

**Davidson College Center for Civic Engagement
Community-based Research Initiative
Summer 2021**

Call for Mentors – Proposals Due January 15, 2021

Community-based research (CBR) is “a form of investigation in which the question to be studied arises from the needs of a group of individuals, such as undocumented workers or people who are homeless; from a concern of a nonprofit organization; or from the interwoven social challenges a geographic or other type of community faces (Beckman & Long, 2016, p. 1).” Over the past 10 years, the Center for Civic Engagement at Davidson has played a central role in several community needs assessments and facilitated community-based research projects through academic courses in partnership with faculty. In 2010, the Associate Dean served on the advisory board for the Lake Norman Area Community Needs Assessment; the Center engaged students and faculty in ongoing updates to the 2010 structure in 2014 and 2018.

In the summer of 2021, the Center for Civic Engagement and faculty in the Hurt Hub’s Data CATS program piloted a community research fellows program that engaged students in place-based research in partnership with local, community leaders. The goals for summer 2020 were to:

- Launch the program with a broad community needs assessment to serve as the basis for future, in-depth research on key areas identified in the assessment
- Develop the curricular and relational infrastructure for the program in partnership with the community

As a result of the pilot program, the following outcomes were achieved:

- Updated a community needs assessment framework from an original 2010 assessment and subsequent updates utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods
- Delivered a [final summary report](#) to community leaders, and committed to updating the assessment on a consistent cycle
- Developed an [interactive data dashboard](#) that is accessible to the community. (html files in final stages of remediation)
- Developed a [comprehensive library guide](#) that centralizes existing community research in the greater Charlotte area and is organized by theme on the left-hand navigation bar. This resource can be used to inform course projects, policy, etc.

We are excited to continue the program in the summer 2021 as we dive more deeply into the key themes identified in the needs assessment.

Seeking Faculty Mentor Applications

We are currently seeking proposals for 4 faculty mentor positions for the summer 2021 program. Faculty mentors:

- Design a community-based research or data project that takes a deep dive into one or more of the key thematic areas identified within summer 2020 needs assessment and in consultation with community advisory board and program co-directors. The general focus areas for summer 2021 will be:
 - Housing

- Early childhood education
- Health
- Examining key outcomes/data identified in the summer report by race, ethnicity and gender and through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens
- As part of an interdisciplinary team including the program directors, select student research fellows from applicant pool
- Inform the curricular infrastructure for the program as research questions dictate
- Meet regularly with selected research fellow (2-3 times per week for an hour or more) each week during the program
- Participate in weekly progress update meetings with all research fellows, mentors, and program directors
- Co-author a final report with research fellow to be posted on the Community Research library guide and/or expanding upon the data dashboard if appropriate
- Participate in closing presentations where final products are shared with community leaders / community advisory board

Program directors, Dr. Stacey Riemer and Dr. Laurie Heyer, support mentors by providing infrastructure for the program including recruitment & selection of scholars, curricular framework for place-based community research, connections to the community advisory board, and organization of program meetings.

Mentors receive a \$3,500 stipend for their mentor role in the 9 week program plus attending 2-3 planning meeting with directors and community partners in the spring semester and a final debrief meeting at the conclusion of the program.

To apply

Submit a two-page proposal outlining two or three potential research questions based on the community needs assessment final report and dashboard. Discuss the intellectual rationale, research methods, and expected impact for each proposed research question. Describe necessary resources, including any technical or data analytics support you might need. Finally, outline a budget for required transportation, supplies or other expected expenditures that you would need the program to cover. **Proposals are due no later than January 15th** via email to Dr. Stacey Riemer and Dr. Laurie Heyer.

Selection

An ad hoc committee consisting of program directors, advisory board members and students will select four projects to be implemented in summer 2021. Selected mentors will refine final research questions in consultation with the ad hoc committee to ensure alignment with community-defined needs.

References

Beckman, M., & Long, J. (Eds.) (2016). *Community-based research: Teaching for community impact*. Sterling, Virginia: Stylus Publishing.

Shah, R. (2020). *Rewriting partnerships: community perspectives on community-based learning*. Louisville, CO: University Press of Colorado.

Yamamura, E., & Koth, K. (2018). *Place-based community engagement in higher education: A strategy to transform universities & communities*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.