

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, & Research

2021-22 Community Engagement Report

The Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research (CBLLR) partners with the community to inspire students, faculty, and staff to engage in activities that foster enduring personal and social change. This document is updated annually and provides data related to this work, as well as the broader community engagement efforts at UWM. This report covers fall 2021, spring 2022, and summer 2022. If you do not find the information you need in this report, please contact Ben Trager at bwtrager@uwm.edu.

** As of April 2022, the Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research (CBLLR) became part of the newly formed Center for Student Experience and Talent (SET). Moving forward this annual report will be written under the new department name.



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Introduction and at-a-Glance Information

Through partnership with 97 nonprofit, government, and educational organizations, the CCBLLR continued to offer a diverse range of community engagement and service opportunities for UWM students, faculty, and staff during 2021-22 academic year. This report provides a broad summary of community engagement and service activities affiliated with the CCBLLR. During 2021-22, UWM and the surrounding community continued to emerge from the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. While there have been noticeable increases in service activities in the past year, we are still navigating the changing realm of community engagement and service as our activities rebound. Goals for the future of CCBLLR include expanding the reach of service-learning to new departments and courses, reinvigorating episodic service events, and building more intentional connections with public service programs such as AmeriCorps and Peace Corps.

Below is a summary of service hours* completed through CCBLLR.

Figure 1 Summary of service hours

Program or Initiative	Hours
Service-Learning	31,621
Make a Difference Days	2,250
Riverkeeper	739
Student Service Record Program	635
Alternative Spring Break	200
Panther Response Team	112
Total	35,557

*Hours from the Community Leaders Internship Program (CLIP) are not included in this table as they are paid hours of community work. CLIP hours totaled 11,904.50.

The dollar value of an hour of service in Wisconsin in 2022, as indicated by Independent Sector was \$27.87, UWM tracked 35,557 hours, making the value of UWM student service to the community valued at \$990,934. For more information see: <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>.

Academic Service-Learning

Service-learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs. Students also reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

There were 21 UWM departments (listed below) which had courses with a service-learning component tracked through PAWS in fall 2021, spring 2022, or summer 2022. This included 69 distinct courses and 93 class sections with a service-learning component. During the 2021-22 academic year, **2,624** service learners collectively completed **31,621** hours of service in the community. While service-learning numbers remain down from the peak between 2017 and 2020, total number of classes has significantly rebounded from the 2020-2021 academic year.

Anthropology (L&S)	English (L&S)
Architecture (SARUP)	Film (PSOA)
Art and Design (PSOA)	Geography (L&S)
Biomedical Sciences (CHS)	Health Informatics & Administration (CHS)
Business (general) (LCB)	Kinesiology (CHS)
Communication (L&S)	Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology (CHS)
Communication Science Disorders (CHS)	Social Work (School of Social Welfare)
Conservation & Environmental Sciences (L&S)	Teaching and Learning (SOE)
Criminal Justice (School of Social Welfare)	Theatre (PSOA)
Dance (PSOA)	Urban Planning (SARUP)
Educational Policy & Community Studies (SOE)	

For specific course listings for any semester, contact Ben Trager at bwtrager@uwm.edu.

Figure 2 Number of class sections at UWM with a service-learning component by semester

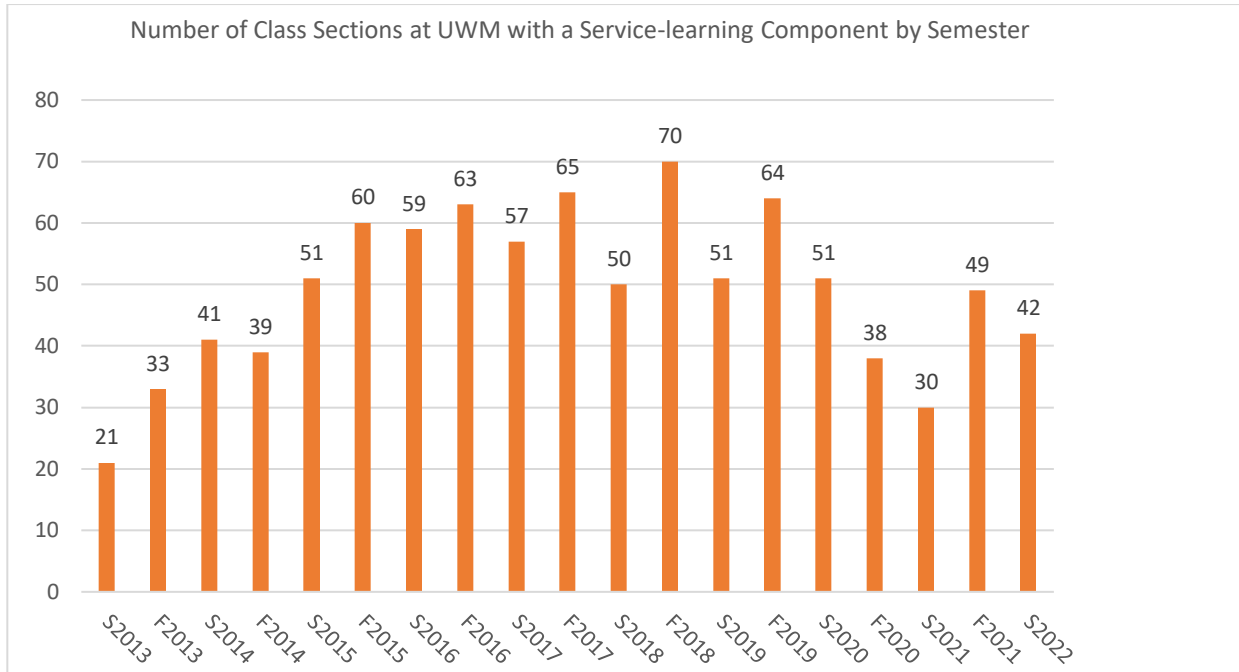


Figure 3 Number of students enrolled in service-learning classes

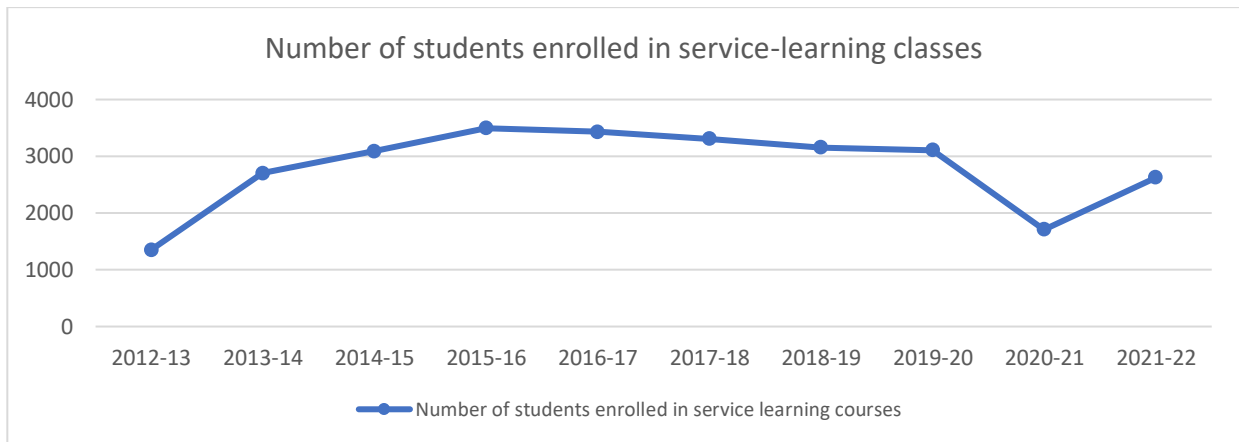


Figure 4 Service-learning course enrollments as percentage of overall enrollments

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Enrollment* (TE)	29145	27813	28042	27156	26037	25412	24995	24018	23004	22592
Undergraduate Enrollment* (UE)	24199	23031	23108	22321	21398	20777	20278	19388	18404	18037
Service-Learning (SL) placements*	1354	2701	3090	3494	3429	3307	3152	3109	1707	2624
SL Percentage of TE	4.65	9.71	11.02	12.87	12.17	13.01	12.61	12.94	7.42	11.61
SL Percentage of UE	5.6	11.73	13.37	15.65	16.02	15.92	15.54	16.04	9.28	14.55

Community Leaders Internship Program

The Community Leaders Internship Program (CLIP) places work-study eligible students in internships at nonprofits, government agencies, schools, and businesses in the Milwaukee metro area. CLIP students are expected to work 10-15 hours per week and participate in professional and personal reflection and development. Students in their first year of the program enroll in a one-credit course in the fall semester that provides space for reflection, socio-cultural context for working in the Milwaukee community, and opportunities for connecting their CLIP experience with their professional development and future career goals. In the spring semester, CLIP students participate in co-curricular reflection activities in support of their on-campus learning. CLIP is a hybridization of two high-impact practices; service-learning and internships.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, UWM participated in the Federal Work-Study Experiment, which allowed us to expand the CLIP program to work with the for-profit sector, provided funds for a full-time program coordinator, and allowed for other waivers to the regular use of work-study funds. For a full list of waivers see the notice of experiment¹. Through this experiment, we increased our intern participation by 55.1% from the 2020-2021 academic year.

Seventy-six student interns were paid for 11,904.5 hours of work in the community. Wages earned by students through CLIP at local nonprofits, government organizations, small businesses, and public schools totaled \$108,218.92. CLIP Partners are listed below.

Figure 5 CLIP partners

NONPROFIT	SMALL BUSINESS	GOV'T AGENCY	SCHOOL
Beyond STEM	Abby's Clubhouse	City of Milwaukee: Department of City Development	Lloyd Barbee Montessori
The Friendship Circle	FasTrak	City of Milwaukee: Infrastructure	Maryland Avenue Montessori
University Christian Ministries (UCM)	Loving Venti	City of Milwaukee: Employee Relations	Next Door
Friedens Food Pantry	H. Investments	City of Milwaukee: Department of Public Works - Water Works	Auer Avenue School
Five Points Neighborhood Association	Apple Ridge Academy	City of Milwaukee: Department of Public Works - Operations	
AMRI Counseling Services	ValPak	City of Milwaukee: Department of Public Works - Administration	
Milwaukee Environmental Consortium		City of Milwaukee: Department of Public Works – Operations/ Sanitation	
Broadscope Disability Services			
Bublr Bikes			
Center for Leadership of Afrikan Women's Wellness			
Bridging Gaps to Greatness			
Milwaukee Christian Center			
Signature Dance			
Healing Starts Today			

¹ Federal Student Aid, Department of Education. *Notice Inviting Postsecondary Educational Institutions To Participate in Experiments Under the Experimental Sites Initiative; Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended.*
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/2019-08/FR052319ESI.pdf>

Figure 6 Work-study compensation

	Total FWS Compensation at UWM	America Reads (AR)	AR Percentage of Total FWS	Total Off Campus Community Service FWS (non-AR)	% of Total	Total Off Campus Small For-Profits FWS (non-AR)	% of Total
2021-22	\$850,577.00	\$15,207.00	1.79%	\$74,972.42	8.81%	\$18,039.50	2.12%
2020-21	\$814,026.00	\$26,707.00	3.28%	\$29,991.00	3.68%		
2019-20	\$1,082,104.00	\$26,761.00	2.47%	\$20,689.00	1.91%		
2018-19	\$1,097,075.00	\$30,659.00	2.79%	\$34,138.00	3.11%		
2017-18	\$1,011,808.20	\$37,235.32	3.68%	\$28,330.26*	2.80%		
2016-17	\$1,100,677.00	\$45,677.00	4.15%	\$24,443.00*	2.22%		
2015-16	\$1,105,525.00	\$59,369.00	5.367%	\$3,750.00	0.34%		

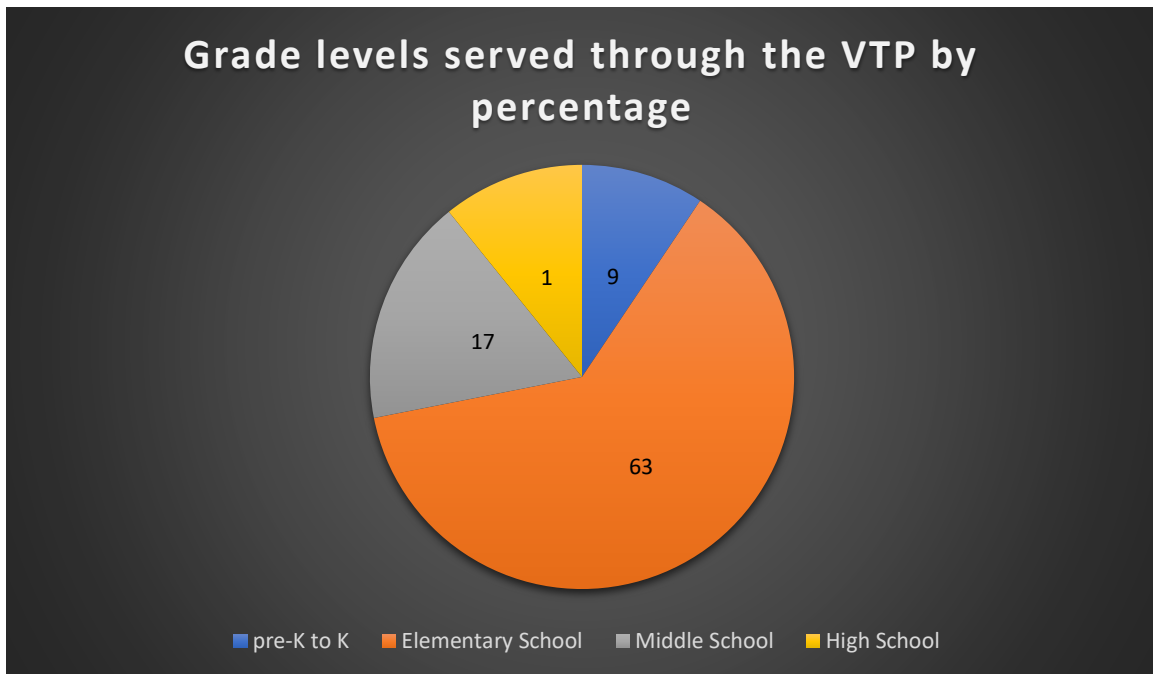
Students involved in CLIP earned a total of \$108,218.92 of federal work-study compensation, which made up 12.72% of total work study compensation at UWM.

Virtual Tutoring Program

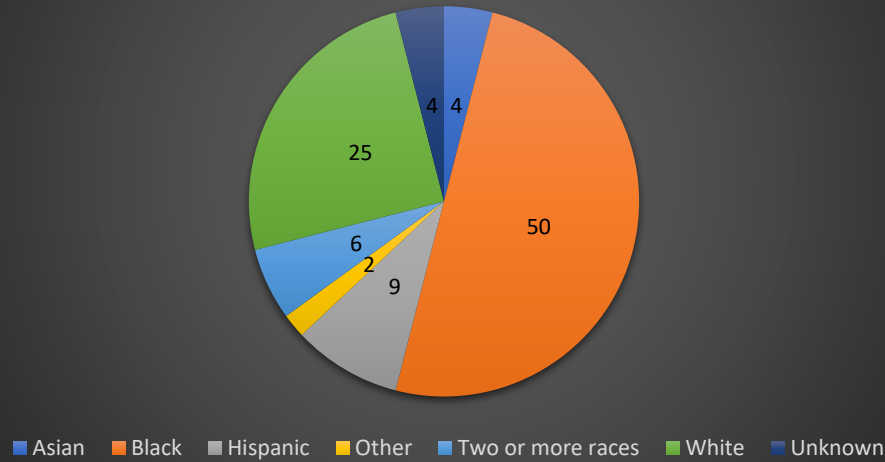
The Virtual Tutoring Program (VTP) provides academic and social support for elementary and secondary students, professional experience for college students, and an opportunity for the UWM community to support the education of young people in the City of Milwaukee. This is a free service to K-12 kids and their families. While the VTP was begun in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to quality, free tutoring has for a long time been a part of the American education system. The VTP seeks to combat the educational equity gap that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic with trained volunteers and interns as a free service. Guardians can register their children for the program and select the type of tutoring support to best meet their children’s needs. To read more about the VTP [click here](#).

In the 2021-22 academic year, 254 tutors assisted 285 tutees. The demographic profile of those served are described in the figure below.

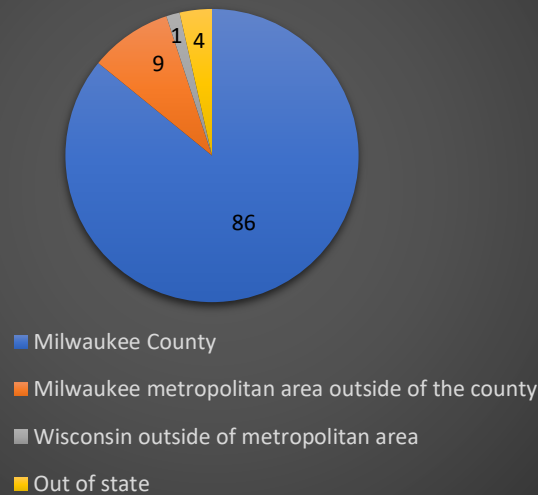
Figure 7 VTP tutee demographics



Race of youth served through the VTP by percentage



Location of schools attended by VTP tutees by percentage



Student Service Record Program

The Student Service Record (SSR) Program allows current UWM students to track their regular volunteer hours with the goal of logging at least 75 hours to obtain a university-recognized certificate. Students who log over 100 hours of service can obtain a graduation cord to honor their service at commencement.

SSR participants join an online community to engage, collaborate, and reflect with one another. Through provided resources and participation in individual check-ins and reflection sessions, SSR participants gain critical thinking skills and a stronger sense of their own civic identity and responsibility as they contribute to the greater good of the community.

In the 2021-22 academic year, 21 students were active in the SSR program. These 21 students completed 635 hours of community volunteer work. Thirty-three students reached out to the CCBLLR office and expressed interest in the SSR program. The staff member who coordinates the program followed up with each of these students and held informational meetings with 12 of them.

During the 2021-22 school year, the SSR staff member also worked with campus departments to gain interest in the program and develop a required SSR participation for certain majors. While this did not result in a program requirement, it opened conversations about the possibility of the SSR program in the future and how this may look in coming years.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee provides evidence-based professionally supported one-to-one mentoring for youth in Milwaukee. Each week K-12 students meet with volunteer mentors during or after the school day at one of our partner elementary or middle school locations. Through the support of their mentors, children develop positive attitudes toward school, achieve higher grades, become more confident, and improve relationships with adults and peers. Mentoring matches participate in a variety of activities, such as reading together, going to the school library, working on homework, participating in group activities, or playing on the playground. All interaction between children and mentors is overseen by Big Brothers Big Sisters’ professional staff to ensure child safety, coach mentoring matches through difficult situations, and monitor progress toward goals.

Figure 8 Big Brothers Big Sisters participation numbers

How many UWM students were returning Bigs?	How many UWM students were new Bigs?	How many K-12 students were served and what schools did they attend?
22	28	52 kids at Maryland Ave School, Hartford University School, Cass Street School, and Catholic East School (all K-8 schools)

Alternative Spring Break

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Trip returned in spring 2022 after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty-five students traveled to Asheville, NC to participate in a week of service and outdoor adventure activities. Students volunteered with organizations that focus on issues of food insecurity, sustainability, veteran rehabilitation, and homelessness. In total, students completed approximately 200 hours of service on the trip.



Panther Response Team

The Panther Response Team (PRT) continued its work to facilitate opportunities for UWM students, faculty, and staff to serve with non-profit organizations that support individuals and communities in critical times as they respond to and recover from crises. PRT members currently serve in the Greater Milwaukee Area and throughout the State of Wisconsin. PRT programming integrates episodic events and service trips, as well as connecting UWM community members to independent service and training opportunities.

In fall 2021, Feeding America was short on volunteers due to the pandemic and the UWM PRT recruited volunteers to assist with food sorting. UWM also recruited students in spring 2022 to volunteer at local Habitat for Humanity Build Days in the Harambee Neighborhood. Forty-one volunteers assisted the Hunger Task Force with the drive-up distribution of stock boxes for elders in need of food at Independence First.



In summer 2022, UWM students from the Panther Response Team engaged in service in Door County with Habitat for Humanity. The PRT worked for three days of building, coupled with outdoor adventuring. During this time, team of students contributed a total of 112 hours of service.



Adopt-a-River Program

UWM has adopted four portions of the Milwaukee River in conjunction with Milwaukee Riverkeeper. These areas include: Lincoln Park, Kern Park, Gordon Park, and Caesar Park. CCBLLR coordinated the service at UWM's adopted portions of the river through 4 different efforts: service learning through the Business Administration 100 course, DIY clean-ups for individuals, partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Research, and partnership with the MKE Scholars Program.

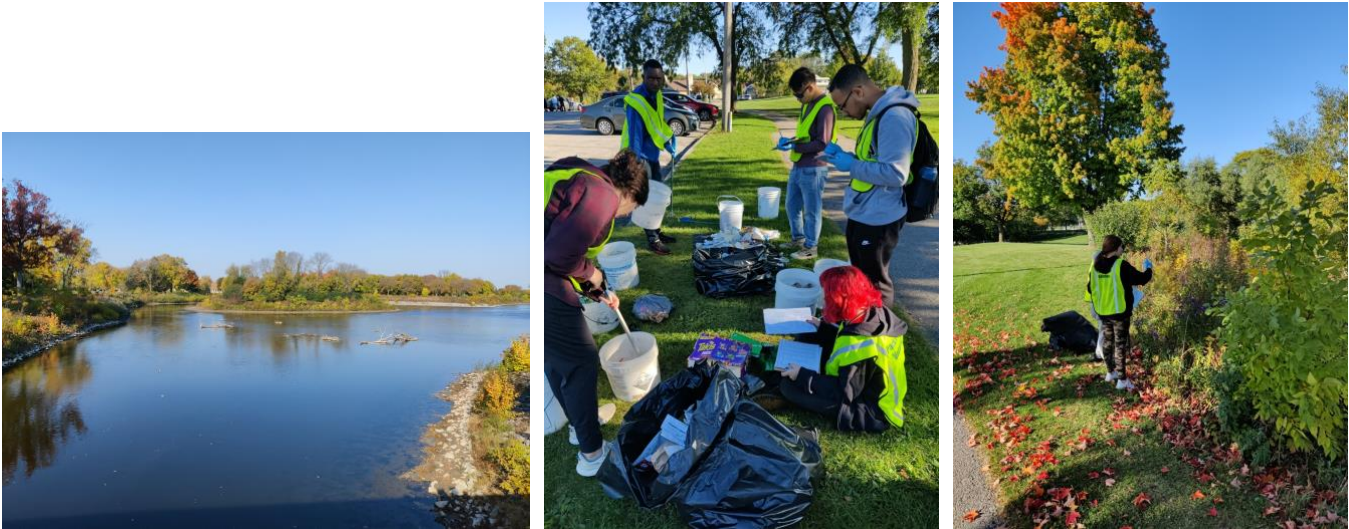
Business 100 Service-Learning

During fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters, 718 students from the Business Administration 100 course, participated in 38 Adopt-A-River events resulting in 2,154 service-learning hours.

Students conducted brand audits of items collected during clean-ups and wrote 1,200-word reflection papers. The brand audit and writing project builds student understanding of which corporations are the largest polluters, why we may be seeing trends in waste products, what ways can we mitigate pollution (especially from single use plastics), and the relationship between corporate, community, and individual responsibility for keeping our waterways clean.

DIY River Clean Ups

In July 2022 CCBLLR supported a DIY River Clean Up by providing materials to over 40 individuals so that they could participate in river clean up at their leisure. Forty individuals participated in the clean up throughout Milwaukee, resulting in 120 hours of service.



Partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Research

In July 2022 CCBLLR partnered with the Office of Undergraduate Research. Through this partnership, 32 students went to Gordon Park and participated in a river clean up along the Milwaukee Greenway, resulting in 96 hours of service.

Partnership with MKE Scholars

During summer 2022 CCBLLR collaborated with the MKE Scholars Bridge Program, implementing an environmental science program to help immerse students into the natural areas in and around the city of Milwaukee. The purpose was to help students gain a sense of belonging and ownership not only where they live, but also of the diverse ecosystems that exist within the city. Thirty-five students partnered with five local environmental nonprofits along the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan watershed. Each event lasted three hours, culminating in 525 hours of experiential learning and service. Students partnered with Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Friends of Lincoln Park, River Revitalization, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, and the UW Milwaukee Field Station.



Make a Difference Days

Each year UWM leads two city-wide episodic events called Make a Difference Days (MADD). These events are held in late-fall and mid-spring for UWM students, as well as students from other nearby colleges and universities. The participants do a morning of service helping to prepare the homes of community elders for the coming season. In the fall this can mean raking leaves, putting up storm windows and moving patio furniture to the garage. In spring students usually rake again, bring patio furniture back out, and weed gardens. The elders who are served on these days are clients of Eastside Senior Services and Eras Senior Services which is a countywide organization. In fall 2021 there were approximately 400 volunteers and in spring 2022 there were approximately 350 volunteers. The total service hours completed for these events is approximately three hours per student or 2,250 hours.



Looking Forward

Looking forward CCBLLR will continue to focus on the creation of new service-learning courses in partnership with faculty and staff who are committed to incorporating experiential learning in their courses. CCBLLR will also continue to build a culture of experiential and service-learning at UWM by hosting more workshops focused on these practices, reaching out to professors on a regular basis, and supporting professors in course design. With declining enrollments overall, we recognize the need to increase the breadth of service-learning at UWM to ensure it remains prevalent enough for students to have the opportunity to select a service-learning course at some point in their undergraduate career.

We recognize that higher education and UWM are at a pivotal moment regarding the relevance and applicability of a higher education degree. We believe that positioning service-learning and experiential learning to support student professional and civic development—preparing students to be productive members of communities and the workforce while defining our positioning as an anchor institution in our community—is a path to student and institutional success.