

Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS)

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Introduction

Established in 2008, the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) aims to develop a culture of service and civic leadership within the AUB community and provide opportunities for AUB students, faculty, and staff from all backgrounds to study and respond to social and civic needs. The Center identifies, integrates, and supports university-wide community initiatives, thus upholding AUB's mission of service towards its community.

The main objective of the Center is to seek connections between civic engagement and liberal learning and encourage leadership, scholarship, volunteerism, and community partnerships by: promoting the integration of service to society with academic study and research in a variety of disciplines; encouraging responsibility and leadership through outreach volunteering programs; building sustainable collaborations and creating close links with the community.

Approach

To fulfill its mission, CCECS has adopted Community Service Outreach Activities, Community-Based Projects and Research, and Community-Based Learning (or Service Learning) which is an academic type of experiential learning combining service with explicit academic learning objectives, preparation for community work, and deliberate reflection. This is achieved by structuring the CCECS into three main service units:

Community Outreach Projects unit (COPu) that aims to organize a strong outreach volunteering program, link with students' organizations, and reach out to administrative units and academic departments to expand community engagement across campus.

Community Development Projects unit (CDPu) that aims to initiate and/or support inter/multi-disciplinary community-based research and community development projects.

Community-Based Learning unit (CBLu) that aims to integrate the service activities of the Center into academic programs and develop service or community-based learning across the university.

A research, documentation, and media hub supports the Center and its various units and provides resources on civic engagement to the public.

The Center's main focus is on education, public health, the environment, urban and rural sustainable development, philanthropy, and social justice.

Partners

The Center works with AUB departments, faculty, centers, and student organizations, and with a growing list of community partners including governmental and non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities throughout Lebanon. It supports the Tomorrow's Leaders program under the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the University Scholarship Program (USP) by providing community service opportunities to students in the programs and developing service learning at AUB. CCECS also collaborates with centers and institutes within the region and around the world which share a mutual commitment to community service and its implementation through Community-Based Learning. Through the Center, AUB is a founding member of the Ma'an Arab University Alliance, and a member of the Talloires Global Network of Universities and Campus Compact. It is also a partner with nine other universities from Europe, Jordan, and Lebanon on a TEMPUS EU-supported project to develop service-learning and civic engagement partnerships across the curriculum. CCECS also receives donations and funds from various collaborators who support and partner on its various community activities and projects.

Volunteering

CCECS seeks to establish and maintain an active volunteering program at AUB, whereby students mainly, but also faculty and staff, can identify opportunities and options to be involved in projects that best satisfy their aspirations, match their expertise, and respond to critical societal needs. These events and activities involve volunteers with the community at large, and inspire them to develop a relationship with those in need. For more information on volunteering opportunities, contact the Center at ccecs@aub.edu.lb.