

CBL Local Project/Placement Opportunities Spring 2021

Diversity/Inclusion Projects

Profiles of Black-Owned Businesses

Partner: Community Relations, Black Scranton Project

Contact: Carolyn Bonacci, Carolyn.bonacci@scranton.edu

Activity: Create business spotlight profiles of Black-owned business in the Scranton area. Profiles can include business information, images, and interviews with business owners.

Book Discussion/Dialogue Leaders for *Never Caught*, the Scranton Reads Book

Partner: Scranton Public Library

Contact: Carolyn Bonacci, carolyn.bonacci@scranton.edu

Activity: Prepare for and facilitate book discussions on *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar for the 2021 Scranton Reads program.

Community-Building Projects

Oral History Project

Partner: Valley In Motion

Contact: Gus Fahey, President, gus@valleyinmotion.org, 570-346-0600

Activity: Research and digital media assistance for oral history project

Artist Submissions and Collaboration

Partner: First Friday Scranton

Contact: Thom Welby, Executive Director, thomwelby@yahoo.com, 570-351-1784

Activity: Student/university submissions/participation in First Friday events; promotional campaigns.

Creative Recorded Video Experiences for Day Program Clients

Partner: St. Joseph's Center

Contact: Rich Brazill, Director of Volunteers, rbrazill@stjosephscenter.org, 570-342-8379 ext. 1466

Activity: Create videos for Day Program clients to provide community experiences (cultural meals/music/activities); insights into special topics (e.g. fishing, hobbies, travel); instructional tutorials used as preparation (e.g. cooking, crafts, exercise); and/or to provide a virtual experiences that clients may easily take part in (a mountain climb/hike, skydiving!) but will enjoy the experience. These recordings will be used to offer clients interesting experiences to connect with the broader community and world. Volunteers could either video record the activity, or take still photos and edit creatively, or pass it along to our Community Outreach Coordinator, Jeanne, who can edit as well.

Education/Youth Engagement

Presentations to Middle/High School Students

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA – Leaders In Training Program

Contact: Nathan Masco

Activity: Create programming on science and other academic topics for LIT students (middle school – high school students). Programs can be presented live via Zoom to LIT students.

Virtual Assemblies for Partner School

Partner: McNichols Elementary Plaza

Contact: Mina Ardestani, principal, mina.ardestani@ssdedu.org, (570) 348- 3685

Activity: Create and present virtual assemblies for McNichols Plaza, community partner grade school located in south Scranton. Projects can be aimed at grades 3-5. Topics of focus: virtual presentations to 4th grade Science classes; virtual visit to campus for 5th grade students; other assembly topics. Videos can be coordinated as live presentations or as recorded video presentations.

Student Videos for Kids

Partner: **Boys and Girls Club of NEPA**

Contact: Laura Gentile, Director of Operations lgentile@bgcnepa.org, 570-342-8709 (ext. 114) or Evelyn Evans, Registrar, eevans@bgcnepa.org, 570-342-8709 (ext. 119)

Activity: Seeking videos to share with members and their families on social media sites. Virtual volunteers can make videos in their field of expertise. Topics can include fun and interesting things that kids can do at home, information about different careers, read a short story, tell a joke, do an art project, perform an exercise, or make a healthy snack. Videos can be up to 5 minutes in length and be made at the volunteers' leisure at the location of their choice.

Virtual Basic Music Instruction

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers

Contact: Kylee Colvin, Community Youth Manager, 570- 961-1592 ext. 105

Activity: Virtual music instruction on guitar, keyboard, or drums for youth ages 13 to 18. Weekly instructional sessions for approximately one hour on the basics of the instrument. Virtual sessions have flexible scheduling.

Virtual Music Activities for Kids

Partner: Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic; Performance Music

Contact: Nancy Sanderson, Executive Director, nancylsanderson@gmail.com, 570-262-8290

Activities: Virtual music tutoring/lessons/activities to engage children

Virtual Tutoring

Partner: Catherine McAuley Center

Contact: Jenny Blanchard, Development and Volunteer Coordinator,

jblanchard@catherinemcauleycenter.org

Activity: Virtual mentors/academic tutors for the children and youth enrolled in programs. The Center serves a population of homeless families who may often struggle with the transition to virtual classrooms and online learning. College students acting as mentors/tutors will work with the child assigned to them, offering help and support with online assignments and class content. All student mentors/tutors must submit Child Abuse Clearance and PA Background Check forms to be eligible for the virtual tutoring program.

Virtual Tutoring and Assemblies for Grade School Students

Partner: McNichols Plaza, Community Relations

Contact: Carolyn Bonacci, carolyn.bonacci@scranton.edu

Activity: Providing tutoring/mentoring to grade school students after school, especially with math and reading. University students will be paired with a co-tutor and have once a week sessions from approximately 45 minutes.

Business/Entrepreneurship Programs for Youth

Partner: Junior Achievement

Contact: Kalyca Stransky, Program Director, kstransky@janepa.org

Activity: Presenting Junior Achievement on one of three pathways: work-readiness, entrepreneurship or financial literacy. Programs are offered to students in grades K-12 ranging between 5 and 7 sessions. Each session comes with materials (physical or virtual) and lasts approximately 45 minutes. Volunteers must complete a one hour training. Junior Achievement will connect trained volunteers with students in grades K-12 for presentations. <https://nepa.ja.org/volunteer/volunteer-now>

Adult Education/ESL Tutoring

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers

Contact: Terilynn Brechtel, Director of Community Education, Tbrechtel@uncnepa.org, 570-346-6203 or

Activities: Volunteers for adult education tutoring, including virtual ESL tutoring, reading, writing, and citizenship education.

Translation/Language Communication

Partner: McNichols Plaza Elementary School

Contact: Mina Ardestani, Principal, mina.ardestani@ssdedu.org, 570-348-3685

Activities: translating documents; interpreters for parent teacher night

Partner: SLHDA/Early Learning Program

Contact: Linda Prutisto, Early Learning Program Head Start/Early Head Start Director,

lprutisto@headstartslhda.org, 570-963-6836

Activities: (Remote) Translation Services

Capacity Building Projects

Social Media, Marketing, and Public Relations; Grant Writing & Research Assistance

Partner: Lighthouse House of Scranton

Contact: Lindy Morelli, lnmrl1@aol.com, 570-341-5858

Activities: The Lighthouse is a non-profit organization working closely with the Catholic Worker movement in three main areas: social justice, prison ministry, and ministry to those facing homelessness. The Lighthouse is seeking support for the following outreach projects: creating a newsletter; cultivating a social media presence and creating a social media strategy and release schedule. The Lighthouse is also seeking grant writing the support in the form of assistance with formatting documents, seeking grant notices, and performing research. Other activities include advocacy work and contacting elected officials.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/lighthousehealingscranton/>

Website Support for Small Businesses

Partner: City of Scranton, Scranton Small Businesses, Scranton Tomorrow

Contact: Megan Preambo, Special Assistant, mpreambo@scrantonpa.gov, 570-702-4173

Activity: Assist small businesses in Scranton with updating their websites to facilitate better/easier online shopping and provide a more professional and user-friendly appearance.

Partner: Boost Business NEPA

Contact: Stacy Smulowitz, Education Initiative Chair, stacy.smulowitz@scranton.edu

Activity: Boost Business NEPA provides resources to non and for-profit organizations in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties who are in need of a variety of services. The connection to CBL is really only limited by the imagination of the faculty and the clients at the time. Any need that a non or for-profit organization might have is on the table. That includes help managing finances (accounting), human resources, marketing, PR, social media, advertising, entrepreneurship, etc.

Assistance for Aging Population

Biographies of Hospice Patients

Partner: Compassionate Care Hospice

Contact: Cassie Kobeski, Volunteer Coordinator, cassie.kobeski@amedisys.com, 570-451-1031

Activity: Students are on boarded as Hospice virtual volunteers and receive training to virtually interview Hospice patients in order to learn about their lives and create a short biographies for patients and their families. Total time commitment for biographies 3-6.5 hours with the option for students to continue contact through companionship calls to provide additional emotional support and companionship.

Virtual & Remote Programming/Presentations/Activities for Seniors

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers

Contact: Sarah Bodnar, UNC Community Health, sbodnar@uncnepa.org, 570-346-6203

Activities: Seeking creative programming for seniors, including virtual options. Potential programs can be educational presentations, multi-session workshops, tutorials on special skills, trivia nights, discussion groups, book clubs, music lessons/jam sessions, etc.

Other activity can include creating "take home packets" for seniors with games, worksheets, informative handouts, etc. for seniors remaining in their homes.

CARE calls to Older Adults

Partner: NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania

Contact: Mary Endrusick, Aging in Place Coordinator, Mendrusick@nwnepa.org, 570-558-2490

Activities: CARE calls to older adults (calls to check in on older adults in our community); creating training modules for peer to peer support calls; create informational webinar on various topics chosen by elderly population

Assistance for Hospice Services

Partner: Aseracare Hospice

Contact: Carol C.Burti, Coordinator of Volunteers, carolburti12247@gmail.com, 570-466-1778

Activity: Phone calls to bereaved and to patients families; calls to hospice patients and families

Data/Research Projects

Historical Records Transcription

Partner: Steamtown National Historic Site

Contact: Bill Fischer, Bill_Fischer@nps.gov, 570-340-5339

Activity: Virtual volunteers needed to use a personal computer with Internet access and MS Word, transcribe digitized historical records from the Steamtown NHS Archives. The digitized docs will be emailed to the transcriber, who will email back the transcriptions. Most records currently being transcribed deal with routine operations of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad early in the last century. Work at your own pace. A park historian is always available to answer questions.

Research on History of Pine Brook Neighborhood in Scranton

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers, Lackawanna Historical Society

Contact: Christina Manuel, Director of Community Revitalization, cmanuel@uncnepa.org

Activities: Research assistance on the history of Pine Brook section of the City of Scranton for UNC's upcoming Neighborhood Revitalization Project of this area. Students can support the planning phase of this project by supporting research efforts into the history of the Pine Brook neighborhood and its residents. UNC will use this research to help craft a narrative around the history of the Pine Brook neighborhood that UNC can use for marketing, plan development, grant writing, and just general story telling about the community. Students can create narratives around different topics related to the neighborhood such as: early industry in Pine Brook; development of residential areas around the industry; early uses of the river and railroad, etc.; other historical storylines of interest. UNC can provide essay topics for student to use as a guide for research and to produce a narrative/ paper on the topic.

Small Business Survey Assistance for Pine Brook Neighborhood Revitalization Project

Partner: United Neighborhood Centers

Contact: Christina Manuel, Director of Community Revitalization, cmanuel@uncnepa.org

Activities: Seeking support from students to outreach to local small businesses in the Pine Brook neighborhood of Scranton for UNC's neighborhood revitalization project. Needs include calling businesses and agencies to complete UNC's Small Business Survey and Program and Services Surveys.

City/Municipal Government Communications & Marketing Projects

Partner: City of Scranton

Contact: Tiffany Cross-Luciani, Director of Economic Development, tcluciani@scrantonpa.gov

Activities: Communications projects to help promote City of Scranton to support City of Scranton's "Work From Here" initiative with communication support and video promotions to support downtown Scranton businesses. Projects can include interviewing business owners/residents for highlights/testimonials. Marketing support and website guidance for small businesses in downtown Scranton. Other communications projects include assistance for sharing technical/legal/policy documents with user-friendly web writing.

Business Census Data Project

Partner: City of Scranton, Community Relations

Contact: Tiffany Cross-Luciani, Director of Economic Development, tcluciani@scrantonpa.gov

Activities: Research project to gather data on businesses and consumer trends for the City of Scranton to provide a city-wide business inventory/landscape (beginning in downtown Scranton). Data points can include number of women-owned business, minority-owned businesses, and number of businesses in City of Scranton to create a business inventory and city business profile to assist with economic development.

Research/Community Education – Aging In Place

Partner: NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania

Contact: Carol C. Burti, Coordinator of Volunteers, carolburti12247@gmail.com, 570-466-1778

Activities: Research for information sessions directed at older adults and their families re: assisting older adults age in place.

Data Analysis and Grant Evaluation

Partners: Outreach - Center for Community Resources

Contact: Linda Ciampi, Executive Director, lciami@outreachworks.org, 570-558-7585

Activities: Data analysis, Grant evaluation for new grant opportunities, longstanding community partner that is interested in developing more CBL partnerships.

In person (physical distancing)

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority: Trail Cleanups. Contact: Owen Worozbyt, 570-963-6730 or oworozbyt@LHVA.org

Examples of Virtual/Remote CBL from Fall 2020:

“Work From Here” Marketing Proposals for City of Scranton (Communication)

Activities: Students in Jack Strain’s “Art of the Pitch” class created competing proposals for the City of Scranton to promote their “Work From Here” initiative.

Diverse Business Profiles (World Languages & Culture)

Activities: Students in Roxana Curiel’s “Service in the Hispanic Community” course interviewed and researched businesses owned by individuals from a range of Latin American countries to create business profiles. These profiles were shared by UNC’s “Welcoming Scranton” page and by the University for Hispanic & Latino/a Heritage Month.

Biographies Project (FYS/Business)

Activities: Students in Satya Chattopadhyay’s FYS courses worked with Compassionate Care Hospice to create biographies of patients. Student groups became Hospice Volunteers and then met virtually with patients and their caregivers to interview them about the life of the patient. From these interviews patient biographies were created to share with the family as a celebration of the life of their loved one.

Social Media Support for Non-profit (Communication)

Activities: Students in Brian Snee's "Social Media Communications" course worked with the Scranton Area Community Foundation (SACF) to create detailed social media campaigns for new SACF initiatives.

Public Health Research (Nursing)

Activities: Doctoral nursing students in Margarete Zalon's "Advanced Health Care Policy" course worked with the City of Scranton to help them explore different public health priorities in key areas. Students presented their findings and recommendations with the City, including Mayor Paige Cagnetti.

STEM K-12 Videos (Biology)

Activities: Students in various STEM disciplines created interactive videos of different STEM themes for use by McNichols Plaza elementary school and other groups.

Examples of Virtual/Remote CBL from Spring 2020:

City of Scranton Project (Project-Based/Research)

Activities: Students in Abhijit Roy's Consumer Behavior Course conducted research and best practices on municipal communications and websites.

Alumni Survey Development

Activities: Students from Kauen Kim's Market Research course worked in collaboration with the City of Scranton and the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development to create and conduct pilot surveys of alumni to develop a full survey of NEPA colleges/universities of alumni regarding what prompts graduates to stay or leave area.

Social Media Campaign/Lesson Development

Activity: Students in Julie Schumacher Cohen's Religion, Politics and Public Service political science course collaborated with Catholic Social Services to create a social media campaign for World Refugee Day and created lesson plans for refugee citizenship classes.

Virtual K-12 Student Engagement

Activity: Students in Catherine Cullen's Education 339 transitioned in-person lessons instructional Integrated Art Lesson videos for grades 3 -5. Shared on University website/social media and with partners.

Activity: Jennifer Schwartz' Physical Therapy course CBL transitioned to virtual format students created instructional and fun videos on topics related to exercise, health & wellness, and safety. Videos shared on University social media and website/with community partners.

Community Health Education/Health Promotion

Debra Fetherman converted many of her CBL activities to virtual formats:

- Developed exercise/wellness education sessions for community Parkinson's clients. Presented/taped sessions on ZOOM.
- Created a mindfulness workbook for an employee wellness program. Employees can complete the self-directed workbook and receive incentives for completion.

- Created a food prescription program to integrate with health clinic patients and food pantry participants.
- Researched potential health/wellness resources for the college-age population such as flyers/infographics/handouts to use for patient education. Evaluated the readability and comprehensiveness of each resource. Provided a list of resources.
- Created a health/wellness community resource guide.
- Developed wellness session on the importance of hydration. Presented via ZOOM to participants.
- Created a trauma informed guide for employee training which included resources for further study and to use with clients.
- Social media campaign on wellness for college-aged population.

Note: This list of CBL related opportunities is not exhaustive. See also community agency list on Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice website: <https://ssbprd.scranton.edu/appprd/cvagency.menu>.

Contact Pat Vaccaro (patricia.vaccaro@scranton.edu) and Julie Schumacher Cohen (julie.cohen@scranton.edu) for additional CBL Project ideas and placement sites.