OUR MISSION

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONNECTS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TO PURSUE A MORE JUST AND HUMANE WORLD.

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“When the heart is touched by direct experience the mind may be challenged to change.” In big, bold print this quote, from the former worldwide leader of the Jesuits Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach, spans the entire wall of our office. For years we’ve drawn upon it for inspiration in our work to connect the Seattle U campus and our local community.

Yet lately, as I reflect on the meaning of these words, I’ve begun to see a more powerful message. In this time of deep division, what if we each sought experiences that stretched us to think and act in new and creative ways? In a period when many are questioning the value of our institutions, including our universities, what would happen if collectively we pursued opportunities to think differently about our organizations’ roles in our communities?

This report presents a few examples of the thousands of campus and community members who sought new ways of learning, acting and engaging with each other over the past year. I’m immensely inspired by our students, faculty, community partners, AmeriCorps volunteers and supporters. Because of you, we continue to see great progress, particularly in pursuing the bold goals of the Seattle University Youth Initiative.

This work is also messy and challenging. To fully understand the words of Father Kolvenbach, we must deeply explore our most intractable and confounding issues. This year, in partnership with our campus and greater community, the Center for Community Engagement has particularly become more focused on addressing racism within ourselves, our institutions and our communities. This is the work of the heart, the head and the hands. And work that would make Fr. Kolvenbach proud.

With gratitude,

Kent Koth
Executive Director, Center for Community Engagement

Explore our website at www.seattleu.edu/cce to learn more about our programs and stories.

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Cover photo / photo at left: Brandon Bassler, ‘19
From Youth Served to Serving Youth

**NAOD SEBHA'T’S JOURNEY IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Before entering college, Seattle native Naod Sebhat, ’19, knew quite a bit about the Seattle University Youth Initiative. His father, Asfaha Lemlem, coordinator of the Yesler Terrace Computer Lab and Learning Center, is one of the Youth Initiative community partners.

Naod’s first time working with the CCE was when he was a rising junior at Garfield High School. Using photography and video, he worked with a cohort of teens who documented the history and redevelopment of Yesler Terrace as part of the Youth Media Project led by Associate Professor Claire Garoutte (Art and Art History/Photography).

“I learned a lot about community, one where my father spends much of his time,” Naod says.

As an SU environmental science major, Naod has followed his father’s example, but found his own way to give back. It began with JustServe, a Seattle U student club that connects volunteers with one-time opportunities. Naod has been working at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School as part of the Youth Initiative. He commits 12 hours a week to leading an afterschool program and supporting a fourth grade math class.

“...It has a huge impact on you,” he says.

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**During the 2016-2017 academic year, 294 Seattle University student volunteers and service learners provided approximately 4,285 hours of academic assistance and mentoring to youth in our K12 SUYI partner schools. Additionally, the K12 program employed 73 Seattle U undergraduates. K12 student employees provided 7,946 hours of direct service. Combined hours provided to schools during the 2016-2017 academic year: 12,231**

Photo: Erin Burrows
In recent years, a growing number of colleges and universities around the United States have shifted to hyperlocal community engagement strategies. By concentrating efforts on a specific geographic area universities can achieve more in partnership with local families, residents, schools and community organizations. This has been the strategy of the Seattle University Youth Initiative.

Over the past three years the Center for Community Engagement has hosted a series of convenings in collaboration with more than 25 universities across the U.S. and Canada. This network, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, shares best practices and creates a community of practitioners and scholars leading place-based community engagement. This past year, we formalized these gatherings by creating a more cohesive national network—the Place-Based Justice Network: Faith-Based Institutions of Higher Education Engaged in their Communities.

In August 2017, the Center for Community Engagement hosted a Place-Based Institute for teams from 15 universities. Simultaneous to this event, the center also hosted the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) Service-Learning Professionals meeting. At the mid-point of both events, participants gathered to listen to a keynote address from Seattle University President Father Stephen Sundborg, S.J., on the topic of “Faith-Based Universities and Community Engagement: The Next 10 Years.”

“Building a community requires the trust of the whole community. It takes thousands of students who want to be involved and have a voice. It takes a real mission and ... a commitment to unify.”

President Stephen Sundborg, S.J.
The Shinnyo Fellowships for community leadership allows four exceptional Seattle U students to integrate direct service, civic leadership, reflection and ongoing professional development in the context of nurturing their lifelong paths to service and peace.

An outgrowth of the Shinnyo-en Foundation’s Infinite Paths to Peace initiative, the 2016-17 fellows chose year-long community engagement projects with a diverse range of partners—from statewide STEM promotion in schools to documentary filmmaking to supporting the growth of local small businesses and working in a therapeutic center with children.

Fellows were mentored on campus by CCE Director Julie Hurst, of Campus Engagement (above, center), for reflection and to process both the challenges and the joys of their capstone year of service.
JOSÉ CHALIT HERNANDEZ, ‘17
Majors | Theology/Religious Studies and Film Studies

Project | Creation of films on masculinity and local migrant worker community

“I firmly believe that the only way to develop deep compassion is to interact with people on all levels of ethnicity, language, culture, age or any difference imaginable. In a few words, I have been meditating all year about what it means to engage with ‘the other’ and I believe that to truly build compassion we need to interrogate otherness in every aspect of our lives. This is what [my film] Steve & Robert is about, too. My film, about reshaping male relationships, addresses a need for the Catholic church and older generations—particularly white men—to talk about gender in order to better support LGBTQ+ communities around the world.”

COLLEEN DONOVAN, ‘17  Major | Accounting

Project | Small business program with Seattle U Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

“I’ve been working in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center to help pilot a program that places students into working relationships with local businesses. And to also work within local businesses to get a better idea of what the business needs and what the students can provide so that the department can build a better relationship with business partners. The community is what enabled me to feel supported in whatever work I chose to do. It is with that support that I could explore what the starting point of my path to peace is and how I could support others in exploring the opportunities available to use both their business skills and their passion for service. I was taught what I think is the most important lesson for everyone to learn in college: that everyone’s path is different and that if you surround yourself with people with the same values your work will always be meaningful.”

NATALIE LUCEY, ‘17  Major | Humanities for Teaching
Minor | Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Project | Childhaven Classroom Assistant

“My initial goal was to assist in Childhaven’s mission ‘to break the cycle of abuse’, while gaining a deeper understanding of the power of love.... Throughout my time at Childhaven I learned how to treat all kids with the same care and attention as well as to reserve my judgment to accept families as they are. At Childhaven, everyone is learning—the kids, the families, the teachers, the volunteers and most definitely, me. I find a great need for this work because children this young are growing, learning and absorbing information rapidly and it is our job at Childhaven to ensure that they receive the support they need to grow up happy and healthy. Childhaven truly saves lives and I am grateful to have been a part of that.”

ARMAND SHAHBAZIAN, ‘17
Major | Electrical Engineering  Minor | Mathematics

Project | Washington STEM Innovation and Computer Science Initiative

“I am a member of the Innovation and Computer Science Initiative teams at Washington STEM. Washington STEM is a Seattle-based nonprofit that strives to advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education for all students. The organization pays particular attention to populations that continue to be placed at greater disparities—primarily students of color, women and students who live in rural communities. My fellowship experience was very transformative. It allowed me to experience working in a new and different field on a project that is very crucial for the well-being of students in Washington state. I was also able to draw on my different skills as an engineer and a student to provide a new perspective that wasn’t present at the organization before. Additionally, my work has inspired me to continue working with the organization after graduation and to continue pursuing education policy work to advance STEM education for those most in need.”
**CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### BY the NUMBERS

**ConnectSU**

24/7 access for both Seattle U students and community partners to find each other.

ConnectSU is an online platform of service opportunities, community partners, events and more. Powered by OrgSync, community partners are provided with space to post their needs and upcoming public events and serves as a digital tracking system for Seattle U student service hours and evaluations.

**TOTAL USERS**

- 3,639
- 30,360 service hours reported
- 140 organization portals
- 30 faculty course portals
- 500 events posted
- 143 average users per day

### SERVICE-LEARNING

CCE-supported service-learning courses receive logistical support, including community partner matching, training, tracking and evaluating student participation.

- 756
- Seattle U students registered for a CCE-supported position in the community.
  - Campus-wide: 191 instructors taught 429 course sections with a service-learning component.
  - 3 in 4 graduating Seattle U seniors took a service-learning course.

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- **Jumpstart**
  - Jumpstart is a national early education organization working toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. We provide language, literacy and social-emotional programming for preschool children from under-resourced communities and promote quality early learning for all children.
  - 37 SU Students participated
  - 11,200 Hours served with 115+ preschoollers
  - 7 classrooms including the program at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School

- **2,025 books for local families**

- **3,639**

- **30,360 service hours reported**

- **140 organization portals**

- **30 faculty course portals**

- **500 events posted**

- **143 average users per day**

- **756**

- **Seattle U students registered for a CCE-supported position in the community.**
  - Campus-wide: 191 instructors taught 429 course sections with a service-learning component.
  - 3 in 4 graduating Seattle U seniors took a service-learning course.

- **Bailey Bears Read at Home**
  - Each quarter the family engagement team hosts a family literacy event to celebrate a love of learning and reading. Each Pre-K, kindergarten and first grader receive five books per event/distribution to build their at-home library—a grand total of more than:

- **124 families**

- **1,214**

- **Family Engagement Programs reached through a wide-range of programs including skill building for parents and families connected to local schools.**

- **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

  - **FAMILY TALK TIME** hosted 84 instructional hours of free English in 56 sessions for 22 parent and family participants.

  - **Computer Literacy** provided 42 total hours of free computer instruction in 21 sessions for 22 adults.

  - **Strengthening Families** provided support for 16 parent participants and 18 youth through a multi-week seminar.

  - **Read and Rise** provided nine total hours of at-home literacy skill development for 11 parent participants and 15 youth.

  - **Bailey Bears Read at Home**

  - Each quarter the family engagement team hosts a family literacy event to celebrate a love of learning and reading. Each Pre-K, kindergarten and first grader receive five books per event/distribution to build their at-home library—a grand total of more than:

- **84 instructional hours of free English in 56 sessions for 22 parent and family participants.**

- **42 total hours of free computer instruction in 21 sessions for 22 adults.**

- **Provided support for 16 parent participants and 18 youth through a multi-week seminar.**

- **Provided nine total hours of at-home literacy skill development for 11 parent participants and 15 youth.**

- **This past year Family Engagement Programs reached through a wide-range of programs including skill building for parents and families connected to local schools.**

- **Photo: Chelsey Smith**
LIGHTING UP LITERACY
WITH SUYI’S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Under the umbrella of the Seattle University Youth Initiative, our Family Engagement Program is built on a dual-capacity model for students, parents and their teachers. Parents learn how to better advocate for their children, teachers understand the cultural context of richly diverse families in our neighborhood and children are supported to excel as scholars, both in class and at home.

Our commitment to growing literacy begins with books. Three literacy kit distribution events through the Bailey Bears Read at Home program are held annually at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School—150 students in kindergarten through first grade each receiving $100 worth of reading materials for their at-home libraries. The materials are intentionally matched at each student’s reading level and aim to be culturally relevant.

A new pilot program, Read and Rise, is a national scholastic literacy initiative that promotes home and school partnerships. Introduced this past spring, the program reinforces the critical role that family members play for young scholars as their first and most important teachers. Over a six week series, participants meet with a facilitator, who is also a Bailey Gatzert parent, to learn key concepts including storytelling, exploring fun ways to build literacy skills and identifying cultural traditions that positively reinforce literacy. Youth second through fifth grade are in a simultaneous weekly literacy circle with related interactive activities hosted by Seattle U student employees.

Literacy goes beyond the printed page in family programming with free computer literacy classes. Parents participating in Family Talk Time, a drop-in English-language learning series, have the option to extend class time on computers. A technology matching grant through the City of Seattle awarded to the Coalition for Refugees of Burma enabled a partnership to host a series of computer literacy classes last year. The success of the initial pilot program led to an ongoing supporter of the Youth Initiative donating funds for the purchase of 20 new laptops for parent use.

This coming year, the Family Engagement Team will continue to grow efforts to provide families access to resources that will better equip them to support their students academically and reinforce the home-to-school connection.

Family Engagement, Family Talk Time: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUwP7vm4tQM
THRIVING COMMUNITIES

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC EQUITY THROUGH SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOOD ENTREPRENEURS

Have you experienced firsthand the energy of an entrepreneur? People driven to build their own businesses have a hum about them—balancing innovation and logistics to launch their dreams successfully. Supporting the goals of the Seattle University Youth Initiative, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) in the Albers School of Business and Economics matches the skills, interests and talents of students, faculty and alumni with local business owners in the Central District, Yesler Terrace and the Chinatown-International District. The mutual energy is invigorating in this new Resource Amplification & Management Program (RAMP-up).

The program envisions a vibrant, connected Central Area neighborhood with a diversity of locally owned businesses that strengthen the ethnic, social and economic fabric of the community. Trained student teams work with local business clients and seasoned business mentors to build trust over time. It’s a win-win-win: Seattle U students receive solid experiential learning for their careers, the university creates deeper connections with the neighborhoods bordering its campus and local businesses gain access to university resources.

For many clients who have been historically under-resourced and faced generations of discrimination, RAMP-up can be a launch pad for further growth and development. And the success of these local business owners contributes to the vibrant neighborhoods encompassing the Seattle University Youth Initiative.

The RAMP-up team also offers these services to qualified nonprofits and other organizations that are currently servicing Central Area businesses in areas such as marketing, fundraising, volunteer and intern management and leadership development. Over the past year, RAMP-up has served dozens of local businesses and these supporting organizations.

“Partnerships between university business schools and businesses are not new. What sets RAMP apart is its emphasis on accountability over time. Participating businesses can count on a dedicated SU team over a longer, more strategic time frame.”

DORIS KOO, Yesler Community Collaborative Director

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CCE has 150 community partners throughout Seattle including 60 Seattle University Youth Initiative partners (several are highlighted on the SUYI map to the left).
Shelby Hackney, ’19, a Seattle U junior and active participant in the Seattle University Youth Initiative, has long envisioned bringing Bailey Gatzert students to Seattle U for a day of games and fun. In early May, after six months of planning with staff and students in the Seattle U Rec Sports department, Shelby and her committed team of volunteers organized a day of games, campus scavenger hunts and live taiko performances for Bailey Gatzert students and their families. For many it was their first time exploring campus. Shelby explained her vision: “The intention of having SU mentors help Gatzert students understand the fun and importance of living active lifestyles while inviting them and their families to our campus... thus the Bailey Gatzert–Seattle U bond will be strengthened.”

See Gatzert Game Day Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtBklF8fpzM
AMERICORPS IMPACT

Our AmeriCorps members are vital to reaching the goals of supporting successful youth and families and connecting Seattle U students to the local neighborhood. The intensive service projects that the center’s AmeriCorps members facilitate build the capacity of Seattle University Youth Initiative (SUYI) school and family partners while providing Seattle University students with career and life skills. More than 80,000 people participate in AmeriCorps programs nationally. CCE’s five AmeriCorps members served through the Washington Service Corps and the Campus Compact College Access Corps.

RACHAEL LINDEN, ’15 | Bailey Gatzert Elementary School

Rachael Linden started working with youth at Bailey Gatzert through a service-learning class her sophomore year at Seattle U. Rachael is a natural with kids—her father is a teacher—and the educator gene shines in her ability to connect with students. After graduating with a degree in Environmental Science, Rachael served for two years as an AmeriCorps member working predominantly with grades 2–5.

ROBIN CURRY, ’15 | Bailey Gatzert Elementary School

Robin Curry began volunteering with the Youth Initiative as a freshman in the program Student Leaders for Education Equity. After graduating with a degree in interdisciplinary liberal studies, Robin continued her relationship with CCE by serving as an AmeriCorps member for two years—and a total of six consecutive years at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School, impacting hundreds of young people’s lives in the process. She is now continuing her path in education by pursuing her Master’s in Teaching degree at Seattle University.

RACHEL-ANNE WILLIAMS, ’15 | Washington Middle School

Rachel-Anne Williams participated in nearly every student leadership program through the Center for Community Engagement as an undergraduate. This included serving as a peer facilitator in the SUYI seminar and as a Shinnyo Fellow. As a Campus Compact College Access AmeriCorps member, Rachel-Anne helped grow the Youth Initiative at Washington Middle School where she served two years as a one-on-one mentor and coordinator of the Redhawk Academic Mentoring Program.

Seattle U students served at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School providing 3,145 hours of one-on-one and small group time together.

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

BOOK DONATIONS

$953

MONEY RAISED

$1,210

More than

70

Seattle U students involved in programs at Washington Middle School received intensive training around anti-racism and culturally responsive practice, providing more than 936 hours of one-on-one mentoring and classroom assistance.

The afterschool program added 140 hours to the school year for each middle school student participating in project-based learning.
JOE ARGUINCHONA, ’16 | Garfield High School

As a Bannan Scholar in the College of Science and Engineering, Joe Arguinchona learned about the Youth Initiative as a freshman. He volunteered in SUYI partner schools for all four years as an undergrad. After graduation he served as a Campus Compact College Access AmeriCorps member at Garfield High School organizing Seattle U student volunteers to provide college access coaching and academic support. Joe is now attending Creighton University School of Medicine.

CHELSEY SMITH | Family Engagement Program

Chelsey Smith has served as an AmeriCorps member working with the CCE Family Engagement Program. A transfer student to Seattle U, Chelsey quickly found the center and embraced our mission-driven programs. From parenting classes to computer skills sessions to coordinating campuswide food drives, she has helped the center reach 124 families this past year. She will continue her service with the Seattle University Youth Initiative next year with a second year of AmeriCorps.
One of the central ways that the Center for Community Engagement connects the campus to the community is through partnerships with Seattle University faculty. Over the past year, several hundred faculty creatively designed courses and research projects to respond to community identified needs. Many of these efforts focused on the geographic area of the Seattle University Youth Initiative including Yesler Terrace, the Chinatown-International District and the Central District. The 2016-2017 CCE faculty programs included:

- **Academic Service-Learning Faculty Fellows**: Engaging six faculty in a year-long cohort program that explores the theory and practice of service-learning.
- **Community Engagement Justice Fellows**: Mobilizing 10 faculty members to explore issues related to race, power and privilege through an eight-part seminar.
- **Community Engaged Research Fellows**: Providing two faculty with course release time or summer funding to pursue community-engaged research.
- **Community Immersions**: Introducing 34 faculty and staff to CCE partnerships and specific community issues through four multi-day experiences focusing on topics such as public health, homelessness, early learning and refugee and immigrant issues.

In the upcoming year, CCE will introduce several additional faculty activities including a series of workshops on Community Based Participatory Research and a senior fellows program highlighting exemplary community engaged faculty.
OUR TEAM
2016-2017

CCE STAFF
AyeNay Abye
Colina Barlow, ’07, ’15
Erin Burrows
Barbara Dolby
Helen Gerety
Sally Haber, ’07
Julie Hurst
Kent Koth
Jaime Macadangdang
Lulu Miles
Selamawit Misgano
Bonnie Nelson
Elizabeth O’Brien, ’06
Tammy Shadair, ’09
Aileah Slepski
Rachael Steward
Darozyl Touch, ’14

AMERICORPS MEMBERS
Joe Arguinchona, ’16
Robin Curry, ’15
Rachael Linden, ’15
Chelsey Smith, ’15
Rachel-Anne Williams, ’15

STUDENT EMPLOYEES
Kriztel De Vera, ’18
Colleen Donovan, ’17
Robert Duggan, ’17
Nancy Huang, ’18
Kareen Kanjo, ’17
Zachary Kramer, ’18
Bianca Meza, ’18
Sadie Nelson, ’17
Kayla Ng, ’19
Michael Nin, ’20
Kathleen Sebastian, ’18
Caroline Umukobwa, ’18
Veronika Zwicke, ’18

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Cameron Casey, ’19
David Cumpston, ’19
Anna Fernandez, ’17
Nicole Freitas, ’18
Tess Honan, ’18
Natalie Lucey, ’17
Sarah Miller, ’17
Doni Uyeno, ’18

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Jamie Zemrbuski (Community Collaborative Group, LLC and Social Venture Partners)

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