



Note from CCI Director

We have just completed our first full year as the Center for Civic Innovation. It has been a busy and exciting year of welcoming new faculty affiliates and community partners. We have worked together on ongoing projects, as well as written research proposals to federal and private foundations for new projects, that address pressing issues for St. Joseph and Elkhart counties. Through our participation in the Metrolab Network, we've shared ideas with researchers and community partners in other cities across the country. In addition, our summer internship program was our largest yet, with 54 interns in South Bend (BCe2 and We2) and Elkhart (Elkhart Catalyst). We want to thank our mentors for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay Brockman, Director



Now in its fifth year, the Center for Civic Innovation's internship program, E2, follow the community-engaged educational ecosystem model (C-EEEM) wherein interns work with community organizations, city government, and several local educational institutions to collaborate on creative solutions to community issues and bring about positive change. E2 and its extensions tackles projects which require multi-disciplinary approaches, capitalizing on the strengths of strategic partnerships.

BY THE NUMBERS

KEY STATISTICS FROM 2018-19

60 STUDENTS HIRED

60 students held an internship across our three sites and contributed positively to our region. Interns came from 16 different schools, and 16 different majors, totaling over 14,000 hours of project work!



8 BUSINESS IDEAS

8 Business Ideas were submitted signifying potential entrepreneurship opportunities available in our community in collaboration with the IDEA Center at Notre Dame. Business ideas ranged from a stormwater disconnect tool to a care network for reintegration.



50+ MENTORS

Over 50 mentors participated in our internship program, representing 25 organizations regionally! Mentors aid students with subject matter expertise and coaching, a hallmark of our programs.



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR
2020 SUMMER INTERNSHIP
VISIT

CIVICINNOVATION.NDEDU/INTERNSHIP-PROGRAM

Academic Year Courses and Capstone Projects

Home and Dome Class at the University of Notre Dame
Dr. Danielle Wood & Dr. Mat Sisk

Sustainability and Resilience Capstone Project at the University of Notre Dame

Finnian Cavanaugh, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Walsh

Humans and the Environment, Latino and African American Civil Rights Movements at Indiana University South Bend

Dr. Monica Tetzlaff

Digital Electronics at Riley High School (11th grade)

Mr. Ben Brubaker

Civil Engineering and Architecture at Riley High School (11th grade)

Mr. Terry Tonkel

E2 Bud Ahearn Leadership Award

For the second year, the Center for Civic Innovation (CCI) presented the E2 Bud Ahearn Leadership Award at the 2019 E2 Final Presentations on June 1, 2019. Last year, the Bud Ahearn Leadership Award was created to remember and honor one of our dear friends and E2 supporter who is no longer with us, Bud Ahearn, and to recognize an outstanding student (or 2) who has exemplified the values and qualities that Bud used as his guiding principles. What really stood out about Bud, and consequently was used as criteria for this award, was his dedication to leadership, integrity, selflessness, and service to others, including the importance of community engaged work. Bud also exhibited a sincere enthusiasm and commitment to fostering meaningful relationships. This year, the award presented an opportunity to showcase two outstanding interns: **Finnian Cavanaugh** and **Kira Pratico**.

Finnian Cavanaugh

- Hometown: Oak Park, IL
- Rising senior, civil engineering major, University of Notre Dame
- 2nd year at E2
- Part of the Environmental Data Lab team



(Photography by Jacob Titus, courtesy of Stonehill College)

“I think when I first started here I sort of assumed the talk about an ecosystem just meant we were literally working on environmental issues, which I suppose is still true. But what we’re really getting at is the ecosystem of mentors and partners and interns we have here.” — Finnian Cavanaugh



(Photography by Ashley B.)

Kira Pratico

- Hometown: South Bend, IN
- Rising sophomore, business major, University of Florida
- 1st year at E2
- Part of the inaugural LaSalle Park Community Development team

“Our summer was not simply thinking and speaking of the opportunity that exists in these communities, but taking action. Action that is centered around conversation and immersing ourselves in the unique ecosystem that every neighborhood creates. — Kira Pratico

BCe2

In its fifth year, the Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem, which was once a project focused singularly on environmental sustainability, now has a larger breadth and depth of projects surrounding quality of life issues.

1

Environmental Data Lab

The goal of the environmental data lab teams was to integrate a weather monitoring station at Riley High School and Bowman Creek, install creek flow monitoring sensors, and beautify the area. The data collected from both the weather station and sensors will be used by both City departments and educators at local high schools for an environmental outdoor classroom experience.

2

Stormwater Management Project

The mission of the stormwater management team was to develop a mechanism to categorize commercial buildings in the City of South Bend in order to better analyze the current commercial stormwater landscape. In order for more buildings to adopt green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), a cost effective protocol was created to estimate costs and long lasting benefits of choosing a greener solution.

3

SE Community Development Project

The Southeast Community Development team worked closely with 466 Works to organize a cohesive home buying process and marketing strategy for five new homes in the neighborhood. Marketing material was developed including a neighborhood website (SoutheastSb.com), brochure, banner, and stickers. With plans for the United Way Early Childhood Development Center planning for 2020, the team researched various cost estimates and design plans for the future natural playground to be included in the plans.

4

Safe and Healthy Homes Project

The goal of the safe and healthy homes team was to further develop effective and low cost methods of conducting lead paint tests to reduce the risk of lead dust exposure. The team utilized methods such as vacuum HEPA filters, wiping window sills, wiping contaminated shoes on doormats, water line mulching, among other protocols on seven homes in the South Bend area.

5

The CARE Network for Reintegration Project

The mission for the CARE Network for reintegration project was to interview members of the community that use or are in need of social services related to reintegration. After the interview and research process, the team presented design recommendations for the CARE Network, a new way to refer to social services for members trying to reintegrate into society.

We2

In its second year, the Westside Educational Ecosystem doubled in size and worked on projects focused on community development, urban sustainability, local historical documentation, and technology development.

1

Urban Sustainability and Resiliency Project

The mission of the urban sustainability team was to prepare for the planting of 500 trees on vacant lots in the next year. The group was able to acquire eleven new vacant lots for future Native Tree nurseries and assemble, trench, and mark an irrigation system for an existing nursery on Allen Street. Existing tree nurseries were inventoried and graphed to measure their health and size, along with a number of educational materials.

2

LaSalle Park Community Development Project

The goal of the LaSalle Park team was to develop relationships with neighborhood stakeholders, collaborated with the City of South Bend, and

connect residents to resources. By connecting neighborhood stakeholders with existing resources throughout the city, the team has been able to engage community potential in a way that will eventually create lasting benefits for the LaSalle Park Neighborhood.

3

Westside Community Development Project

The Westside Community Development team sought out and initiated conversations with neighbors and key community members. The team sought to identify barriers and bridge gaps between residents and resources through community events, canvassing, and advocacy. This project included translating code enforcement documents for the City of South Bend and organizing a community clean-up and mulching service project at Harrison Elementary.

4

Historic Resources and Technology Project

This project has laid groundwork that will lead to the development of a youth education program covering the basics of computer chip architecture, nanophotolithography, and the intersection of these topics with art. The intern team was involved in collecting several oral histories, completed the nanophotolithography procedure and created an electrically functioning chip.

Elkhart Catalyst

In its second year, the Elkhart Catalyst Educational Ecosystem tripled in size and featured a 2:1 ratio of high school to college students. Interns worked on projects relating to topics ranging from environmental urban sustainability to neighborhood connection and vibrancy.

1

Elkhart River Data Lab Project

The purpose of this project was to design a system to collect data from the Elkhart River before and after the reduction of the low-head dam along Waterfall Drive. The stage sensor has been installed, and the Arduino monitoring system will be implemented into the Elkhart Central High School curriculum for environmental science classes, where students can report and view the data in a community-accessible database.

2

Neighborhood Connectivity Project

The mission of the neighborhood connectivity project was to place WiFi in underserved neighborhoods in the City of Elkhart. The Mary Beck Neighborhood and the surrounding parks were selected for the pilot program. Currently, there are fiber optic lines near Mary Beck as well as several stop lights that we can use to create a broad area of WiFi connection.

3

Urban Sustainability and Resiliency Project

The goal of the urban sustainability project was to redevelop the lot to be used as an educational playground and be a hands-on educational experience for surrounding urban residents. Students worked closely with Jamison Czarnecki, Director of EEC to formulate ideas, engage the community, and develop a budget. The team delivered a comprehensive plan including a 3D digital model, budget, and potential funding options.

4

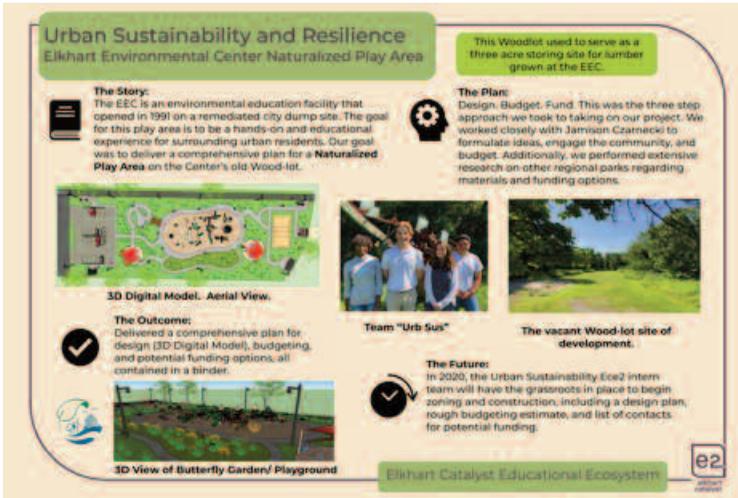
Elkhart Sustainable Transport Project

The goal of the sustainable transportation team was to promote bike and pedestrian safety/accessibility in Elkhart County community. Through insights from the survey, a brochure was created to increase awareness for cyclists, inform residents of the City of Elkhart's bike and pedestrian laws, and safety tips. Additional reflective lights for backpacks, helmets, and other cycling materials were also distributed to increase safety in our community.

5

Vacant Lot Mapping and Solutions Project

The mission of the vacant lot mapping and solutions project was to identify possible future development sites by mapping vacant lot conditions in the Tolson and Sterling East neighborhoods. The data from our project will be used by the city to investigate housing development in Tolson and develop green space in the Sterling East floodplain.



Thank you to our partners!

Elkhart Catalyst Urban Sustainability and Resilience final presentation poster

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E2 VISION
 Engaged People,
 Thriving Communities

E2 MISSION
 "To strengthen cities and improve engaged learning by drawing on diversity and partnerships for creative community initiatives."