

Josh Musica, a senior environmental science major from Maine, has dedicated much of his time on campus to sustainability efforts, particularly through the biking programs at the Center for Sustainability Education (CSE). As the Biking @ Dickinson intern, Josh manages the Handlebar, an on-campus bike co-op, and oversees the Red and Green Bike loan programs. He also helps organize various cycling events and initiatives to increase access to biking within the Dickinson and Carlisle communities. Beyond his work with CSE, Josh is also an active member of the college's Ultimate Frisbee team.

Josh's passion for community biking programs stems from his experience working at a bike shop in Maine since high school. Through this work, he saw firsthand how bikes serve as more than just recreational tools—they are essential forms of transportation for many individuals. In the U.S., where living without a car can be extremely difficult, biking provides an affordable and reliable way for people to commute to work, take their children to school, and complete daily tasks. This perspective motivated Josh to get involved in programs that help provide bicycles to those who might not otherwise have access to them.

As part of his role at CSE, Josh recently collaborated on a project with Carlisle Hope Station and the company Candid to assemble and distribute 90 children's bikes. Volunteers from Dickinson, the Handlebar, and the broader community came together in an assembly-line fashion to build the bikes in just an hour and a half. The experience was a testament to the power of community engagement, as people from different backgrounds worked together toward a common goal. The Can'dAid bike donations are still ongoing and are not necessarily limited to holiday distributions, reinforcing the long-term impact that biking programs can have on local communities.

For Josh, the most rewarding part of his work is seeing people receive a bike for the first time. He calls it “new bike day”—a moment that can mean different things to different people. For some, a new bike is simply a fun new toy, but for others, it provides newfound independence, making daily tasks easier and more efficient. Josh has a particular soft spot for seeing kids receive bikes, knowing how much joy and excitement it brings them.

His work with community biking programs aligns with his broader views on community engagement. To Josh, community work is about people coming together from different backgrounds to improve their surroundings and support one another. Whether through large-scale projects or small local efforts, he believes that pooling resources and ideas can lead to meaningful change, even when resources are limited.

Josh sees a strong connection between his academic work and his work at CSE, as both build on each other in meaningful ways. His studies in environmental science provide valuable insight into sustainability efforts, while his hands-on experience at CSE reinforces the real-world applications of his academic knowledge. This synergy has helped him develop a well-rounded perspective on sustainability, particularly in transportation.

Looking ahead, Josh is aiming to get into transportation planning and is confident that he will remain involved in sustainable communities in a professional capacity. Regardless of his career path, he plans to continue his work with the cycling community, recognizing the lasting impact that biking initiatives can have on people's lives. He has been a bike mechanic since he was 14 and sees this skill as something he will always carry with him, using it to help others access affordable transportation.

For students interested in getting involved with CSE, Josh emphasizes that there are opportunities for everyone. While some might assume that volunteering with biking programs requires technical skills, many roles focus on outreach, education, and advocacy. He encourages students to explore sustainability initiatives on campus, as they are not only fulfilling but will also become increasingly important in the years to come. Through efforts like these, he hopes to inspire more people to recognize the power of biking and sustainability in building stronger communities.