COLLABORATIVE RECOGNIZED AS NASPA SILVER AWARD WINNER

In 2018, The Collaborative was recognized as the Silver Award Winner for the Civic Learning, Democratic Engagement, Service-Learning, Community Service, and related category for the NASPA Excellence Awards. Nationally, three total winners are selected at a bronze, silver, or gold level. The Collaborative was recognized as a program that promotes the education of students for engaged citizenship through democratic participation in their communities, respect and appreciation of diversity, applied learning, and social responsibility. Additionally, the Collaborative was identified as having improved institutional culture, policy and practice and to have prepared students for active citizenship, and active participation in our nation’s democracy.

COLLABORATIVE COHORT COORDINATES 7,747 HOURS OF SERVICE FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

Twenty-five Program Managers and Service Supervisors served as volunteer leads to recruit, guide and support the service experiences of 1,790 students, staff, and community members (total), with 1,447 unique participants completing 7,747 hours of service in support of 100 nonprofit organizations. The total number of volunteers was 30% higher than the previous academic year and unique participation increased by 50%. The economic impact of those volunteering during the 2017-2018 academic year was $154,295.20.

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY (CGI U) COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Three Collaborative students attended the Clinton Global Initiative University at Northeastern University in Boston, MA, to share their Commitment to Action: The Collaborative Residential Winterization Initiative. The Commitment to Action aims to improve the energy efficiency in the homes of low-income neighborhoods of Omaha, Nebraska. The students are leveraging relationships with university student volunteers and local nonprofit partners to provide low-cost winterization upgrades to 25 homes in the North Omaha neighborhood. Prior to attending the conference, the students completed a pilot study of their commitment.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

CASSANDRA GRIFFIN
SERVICE SUPERVISOR, PLANNED PARENTHOOD

“During my time at the Collaborative, I have gained a number of new skills and experiences. As a Service Supervisor within the Collaborative, I was given the opportunity to act as an Advocacy and Organizing intern with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Through the organization I have helped recruit and sustain volunteers, research policy, engage the community, and fight for healthcare funding through both Title X and the Medicaid expansion ballot initiative. This experience has truly given me the tools I need to pursue a career in advocacy and made me even more passionate about the value of community organizing.”

PARKER JENSEN
PROGRAM MANAGER, OMAHA STREET SCHOOL

“The Collaborative has given an opportunity to serve with the Omaha Street School, a non-profit empowering at-risk youth through education. As a Program Manager, I gained experience creating, planning, and implementing a critical thinking curriculum for graduates of the Omaha Street School in a new program called GAP U. Through this work, I improved my own critical and creative thinking and noticed significant improvements in my confidence and ability to deal with uncertainty in the workplace and at school. I have even been able to exploit my strengths as a computer science major through my work with the Omaha Street School. This fall, I will work to implement a technology component to the GAP U curriculum and digitize the monthly magazine created by the Omaha Street School.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cassandra Griffin, Service Supervisor with the Collaborative was selected as the 2018 Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing their communities.

Dan Shipp, Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Kristina Cammarano, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Haroon Singh, Program Coordinator for the Collaborative presented Launching an Electronic Portfolio Initiative to Advance Student Success, at the NASPA Region IV Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska and at the NASPA National Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
COLLABORATIVE
STUDENT PROFILES

MUSTAPHA BARRY
Program Manager
Economic Sufficiency
Banjul, Gambia
Social Work & Public Health, MSW, MPA, 2020

NATHAN JOHNSON
Program Manager
Latina Center of the Midlands
Economic Sufficiency
Omaha, NE
Political Science & Sociology, 2020

JENNIFER HULA
Program Manager
No More Empty Pots
Economic Sufficiency
Bellevue, NE
Gerontology, 2019

NICO LINDELL
Service Supervisor
WhyArts?
Educational Support
Omaha, NE
Speech Language Pathology, 2021

ISABELLA LOMBARDO
Service Supervisor
Sustainable Oceans Alliance
Environmental Stewardship
Omaha, NE
Environmental Science, 2018

MELISSA RAMOS
Program Manager
Upward Bound Math & Science
Educational Support
Omaha, NE
Civil Engineering, 2020

NATALIA WARD
Program Manager
No More Empty Pots
Environmental Stewardship
Anaheim, CA
Foreign Languages & Literature, 2018

HANNAH CORNWELL
Program Manager
Civic Nebraska
Educational Support
Biology, 2021

CASPER JONES
Service Supervisor
Hope Center for Kids
International Service
Bellevue, NE
International Studies, 2020

PARKER JENSEN
Program Manager
Omaha Street School
Educational Support
Lincoln, NE
Computer Science, 2020

ABIGAYLE HANSEN
Program Manager
Urban Bird & Nature Alliance
Environmental Stewardship
Papillion, NE
Biology, 2020

CECILIA SAAVEDRA
Program Manager
No More Empty Cups
Environmental Stewardship
Glendale, CA
IT Innovation, 2020

ALEJANDRA INIGUEZ GOMEZ
Program Manager
Health & Wellness
Lompoc, CA
Foreign Languages & Literature, 2019

KELSEY WAGNER
Service Supervisor
QLI
Health & Wellness
Omaha, NE
Speech Language Pathology, 2020

SADIQ ALABBAS
Program Manager
Refugee Empowerment Center
International Service
Alhais, Saudi Arabia
Educational Administration, Ed.D, 2018

YOUSEF AWWAD
Program Manager
Refugee Empowerment Center
International Service
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Biology, 2019

EMILY REESE
Program Manager
Reading Drive for Africa
International Service
Papillion, NE
Public Administration, MPA, 2019

ALI ALGHAIHITHI
Program Manager
S.E.H.R. Mission
International Service
Sohar, Oman
Mathematics, 2019

CASSANDRA GRIFFIN
Program Manager
Islamic Center of Omaha
Social Justice
Bellevue, NE
Political Science, 2020

COLLABORATIVE
STUDENT PROFILES

ABDULLAH ALLAHYANI
Program Manager
Islamic Center of Omaha
Social Justice
Mecca, Saudi Arabia
Business Administration, 2019
STUDENT PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Cassandra Griffin
Service Supervisor
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

As a Legislative Intern, Cassandra Griffin managed a program to grow Planned Parenthood’s base of supporters in Omaha and surrounding areas. Cassandra is responsible for hosting events, recruiting volunteers and designing programs to promote legislative projects.

Parker Jensen
Program Manager
Omaha Street School

As the Program Coordinator for GAP U, Parker develops curriculum for the literacy and life skills programs. He is responsible for administering the created content. Additionally, Parker supports Omaha Street School by working to recruit vocational training partners.

Natalija Ward
Program Manager
Upward Bound

As the STEM Intern for the Benson High school after school program, Nata is responsible for developing math and science curriculum to support after school programming. Nata also provides assessment and evaluation support for the program.

In an effort to assist with recruiting new students and non-profit partners, a short video illustrating the purpose and impact of the Collaborative was created.

DIGITAL E-PORTFOLIOS
To view each e-portfolio, select the name of the student.

ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY
Nathan Johnson
Jennifer Hula
Mustapha Barry

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
Nico Lindell
Natalija Ward
Hannah Cornwell
Parker Jensen

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Cassandra Griffin
Abdullah Allahyani

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Kelsey Wagner
Alejandra Iniguez Gomez

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Isabella Lombardo
Abigayle Hansen
Cecilia Saavedra
Melissa Ramos

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
Casey Jones
Sadiq Alabbas
Yousef Awwad
Emily Reese
Ali Alghaithi
January 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Omaha Street School has benefited greatly from its association with the Collaborative at UNO. Our partnership with the Collaborative definitely helped move our GAP U program (for recent high school graduates) forward faster than we could have done on our own. In addition, we benefited from the Collaborative's Service Days, and had a couple of groups clean our school building!

Parker Jensen, our UNO Collaborative intern, was a tremendous asset for the GAP U program. He helped formalize the GAP U curriculum and designed and taught critical thinking activities to the participants.

Parker learned to work with and communicate with at-risk high school graduates. He also prepared lesson plans for critical thinking activities. In addition, Parker honed his leadership skills by presenting activities in front of a group and learned to keep students focused on the tasks at hand.

We are very grateful for the relationship we have with the Collaborative and would welcome another intern.

Sincerely,

Linda Reimer
Executive Director