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# Center for Engaged Learning (CEL)

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# PROVIDENCE COLLEGE Center for Engaged Learning

## What is Engaged Learning?

At Providence College, we define engaged learning as an active process in which students take ownership of their education. Engaged learners demonstrate intellectual curiosity and intrinsic motivation to learn by asking critical questions; investigating ideas and pursuing solutions to the problems which intrigue them; and participating, alone and with others, in intentional, analytical reflective practice throughout their experiences. Below are just a few opportunities for our students to be engaged learners.



### Undergraduate Research

At Providence College, our professors are deeply engaged in research and scholarship — and so are our students. Students have the opportunity to work side-by-side with experts in everything from novelist Cormac McCarthy to adult stem cells. In the process, they gain hands-on experience, a deeper understanding of their academic discipline and sometimes a byline in an academic journal or a presentation at a professional conference. This gives our students the confidence, expertise, and résumé-building credentials that set them apart in the workplace, on a scholarship or post-baccalaureate fellowship application, and in graduate school. The Center for Engaged Learning, in collaboration with the PC Undergraduate Research Committee, offers a competitive small grants program to support undergraduate scholarly research, creative and/or artistic work. It also offers a Summer Undergraduate Research Grant program which provides funding for stipends and research expenses for students to conduct research and creative projects on or off campus.



### Fellowships and Scholarships

We've had Fulbright award winners, SMART Scholarship recipients, and FAO Schwarz leadership fellows, among others.

Faculty and administrators in the Center for Engaged Learning provide information, guidance, and support to students and recent alumni who apply for competitive scholarships and fellowships for summer or post-graduate academic research, language study, national service, U.S. cultural ambassadorships, or leadership training. What begins with a simple email could end with you teaching in Poland or Malaysia, studying underwater acoustics at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, or researching the life of garment workers in the Dominican Republic.



### Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship and Creativity

The Celebration of Student Scholarship and Creativity offers Providence College students the opportunity to showcase their unique scholarly, creative, and service work for an audience of faculty, student peers, staff, and community members.

The event celebrates the quality and range of student engagement in different disciplines that Providence College students do on campus, in the community, and indeed, around the world.

Since 2010, the celebration has grown; today, it features more than 200 students from all class years and from many different departments and disciplines.



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## Center for Engaged Learning Mission

The Center for Engaged Learning seeks to enhance academic excellence and human flourishing at Providence College by promoting a campus culture which prioritizes intellectual curiosity, intrinsic motivation to learn, critical and creative inquiry, and participation in intentional reflective practice.

To do so, the Center for Engaged Learning works with students, faculty, and a variety of other campus offices to:

- **foster** key skills needed to be an engaged learner, like critical reflection, academic resilience, and creative inquiry
- **encourage** students to participate in and faculty to develop “high impact” educational practices, including undergraduate research, internships, service learning, writing-intensive courses, academic and intellectual collaboration, and capstone courses and projects
- **educate** the campus community about the process of engaged learning, how they it is central to the ideal of liberal education
- **publicize** student and faculty successes in engaged learning
- **study** more about engaged learning and its role in liberal education through research and participation in scholarly conversations

### Initiatives

**The Riccobono Academic Resilience Faculty Fellowship Mini-Grants Program:** This mini-grants program is designed to incentivize and support efforts to infuse well-being promotion throughout the curriculum and integrate classroom experiences that promote student well-being across a variety of majors and programs.

**The CEL Student Engagement Supplementary Fund** helps faculty, administrators, and staff provide Providence College students with meaningful engaged learning opportunities/experiences. Examples of such activities include purchasing tickets for students to attend an off-campus event directly related to the content of a course, compensating a guest lecturer for travel to campus to deliver a workshop to a student organization, or purchasing supplies for an in-class activity.

**Student Travel:** Providence College provides financial support to full-time enrolled undergraduate students who are presenting research/creative work at academic/professional conferences.

**FYE – First Year Experience Course:** The goals of this course are twofold: 1) help students integrate meaningfully into the Providence College community by educating them about campus resources, building relationships, and participating in a wide variety of campus experiences, and 2) introduce students to key academic skills they need to be successful in their PC coursework.

**1,500 students**

**from more than 20  
different disciplines**

have displayed their work at the Annual Celebration for Student Scholarship and Creativity since 2010.

**90 students attended  
more than 20 conferences**

this year around the country  
and in Europe.

**400+ students  
have received  
financial support**  
for undergraduate research

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## Selected Research Grant Projects

*What Remains: The Story of the Black Cab Tours of Belfast*

*The Afro-Latina Experience:*

*Rhode Island Healthcare and Afro-Latina Women*

*Dog Designing and Evolution:*

*The Good, The Bad, and The Genomics*

*Modeling Parkinsons Disease*

*in the Budding Yeast, Saccharomyces*

*Modernizing Classic Figures from the 20th Century*

*Mechanical Light*

*Contemporary Significance of Craft and Pattern*

*Solar Energy Policy Research*

*When Policy Can Mean Life or Death:*

*The Story of a Woman Living in Florida*

*Infusing Technology in the Classroom*

*The Relationship Between Nature and Power  
from Aquinas to Hobbes: 400 Years of Change*



Providence College Center for Engaged Learning

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