



2019-2020 Impact Report

1818 Community Engagement Grants

Saint Louis University

The 1818 Community Engagement Grant program received 36 applications in its second year. 18 were selected and provided with up to \$1,800 each to implement a project that would positively impact the community. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic*, most projects were implemented with no change in the impact on individuals in the community. In fact, this year saw an almost 50% increase in the number of SLU participants, underscoring the significant amount of collaboration between units on campus.



A SLU student works with a local high school student on college application prep as part of the OverMatch Mentoring project.



445

SLU students and faculty involved with a grant - up from 306 in 2018-2019.



26

Non-profits in the St. Louis community that were partners.



+1,050

People in the community directly impacted by a grant.

Project Focus Areas

Youth Education - 4

Capacity Building
and Community
Development - 4

Health and Wellness - 8

**Due to COVID-19, 4 of the 18 projects were unable to be implemented. Only details on the remaining 14 projects are included in this report - some impact data from these projects is limited because of the inability to collect it at the end of the academic year.*

Youth Education

Building Bridges for the Future

- Continuation of program started last year - educates young children on potential careers in physical therapy, athletic training and nutrition/dietetics.
- Also educates youth on basic anatomy, nutrition and exercise strategies.
- Majority of youth participants could recall specific activities, knowledge gained, and/or correctly describe the professions 2 weeks after completing the program.
- Parents of youth also reported a significant increase in interest at home in the sciences:



"[My son] was very excited after his time at SLU. He talked about his heart, lungs, bones, and muscles. He also asked to put up the poster he drew of his body on his bedroom wall."

OverMatch Mentoring

- 2nd year expansion of 1818 grant program that provides skills and tools for professional development and the college application process to youth at KIPP, Sumner, and Metro high schools.
- Mentor provides guidance on college application process, resume-building, and essay writing.
- Participation of high school students increased from 8 in the first year to 25 this year as a result of the grant.

"The SLU OverMatch Mentoring Program has greatly helped me as a student. My mentor guided me through the application process for several summer programs and has continuously provided support. Having someone by my side that's already experienced what I was experiencing was very comforting. Without the OverMatch Program, I wouldn't have known how to improve."



- Sophia, Metro High School Student

Black Girls Do Stem



- New non-profit education program focused on getting more African-American middle school girls interested in STEM fields.
- Because of the grant, the program was able to expand it's enrollment by 30% over its first year.

"I wanted to be a part of the program because science is my favorite subject and so far it been fun."

- Laura B., 8th grader and Fall 2019 Participant

Cardinal Ritter ACT Prep

- Partnership between SLU School of Education and Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School.
- Phase One (current year) involved 10 SLU students and 2 faculty members design an ACT preparation course to be offered to Cardinal Ritter students free of charge.
- SLU students began to deliver course to Cardinal Ritter youth, but it was cut short due to COVID-19.

"This project made me realize the long-lasting impact that education has on a community. The development of academic knowledge provides the youth with opportunities and skills for becoming self-sustaining individuals in the future."

- SLU Student Mentor

Community Partners

- Black Girls Do Stem
- Cardinal Ritter College Prep
- Hodgen Elementary School
- KIPP High School
- Metro High School
- Sumner High School
- Unleashing Potential

Capacity Building and Community Development

A New Way to See Art



- Installation of a permanent tactile art exhibit at Saint Louis University Museum of Art - the first of its kind in the area.
- Allows persons with visual impairment to experience art for the first time.

"This is amazing! I am so excited to have such an experience here in St. Louis. It is so well done! I am proud of this exhibit!"

-Jane Herder
Director
Missouri School for the Blind

Searching for Dignidad



- 2nd year expansion of 1818 grant program that brought focus on education and training for people interested in supporting undocumented immigrants.
- Over 100 students, staff and faculty, representing 15 departments and groups from around campus, participated.
- Image to the left depicts part of a campus-wide initiative to raise awareness on the plight of undocumented immigrants.

Global Brigades, Local Initiatives

- Education program for SLU students who volunteer globally, teaching them about local opportunities and allowing them to make connections between local and global justice.
- Involved a direct service project assembling and delivering Thanksgiving baskets to over 100 families in need.



The Cabbage Patch Garden

- Rehabbed a community garden at a local elementary school, allowing nearly 200 students and neighborhood residents to plant and maintain flowers and vegetables.



"[Our] students learned the basic properties of plants and what they need in order to survive. The garden increased environmental awareness in addition to teaching kids about the importance of eating a healthy, nutrient-rich diet. Students also learned character education skills including responsibility and accountability."

- Robin Jung, Teacher at
Pierre Laclede Elementary

Community Partners

- Gateway Greening
- LifeWise STL
- St. Louis Development Corporation
- Interfaith Committee on Latin America
- Missouri Ctr. for Braille and Narration
- St. Louis Public Schools
- Laclede Elementary School
- Missouri Dept. of Conservation

Health and Wellness

With Open Arms

- Project involved hiring SLU students to conduct a program evaluation, then write, submit and secure a \$10,000 grant for the new non-profit With Open Arms, using data obtained.
- With Open Arms serves 63 young and pregnant mothers, providing them with education and empowerment to strive towards economic and personal independence.

"The relationship formed [between SLU and With Open Arms] over the past several months is one that will be fruitful for both parties and encourages mutual support and encouragement."

- Lindsay Harrell, Founder of With Open Arms



Nourish STL: Cultivating Health in the Community Through Food and Education

- Partnership between SLU's Health Resource Center and St. Louis MetroMarket to provide patients and families seeking care at the HRC with healthy produce.
- Also provided education on nutritious eating, exercise, and wellness.



90 Families provided with fresh produce for the year.

"This project will be making an impact in our St. Louis community in so many ways and will continue to do so for many years to come. We will be filling a need that is found in this region. The location of the HRC is in the middle of a food desert, so many of these patients are unable to find food easily and at a good price."

- Sarah Carroll, RD, LD

Putting Care in Healthcare: Providing Psychosocial Support to Pediatric Patients

- Through activities, visits, and caregiver respite SLU students provided support to over **200** pediatric patients at St. Louis Children's Hospital.
- Partnered with Ronald McDonald House and World Pediatric Project to host events for children and families, such as a Valentine's Day cookie baking night.



"Volunteers work alongside employees to provide company and social support to children in St. Louis receiving surgical care. The SLU StudentsCare Buddies have contributed to the emotional well-being and recovery of patients in a compassionate and loving way."

- Julieta, Volunteer Manager, Ronald McDonald House

Vandeventer Neighborhood Healing and Meditation Garden

- Established a community garden and safe space that neighborhood residents can use for walks, meditation, and personal reflection.
- While garden was not able to be completed due to COVID-19, work will commence as soon as possible.



BEFORE



AFTER

Community Partners

- North Newstead Neighborhood Association
- St. Louis Children's Hospital
- With Open Arms
- Ronald McDonald House
- St. Louis Metro Market
- World Pediatric Project
- Veteran Women of Influence

Youth Education

Eyeglasses for Everyone: Bridging the Healthcare Gap

- Provided vision screenings, referrals, and free eye glasses for people living at the homeless shelters Covenant House and Peter & Paul Community Services.
- 17 people living at these locations received screenings and referrals.



88%

of those screened said the exam was helpful.

59%

of those screened received free eyeglasses.

"During one of our vision screenings, we talked to a child who described their struggles seeing the board in school, which made it difficult to learn and resulted in her falling behind. The child's mom was grateful that her child was able to receive free eyeglasses through this program, so she could make the most of her education."

- Sarah Heiland, Student Participant

Special Olympics Swim Meet and Wellness Fair

- Hosted a swim meet and wellness fair for athletes from Special Olympics MO on campus.
- 75+ students, faculty and staff, representing both SLU and Harris Stowe, assisted nearly 40 athletes with swimming and other recreational activities. The event concluded with a Wellness Fair.



- 83% of SLU participants were more knowledgeable about persons with special needs, including how to be a better ally.



"We can't thank SLU enough for extending its resources and facilities to Missouri Special Olympics - we look forward to partnering next year!"

- Special Olympics Staff Member

COVID 19 Challenges

- All projects mentioned the challenges associated with implementing their projects during COVID-19.
- Many groups pivoted direction and/or adjusted goals to respond to the new reality.

"COVID-19 really hampered our progress. We had a SLU clean-up day scheduled for the week after spring break. But it was cancelled due to our campus closer. BUT this is not an issue because the community, our partners, and I are committed to this project for the long term - the energy is still there!"

- Damen Alexander, Student Leader for the Cabbage Patch Garden

Community Partners

- Covenant House MO
- Harris Stowe State University
- Peter and Paul Community Services
- Special Olympics Missouri

Student Impact - Leadership

Student leaders highlighted multiple areas of growth and development gained through the grant process:

- Improved communication skills
- Ability to collaborate with various groups
- Improved organization skills
- Ability to delegate more effectively
- Increased confidence
- Non-profit management
- Budget management and fundraising

"I learned strategies for embedding initiatives into the fabric of our institution through collaboration with students, faculty, and community partners."

"Working on this project pushed me out of my comfort zone, especially when it comes to leading. My confidence in my own abilities improved tremendously! "

Good Stewardship

- 12 of the 14 projects came in UNDER budget
- Only 19K of the total grant award funds of 25K was spent

Importance of Relationships

"Working on this project has been a reminder that service is not about going through the motions to get something done, and saying you helped. It's about getting closer to people and their challenges, then working WITH them to find ways to breakthrough."



Sustainability

ALL 14 of the grants have a plan in place to continue the project next year.

These include such plans as:

- Formation of multiple student organizations to provide long-term commitment.
- Securing of additional funding to continue projects for next year.