8th grade students from New Bedford. The keynote, Chris Collins, is a speaker, author, and consultant from CoolSpeak with a unique blend of humor, knowledge, and energy. The keynote was followed by an Interactive College Quiz Game Show which exposed students to important higher education information.

Survey results from the Eighth Grade Summit found that the message that you can overcome obstacles to achieve your dream of higher education was received by almost all. When students were asked to provide five words to describe the event they said, ***“empowering, motivational, informational, life-changing, and inspirational.”*** When asked what they learned from the event students said, ***“the future is in your hands...be the best version of yourself...make good choices...you can make every opportunity a reality if you put in the work, time, and effort.”***

FOOD JUSTICE INITIATIVES

9/11 Day of Service

On September 11th, the Leduc Center hosted a service rally with Sharing the Harvest Community Farm at the Dartmouth YMCA to commemorate the National 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. 107 UMass Dartmouth participants served 211 hours harvesting vegetables for those in need.

Food Summit

The 2022 Food Summit sponsored by the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, the Office of Senator Mark Montigny, and the Marion Institute took place on September 21st via Zoom and focused on the intersection of food and basic needs. The event featured a keynote address from Brandy H.M. Brooks, Professional Instigator at Equitable Society. There was also a panel composed of Housing, Healthcare, and Transportation experts moderated by UMass Dartmouth student trustee, Maxwell White '23, and Executive Director of the Marion Institute, Liz Wiley.

Food Revolution Fair

The Food Revolution Fair was held in conjunction with local community partners to help educate students on the local food system. This year, we worked with 5 different community partners and 2 on-campus partners to provide students with helpful information about how the food system works and how to get involved. Students were also able to visit Jeanne's Cupboard, find out if they're eligible for SNAP and HIP, and take home fresh, free, local produce. This year we had 100 students attend, handed out \$350 worth of fresh produce, and Jeanne's Cupboard gave out 660 pounds of food.

Tuesdays at the Farm

Tuesdays at the Farm provides UMass Dartmouth students the opportunity to fight food insecurity by assisting Sharing the Harvest Community Farm at the Dartmouth YMCA harvest crops every Tuesday from 3 - 5 PM. During the Fall semester, 21 students contributed 96 hours. During the Spring semester, 11 students contributed 32 hours.

Food First Alternative Spring Break

Alternative Spring Break offers students with an opportunity to spend their week in service to others. This year, the theme was "Food Revolution", which focused on food production, distribution and access, consumption, food loss, and sustainability in the local food system. Students engaged in harvesting vegetables, packing meals, cooking and donating food, learning about the local food system assessment, and engaging in discussion on issues like the SNAP gap. In total, 8 students contributed over 233 hours of service.

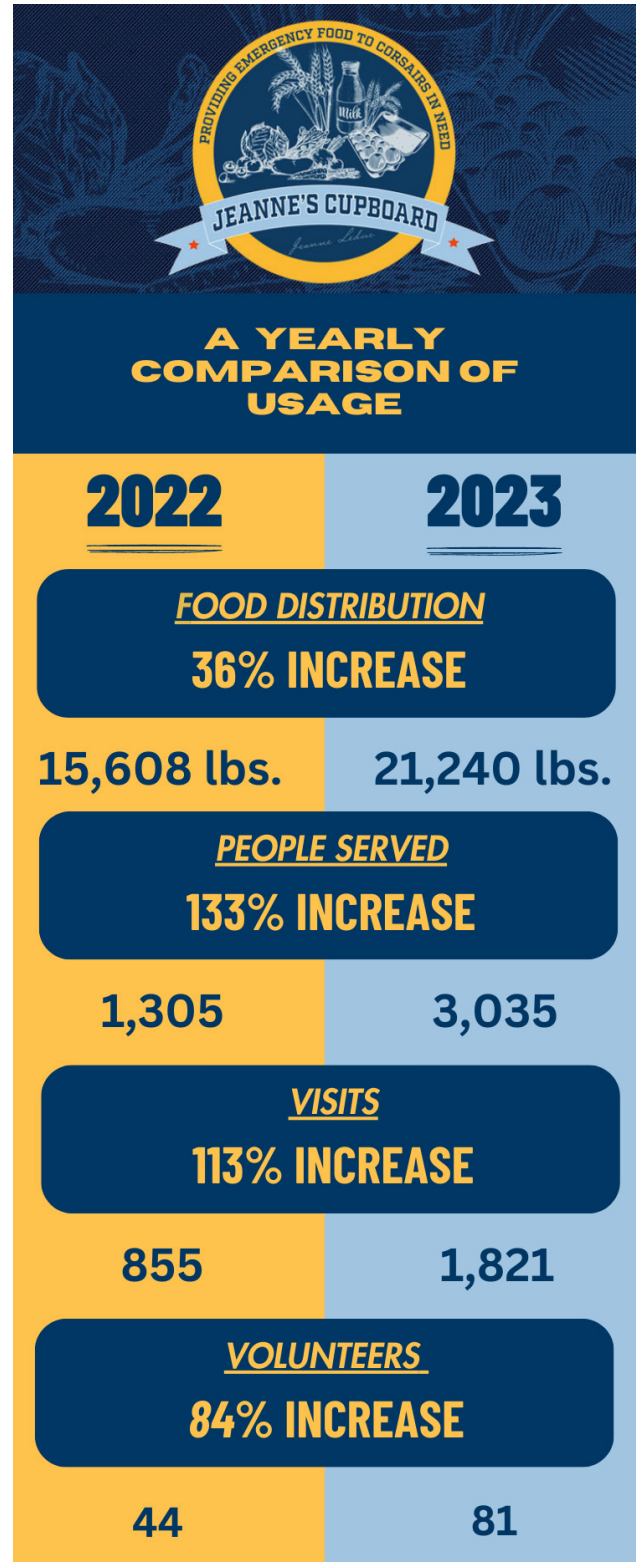
Community partners who hosted events included: Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, the Marion Institute, Full Plate, Coastal Food Shed, Round the Bend Farm, UMass Dartmouth Sustainability, Lasagna Love, and Groundwork SouthCoast.

JEANNE'S CUPBOARD

The food pantry at UMass Dartmouth was created by two Endeavor Scholars – Aubrie Breault and Samantha Smith in 2014. Recognizing that hunger was an issue that many students faced on our campus, Aubrie and Samantha created the Students Helping Students Food Pantry - which turned into Arnie's Cupboard. In 2021 the Cupboard was renamed Jeanne's Cupboard to honor the donation from Jeanne and Robert Leduc - the benefactors of the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement.

The vision of Jeanne's Cupboard is to eliminate food hardship at UMass Dartmouth. Jeanne's Cupboard's mission is to alleviate food insecurity among UMass Dartmouth students, faculty and staff by providing emergency food and educational resources. Objectives include: 1. Creating a safe space to distribute good quality and nutritious emergency food to current UMass Dartmouth students, faculty and staff. 2. Encouraging student engagement to foster a sense of community, volunteerism and service to peers on campus. 3. Collecting good quality and nutritious food items (donations) that may otherwise go to waste to enhance sustainability initiatives on campus. 4. raising awareness and advocate for food justice, especially as experienced by low-income college students.

This year, we worked closely with Jeanne's Cupboard to increase volunteers and increase awareness around food insecurity amongst college students. As a result, Jeanne's Cupboard had 64 student volunteers/managers, 767 hours of service, served 3,035 people, and distributed 21,240 pounds of food. In total, there were 1,821 visits to the cupboard, and 347 new people served.



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION



On November 19th, the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement hosted the Guns for Groceries buyback program at the Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River and Pilgrim United Church of Christ in New Bedford. Residents received a \$100 Stop & Shop gift card for returning a handgun and a \$75 gift card for returning a long gun. Any other weapon returned qualified for a Domino's Pizza gift card and free gun locks were available to residents who want to keep their guns, but were looking for added safety measures. In total, over 79 guns were collected.

The late Rev. Robert Lawrence, a longtime spiritual and civic leader in Fall River, launched Guns for Groceries in 1995 after a city police officer, Thomas Giunta, was shot and killed. Since then, the program has collected more than 3,000 guns.

Key partners in this year's Guns for Groceries buyback program included: United Church of Christ, District Attorney Tom Quinn's Office, Stop & Shop, Durfee High School, New Bedford Juvenile Court, Domino's, New Bedford Interfaith Council, Fall River Youth Services, Blessed Trinity Parish, New Bedford Police Department, Fall River Police Department, and Fall River Mayor's Office.

On April 19th, the Leduc Center and the UMass Dartmouth Episcopal Campus Ministry hosted an on-campus event with Swords to Plowshares Northeast to address gun violence awareness. Students, faculty, and staff participated in an outdoor anvil and forge demonstration which used blacksmithing techniques to turn surrendered gun barrels into hand-forged garden tools and jewelry.

The gun barrels used at this event were those surrendered on November 19th during the Guns for Groceries buyback program. The guns were deconstructed and barrels were sawed off prior to the event at the New Bedford Police Department. The garden tools that were made at this event were later donated to community gardens.

Bishop Curry from Swords to Plowshares Northeast notes, ***"This is just one strategy, one prong in a multipronged approach toward changing the attitude toward gun violence in our community."***

COMMUNITY SERVICE

First-Year Orientation

On August 31st, more than 800 first-year students engaged in events hosted by various community partners and campus groups which introduced students to other students, faculty and staff, and with the SouthCoast community as a whole. Host sites included: Active Minds, Battleship Cove, Be the Solution to Pollution, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Buttonwood Park Zoo, Community Boating Center, Community Economic Development Center, Jeanne's Cupboard, Jumpstart, Labor Education Center, Mass Audubon MASSPIRG Students, NAACP, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Operation Clean Sweep, Round the Bend Farm, Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, UMassD Sustainability, UMassD Votes, and Westport River Watershed Alliance. The impact students made varied from training new activists, creating 100 literacy kits, removing 75 lbs. of litter from the coast, and harvesting vegetables for those in need. Students completed over 1,600 hours of service valued at approximately \$62,000 by the Independent Sector.

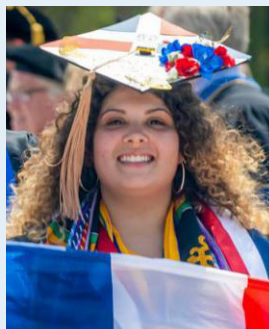
Student Advisory Committee

This year, the Leduc Center formed a Student Advisory Committee, hosting weekly meetings with student representatives from: Honors College, STAR Center, Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, SAIL, Residential Housing, Student Government Association, Sustainability and various other clubs and organizations.

Outcomes of the Student Advisory Committee: Collaboration on a Veterans 5K, creation of the Society of Committee Leaders (student organization), support for World Food Kitchen (raised over \$1,000), and the development of a reward program for Sustainability Serves.

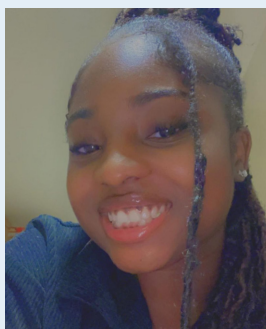
Leduc Center Spotlight Leduc Leaders/Interns

Adriana Lebreault



Leader at Large

Adande Bien-Aime



College Positive Coordinator

Destin Erickson



Photographer

Pranav Vinod



Corsair Engage Specialist

COMMUNITY SERVICE

STEM Engineering Ambassadors



The Engineering Ambassadors mission is to develop leadership and professional skills among members while inspiring the next generation of students to pursue careers in STEM. They perform community outreach and engage with K-12 students to encourage young people from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds to see themselves as future engineers.

On March 2nd, 4 UMass Dartmouth STEM Engineering Ambassadors led a demonstration on Encoding/Decoding for a group of 10-11 year old students interested in STEM at the Fall River Boys and Girls Club. Engineering Ambassadors included: Benjamin DaCosta (left), Shaina Lasoff (second to left), Evan Correia (second to right), and Kaylin Willey (right).

Earth Eve



On April 13th, we celebrated Earth Eve with the "Love Mother Earth" procession during New Bedford AHA! Night. The fossil fuel free procession featured over 100 participants and 12 floats that was led by Desa Van Laarhoven from Round the Bend Farm crowned Mother Earth and Adam Davenport from Marion Institute crowned Father Ocean.

African American Read-In

On February 26th, the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, the Frederick Douglass Unity House, and College Now celebrated the 34th Annual National African America Read-In. Participants read aloud their favorite passages from African American authors, writers, poets, and spoken-word artists. Music was provided by the Divine Sword Gospel Choir.

CAS 103 - Introduction to the Arts & Sciences

This year was the second year of an engaged learning retention initiative with the Introduction to the College of Arts and Sciences class - CAS 103. Three instructors included a service-learning project into the class that would facilitate student transition from high school and success in college, through active engagement in the community. Students were required to complete 10 hours of service with selected partner organizations which included: America Reads & Counts, Jumpstart, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Jeanne's Cupboard, Gifts to Give, Coaching 4 Change, MASSPIRG, Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, Student Government Association, the Frederick Douglass Unity House, and the UMass Dartmouth Sustainability Office. In total 129 students completed 833 hours of service.

"I volunteered with America Reads at the New Bedford Boys and Girls Club. I was able to learn so much from the kids and they have changed my life. They gave me skills that they did not realize they were giving me. I was so sad to leave, but I know they will all succeed and remember the skills I left them with." – CAS 103 student



Leduc Center Spotlight

Adriana Lebreault '23 Management Leadership

Adriana Lebreault has volunteered with many different organizations and departments on campus. She volunteered and dedicated her time in leadership positions within the Frederick Douglass Unity House and the Student Government Association. Adriana successfully planned Unity Fest for two consecutive years as the Chair of Decorations and coordinated community service activities for the Student Government

Association as the Chair of Civic Engagement.

"The greatest lesson I learned from working with the Leduc Center was that as I volunteered, I thought we were saving our communities. But, what I realized was that being within the community saved me. It helps with feeling connected, grateful, and even in my case, prevented me from dropping out. Volunteering is more than just helping out, it teaches you the intrinsic value of your community." – Adriana

COMMUNITY SERVICE

UMassD Votes

The goal of the UMassD VOTES Coalition is to create a culture of voting on campus at every level, from students to administrators. This year, Maxwell White, the UMassD Student Trustee, co-president of the UMassD Model United Nations and UMassD Votes Captain worked to establish a polling location on campus. The new Precinct 3, formerly located at Dartmouth Bible Church was relocated to UMass Dartmouth with the goal of getting more college students engaged in voting. The precinct change was accomplished with the help of the new Dartmouth Town Clerk, Sarah Haskell Arruda. On November 8th, the polls were staffed with trained UMass Dartmouth students. Initiatives to increase student turn out took place on campus, such as “Donut Forget to Vote”, where donuts were handed out to students and they were reminded to vote.

VITA

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, in partnership with Charlton College of Business Professor Michael Griffin and the Community Economic Development Center (CEDC), successfully recruited 4 UMassD students, professors and alumni who performed **330 hours** of service helping prepare tax returns. Through these efforts, the VITA program helped families claim over **\$2.54 million** in tax refunds.



Leduc Center Spotlight

Nicole Ochoa Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA

Nicole graduated from UMass Dartmouth in Spring 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Crime and Justice Studies and served as last year's SCI AmeriCorps member. This year, she served as the Food First AmeriCorps VISTA member. Her project focused on increasing students' food security by providing students information regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), raising awareness about the on-campus food pantry, and hosting events to inform students about the local food justice system.

Growing up in the SouthCoast, Nicole often worked closely with her community. Whether it was with her church, or with her friends and family, Nicole was often found volunteering in her spare time. Throughout high school, she volunteered as a tutor with School on Wheels and once she enrolled at UMass Dartmouth she worked as a tutor with the America Reads & Counts program.

Festival of Lights

On December 9th, the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement partnered with the Cultural Clubs of America to bring 104 high school students from 6 area high schools to UMass Dartmouth for “Festival of Lights”, a cultural exchange program.

14 UMass Dartmouth Students participated and represented 7 student organizations: Caribbean Student Organization, Haitian Student Organization, Asian Pacific Student Organization, Muslim Student Association, Pan African Dance Team, Iranian Student & Scholar Association, International Student and Scholars Organization. Activities included: dance workshops, origami and traveling around the world fair.



Leduc Center Spotlight

Amanda Harlfinger Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA

Amanda graduated from UMass Dartmouth in 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Management Leadership and served as one of the Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA members. Her project this year focused on the retention of Pell Grant recipients through the use of Corsair Engage, a community engagement and service-learning management platform. This was accomplished with the development of the Student

Advisory Committee, made up of student representatives from different departments across the campus to exchange and support service opportunities. Amanda also continued the engaged learning project in the CAS 103 - Introduction to Arts and Sciences course that exposes first-year students to community engaged learning and the SouthCoast.

A highlight of Amanda's service year was the formation of the Society of Community Leaders, a student organization created out of the Student Advisory Council that aims to create a space for students who are committed to community engagement and service.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Alternative Spring Break - Guatemala

During spring recess, 11 UMass Dartmouth students from a variety of majors spent their week helping to build portable and sustainable water filtration systems in Panajachel, Guatemala, and surrounding towns. They also educated local women and children about proper health and hygiene techniques. Much of the water in Guatemala isn't drinkable and many Guatemalans turn to bottled sodas for hydration, as that's cheaper than purified drinking water. This leads to high sugar intake and puts many children at an elevated risk for type 2 diabetes and other health problems. Junior political science major and lead coordinator of the trip, Nicole Kach, says these sustainable filtration systems will allow Guatemalans to make fresh water for the next 10 years.

"The trip was extremely rewarding," Kach said. "It gave me such an appreciation for the privilege of having clean drinking water without having to think much about it. I loved getting to know these women and gaining an understanding of their local culture."

Students volunteered through Worthy Village, a 501-C3 nonprofit organization, co-founded by UMassD alumnae Julia Rayberg '16 and Mayra Perez '08, that aims to build pathways out of poverty for women and children in Guatemala by providing economic opportunity, healthcare, and education. In the past, individual UMassD students have participated in service trips to Guatemala, but this was the first time a coordinated effort was sponsored and partly funded by various university departments, minimizing costs for student volunteers and allowing them to earn credit to go.

"I'm really grateful for everyone that made this possible: the College of Arts & Sciences, Campus Sustainability, Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, International Programs Office, Student Affairs, and more!" said Kach. ***"This took multiple fundraising rounds and a lot of effort, but I believe it was important that students weren't worried about costs attending this opportunity and could instead focus on helping others."***

Along with writing reflections on their service, students created a presentation and discussed their experiences with various campus stakeholders to earn elective academic credit.



AWARDS & HONORS

Civic Leadership Awards

The UMass Dartmouth Civic Leadership Awards recognize the civic engagement contributions of our students, faculty, and community members. This year's recipients were:



Student Civic Leadership Award **Joshua Keith '23, Accounting**

Joshua Keith's involvement in extracurricular activities played a pivotal role in his personal and professional development. He took on leadership positions in UMassD's Collegiate DECA and Beta Alpha Psi chapters, as well as the university's Student Alumni Association. He interned at the Community Economic Development Center in New Bedford, where he prepared income taxes for low-income families, and at Withum, where he worked on audit engagements and tax returns. These practical experiences allowed him to apply classroom learning in a practical setting and expand his networking skills.



Faculty Civic Leadership Award **Dr. Kevin Stokesbury, Dean of SMAST**

Professor Stokesbury's multi-decade collaborative research effort with the fishing industry has made a significant impact on the recovery of the sea scallop fishery and economic growth in the Southcoast region. His approach of actively involving industry partners and stakeholders in the research has greatly improved the fishing industry's trust in science and management. His dedication to mentoring students in his laboratory has resulted in numerous successful graduates going on to excel in various scientific positions, including academia, research organizations, and governmental agencies.



Community Member Civic Leadership Award **Julie Gagliardi, Director of Programs SouthCoast Community Foundation**

Julie Ramos Gagliardi's extensive career in marketing, public relations, and development has seen her work with various non-profit organizations in the region, including: the United Way of Greater Fall River, St. Anne's Hospital, and the UMass Dartmouth Foundation. Her active involvement in the community extends to her role as Chairperson of the Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee. She also serves on the boards of multiple organizations, including: SER Jobs for Progress, Bristol Aggie Education Foundation, and YEAH! Corps.

AWARDS & HONORS

Newman Civic Fellow

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and worldwide. This year's Newman Civic Fellow was:



Gent Haviari '25, *Political Science*

Gent Haviari, a sophomore Political Science student, has distinguished himself as a leader and scholar. He is passionate about politics and is majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law. He currently serves with MASSPIRG, is the Student Government Association Student Affairs Committee Chair, is President of the Class of 2025, and is a member of Model United Nations. He was nominated Senator of the Month twice by his peers and received the Emerging Leader of the Year Award from the SAIL (Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership) Office. Last semester, Gent served as a Vote Captain, working to increase student participation in the midterm election.

Jonathan Blake Waxler Prize for Social Justice

The Jonathan Blake Waxler Memorial Prize for Social Justice was established in 1996 to recognize students who have exhibited a dedication to social activism, advocacy, community organizing, or civic engagement as a way of enhancing the dignity of all people. This year's award winner was:



Zoi Burns '24, *Political Science*

Zoi Burns, a junior majoring in political science and minoring in leadership and civic engagement, serves as a Peer Mentor, Chair of UMass Dartmouth's Diversity, Social Justice & Inclusion Committee, and Senator of the UMass Dartmouth Class of 2024. Her passion for social activism and leadership, coupled with her dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion, makes her an inspiring servant leader. Zoi's ongoing work includes participating in a social justice project focused on racial equity in civic learning engagement outcomes at higher education institutions. As the emcee of an Anti-Racism Community Engagement Symposium, she aims to have a significant impact on the community and promote discussions around applying Anti-Racism frameworks in everyday practices.

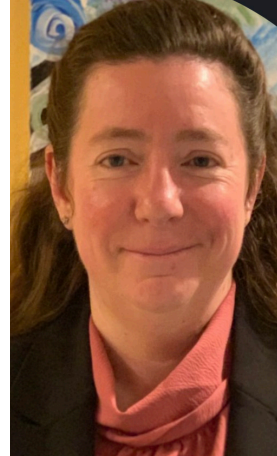
Michael Dukakis Public Service Internship

Michael Dukakis Public Service Internship Award provide students with the opportunity to intern in a public service or government setting to encourage students to consider a career in public service. This year's interns were:



Efe Oboh-Idahosa '23,
Political Science

Efe Oboh-Idahosa '23 majored in political science with a pre-law concentration and minored in black studies. Efe has previously interned for Representative Daniel Cahill in 2019, and did her internship at Senator Elizabeth Warren's office.



Jennifer White '23,
Law

Jennifer A. White, JD '23 received her BA in Social Work from the University of New Hampshire and MA in Social Work from Boston University. Jennifer has previously interned at Senator Joan B. Lovely's office, and did her internship at Massachusetts Advocates for Children.

Art and Civic Engagement Award

The Art & Civic Engagement Award was established in 2018 by CVPA Professor Pamela Karimi in conjunction with the Leduc Center to acknowledge students contribution to the urban environments and communities of Fall River and New Bedford through art projects. This year's award winner was:



Dylan Kaplowitz '23, *Graphic Design*

During Fall 2022 Dylan collaborated with Professor Ziddi Msangi in the Community Engagement Design course. Dylan's branding solution for the Cambodian Community of Fall River (CCFR) was selected by the organization's director, Sophia Hunt. The CCFR provides critical resources to recent Cambodian immigrants in Massachusetts, focusing on community service, translation services, and community outreach. Dylan's branding project included a comprehensive brand identity including a logo, stationery design, and a brand guidelines book. His thoughtful approach to the project considered the multilingual audience and aimed to create an inviting image that appeals to both community members and donors.

BY THE NUMBERS

LEDUC CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

Service-learning

Service-learning Courses

Faculty	174
Course sections	308
UMassD Students taking a section	6,709
Hours of Service	142,780

Early Literacy

America READS/Counts

UMassD Students	61
Sites	4
Hours of Service	2,504

Jumpstart

UMassD Students	34
Sites	5
Preschool Children Served	99
Hours of Service	4,363

Youth Programming

College Positive Tours

UMassD Students	27
Number of schools	7
Seventh Graders	2,940
Hours of Service	541

Youth Summit

UMassD Students	7
Number of Schools	8
Eighth Graders	1,697
Hours of Service	18

Economic Development

VITA

UMassD Students/Professors/Alumni	4
Hours of Service	330
Refund Amount w/ EITC (\$)	2,540,000

Food Security

Jeanne's Cupboard

UMassD Student Managers/Volunteers	81
Number of Visits	1,821
Number of Household Members Served	3,035
Food Distributed (lbs.)	21,240
Hours of Service	800

Community Service

9/11 Day of Service

UMassD Students	107
Hours of Service	211

Alternative Break

Local

UMassD Students	8
Hours of Service	233

Guatemala

UMassD Students	11
Hours of Service	910

Coastal Cleanups

Number of Coastal Cleanups	4
UMassD Students	57
Litter Removed from Coast (lbs.)	467
Hours of Service	53

National Volunteer Week

Number of Events	9
UMassD Students	60
Hours of Service	132

Orientation

UMassD Students	800
Number of Participating Organizations	20
Literacy Kits Created	100
Litter Removed from Coast (lbs.)	75
Hours of Service	1,602

Tuesdays at the Farm

UMassD Students	32
Hours of Service	128

UMASS DARTMOUTH BY THE NUMBERS

Leduc Center

Programs

9/11 Day of Service	211
Alternative Breaks	1,143
America Reads	2,504
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	732
CAS103	838
Coastal Cleanups	53
College Positive	541
Dukakis Fellows	702
Festival of Lights	451
Jeanne's Cupboard	800
Jumpstart	4,363
Leduc Service Leaders/Interns	1,319
National Volunteer Week	132
Orientation	1,602
SCI/Campus Compact AmeriCorps members	3,400
Service-learning	142,780
Tuesdays at the Farm	96
UMassD Votes	120
VITA	330
Youth Summit	18

University Programs & Centers

Programs

College Now/START	1,290
MASSPIRG	1,150
Sustainability	714

Centers

Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality	1,912
Center for Religious and Spiritual Life	295
Frederick Douglass Unity House	1,369

Athletics

Teams

Football	160
SAAC	10
Hockey	207
Lacross	85
Women's Basketball	15
Women's Soccer	13

Housing & Residential Experience

Housing

Hours of Service	838
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SAIL

100 Student Organizations

Hours of Service	14,506
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School of Law

Student Hours

Field Placement and Clinics	11,792
Pro Bono	8,556
Public Interest Law Fellows	9,111

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS

Service-learning	142,780
Community Service/Volunteerism	71,410
Value of Service	\$8.39 million

FUNDING REPORT

From July 2022 to June 2023 we applied for 22 grants worth \$506,310 and received 19 grants worth \$250,070.

We received \$15,000 to support the 7th Grade Campus Tours and 8th Grade College and Career Awareness Youth Summit from BayCoast Bank. Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Jean MacCormack provided a gift of \$7,500 in support of Community Service Ambassadors. We are grateful for her continued support of our student engagement activities. We also received \$50,000 in support of our highly successful America Reads program thanks to the support of Representative Christopher Hendricks.

We were the recipients of 2 Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA positions who worked on using community-based learning as a tool for retention of Pell grant recipients and increasing food security on campus. These grants are valued at \$72,738 each. We were also awarded a \$70,510 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for work on Anti-Racist Community Engagement.

Leduc Center Spotlight New Sponsors in 2022-2023



GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION

We would like to thank our faculty, students, and community partners for dedicating their time and effort in helping build the bridge between learning and community. We would also like to thank and recognize the organizations who have supported the mission of the Leduc Center by funding our programs and projects. This year, the Leduc Center would like to thank:



**Robert &
Jeanne Leduc**

Jumpstart
Children first.®

**MASSACHUSETTS
SERVICE ALLIANCE**



**Dr. Jean
MacCormack**



Campus Compact

Leduc Center for Civic Engagement

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