University of Wisconsin
Platteville
Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement

The Impact of PACCE

Experience
Grow
Make a Difference
The University of Wisconsin-Platteville continues its tradition of providing high quality, hands-on education and training both inside and outside of the classroom so that students are fully prepared to enter the workforce and pursue their career endeavors. Connections with the community, faculty, industry, government, nonprofit agencies and the international community help the university create outstanding engagement opportunities for its students.

The Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement is a transformative initiative for the campus-wide coordination, integration, and leadership of community-based scholarship of engagement projects. PACCE has funded hundreds of projects since its inception in 2008. Working through a dedicated PACCE liaison, each PACCE project connects a committed UW-Platteville faculty partner and students with a community partner who has a specific need.

PACCE invites students to expand their professional knowledge. But learning through community engagement can teach the student something more. The experience enables the student to understand that he or she can significantly contribute to the solutions of the problems that our society is facing today. That’s an impact that can have far-reaching effect.

—Dr. Kevin Bernhardt, Director of PACCE
Gooseberry Hill LLC, a privately owned cottage and nature preserve, had a need for research that required a unique set of skills and knowledge. According to UW-Platteville’s Dr. Becky Doyle-Morin, “By completing a project for a ‘client’ rather than for a teacher, students get to experience the real-world challenge of approaching a scientific question that is not written for a textbook, and that has direct applications that come with the immediate reward of seeing first-hand how their classroom project made a positive impact in their local community.”

Doyle-Morin explains, “The opportunity to explain their results and brainstorm with community partners in a course setting takes away the potentially intimidating and somewhat elusive concept of ‘being the scientific expert’ at an early stage in their careers. My experience is that those interactions are routinely one of their favorite parts of my courses; they realize how well they need to learn the material in order to explain it to others and find out what we already know as teachers, that sharing your knowledge with interested parties is both incredibly rewarding and fun.”

5,135*

That’s the number of UW-Platteville students who have participated in a PACCE project since the launch of the program. That’s an average of 514 students who have been actively engaged in a PACCE project each semester. *through March 2013

Dawn Lee
PACCE Liaison for the College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture for projects in the fields of agriculture, biology, business and accounting, media studies and industrial studies.
608.342.1616
E-mail: leedaw@uwplatt.edu
World-class art created by UW-Platteville students has been installed both inside and outside the UW-Platteville Real Estate Foundation residence hall, Rountree Commons. Students worked collaboratively and independently on their art pieces over the course of a year.

The works, which were done in a variety of media, such as paint, ceramics, pastel, and metal, range from portable tabletop and wall pieces to 5-foot by 8-foot paintings to a multiple-component stainless steel fish and seaweed installation that covers an entire retaining wall behind the property.

Bruce Howdle, UW-Platteville Art Lecturer and Mineral Point Sculptor, supervised the project, which was made possible by the UW-Platteville Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement in concert with other generous contributors.

As the newest dormitory and dining facility, Bridgeway Commons, is being constructed on campus, another crop of student artwork is in development. Ambitious in scale, pieces for the interior of this large building include freestanding translucent panels, large-scale painted portraiture, abstract bas-relief assemblage, and fiber-based artworks, as well as a cluster of figurative metal sculptures slated to be installed outdoors on the patio.
Dr. Daryl Logan, Professor of mechanical engineering, has a tradition of engaging students in projects that make a difference in the lives of people living with a disability. “The Mechanical Systems Design students have been doing service learning projects since 2008”, says Logan. “The projects involve designing and building adaptive or assistive devices for children and adults with special needs. These service learning projects provide the students with an opportunity not often found in mechanical engineering courses. That is, the selected projects have an inherent characteristic that students are exposed to—that of civic engagement and the development of a sense of responsibility to their community.

Wisconsin Badger Camp has been a long-term PACCE Community Partner. The mission of Wisconsin Badger Camp is to serve people with developmental disabilities by providing quality outdoor recreational experiences. “PACCE collaborating with Wisconsin Badger Camp has allowed us to further engage our campers and allow them to try new and exciting activities that they have not been able to do before,” according to Brent Bowers, Executive Director of Wisconsin Badger Camp. “We are fortunate to have students from UW-Platteville develop and create projects for us. This helps our campers realize their full potential and not be limited by their disability,” he added.
UW-Platteville faculty and students are making an impact in places near and far. Our community partners hail from West Africa; Chicago, Ill.; New Mexico; Milwaukee, Wis.; China; Janesville, Wis.; Minnesota; Belmont, Wis. … and many points in between. For profit, nonprofit, governmental or institutional, our 642 (and counting) community partners have made the vital PACCE connection for our students. The organizational status of a community partner is not important; the opportunity to introduce a challenge that extends a student’s academic training outside the formal classroom and outside the textbook assignment is what matters.

Students in UW-Platteville’s Chinese Business Practices and Cultures course traveled to China for 15 days. Faculty partner, Louis Nzegwu, explains that the class trip was designed to help students develop an understanding of China, the world’s fastest growing economy. Students saw first-hand, the relationship between business and culture. “You cannot learn about a culture fully from a textbook. You have to get yourself immersed in the culture; experience it and be able to understand the richness of such a country with thousands of years of history,” said Nzegwu.

I learned that China’s business industry is growing quickly and there is definitely a grand opportunity for American businesses to make money in China. Chinese nationals are very interested in purchasing goods that we have to offer, said UW-Platteville senior, Ashlee Hilton-Bean.

*through March 2013
The Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement Engagement Internship Program provides reimbursement to businesses and organizations that have the need for a student intern, but do not have the capacity to pay an intern. This program has funded internships for 99 UW-Platteville students. For eligibility requirements, see our website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce.

*through September 2012*
SEMI-ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT POSTER DAY

After completing their service learning projects, students present their projects to their clients, to their fellow students, to UW-Platteville faculty and administration, and to the general public at Engagement Poster Day. Held at the end of each semester (April and December), the dissemination of the students’ work is an important component of their learning experience. This is a celebratory day for the faculty and students who look forward to sharing their stories and the results of their semester-long PACCE projects.

All are welcome to attend. This is an inspiring opportunity to see first-hand the types of projects that are making a difference with our students … and in our communities. Refer to our website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce for location/dates/times.
Behind every PACCE experience is a great story.

Kevin Bernhardt, Director of PACCE

www.uwplatt.edu/pacce | 608.342.6121 | pacce@uwplatt.edu