



## **Civic Engagement Symposium Project Abstracts**

### **April 24, 2025**

#### **After the Bell: The Impact of Afterschool Programming in an Underserved Community** **Lucy Jandoli '27 and Mae Polis '27**

The After the Bell program is a YWCA-sponsored program in Grandview Court, a government-subsidized housing development on the north side of Carlisle, that offers snacks, games and activities to the elementary schoolkids who live there. This poster features two Community Engagement Fellows and what they've learned as interns supporting this program and its impact on the community.

#### **Bridging Divides: Exploring Carlisle's History of Segregation and Paths Toward Unity** **Adity Kamath '26 and Emily Chaine '28**

In 1923, Carlisle's city layout already reflected divisions in building types, density, and resources. These early differences helped lay the groundwork for modern segregation. Today, Dickinson students often don't realize how strong segregation still is in the Carlisle community. This poster, featuring a Center for Civic Learning & Action Student Leader and Community Engagement Fellow increase awareness about these issues and teach the Dickinson and Carlisle community more about modern disparities and segregation.

#### **Conversations for Peace and Justice** **Andrea Gomez Zamora '28**

Have you ever heard of the War, Peace, and Justice Project? Join a Community Engagement Fellow who serves as a Peace-Building Intern at the WPJP to learn more about about this community organization that seeks to raise awareness, strengthen dialogue, and advocate for a more human-centered understanding of conflict and justice.

#### **Do you know about Civic Engagement at Dickinson?**

##### **Grant Donta-Venman '28, Noelle Artinian '28, Sadie Dussault '28, Minal Saldivar '27**

Drawing on an informal poll of the Dickinson community, results show that not enough students know about opportunities to get engaged in the community or are actively involved. This group of Community Engagement Fellows hopes to broaden awareness about their work in the community at four different non-profits and inspire others to participate.

#### **Making Service a Part of Campus Life** **Nishtha Sharma '25 and Ashley Doan '25**

It is not always obvious the role that marketing, communications, and outreach plays in efforts to build a campus committed to service. This poster features two student leaders from the Center for Civic Learning and Action (CCLA), who draw attention to what happens behind-the-scenes to build a campus-wide culture of service at Dickinson.

## **A Pop of Color: The Importance of Community Artwork**

**Dinela Dedic '27**

The Carlisle Arts Center (CALC) aims to strengthen the Carlisle community and make it a better place to live and work through artistic development, both for seasoned artists and novices alike. Through its mission, CALC recognizes the value of providing the community a voice through the arts. This poster features a Community Engagement Fellow placed at CALC and their insights as to the importance of community artwork.

## **Reflections on Voter Engagement in an Unprecedented Year**

**Erin Zacks '25 and Zoe Selig '27**

This year was marked by many milestones for the Dickinson Votes team, including election turnout of ~900 voters in November, 50+ classroom visits, and new partnerships with national organizations such as Ballot PA and Keep Our Republic. Come hear some reflections from the Voter Engagement Student Coordinators on their experiences and how to get involved with local elections coming up in May.

## **Silver Spring Engaged Citizens: Engaging Citizens from All Political Perspectives**

**Samuel Pimental '28**

Many feel that currently there has been an increase of partisanship and division. In assistance with local leaders, Silver Spring Engaged Citizens is a collaborative effort to create a political club where leaders and citizens from both sides of the aisle advocate for policies to help their community.

## **Spotlighting Success**

**Kina Jefferson '26**

Spotlighting Success is the culminating project of the 2024-2025 Carlisle Borough Student Ambassador, which explores the diverse meanings of success within the African American and Indigenous communities in Carlisle, focusing on how race, culture, and personal identity shape these definitions. This poster presents insights from local community members, addressing how societal expectations and environment influence one's understanding of success.

## **Wading Into Change: The Power of Volunteer Monitoring**

**Michelle Cao '25 and Kailey Sipe '25**

Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), a community science nonprofit, straddles the two exciting worlds of volunteer engagement and water quality monitoring. Join two ALLARM student leaders in exploring how the organization leverages volunteer stories, local expertise, and shared goals in the data interpretation process.

## **What Makes a Community Strong? How Empathy Builds Community in Carlisle**

**Aavani Joshy '28, Valerie Larsen '27, and Talia Perez '28**

Empathy plays a vital role in building a stronger, more resilient society. While public social spaces are important for social linking within communities, the declining rate of investment in public spaces within communities is on the rise (Pazzanese, 2024). This poster features three Community Engagement Fellows who reflect on how they've witnessed and been a part of empathy building in their Carlisle non-profits, Project SHARE Farmstand and Carlisle Victory Circle.

