



CCI Internship Program Annual Report 2021

## Note from CCI Director

Our thoughts are with all who have experienced suffering and loss throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite challenges, we have had another successful year with the Center for Civic Innovation (CCI) summer internship program. We welcomed 48 interns representing 15 schools into our virtual internship in 2021. Interns contributed to 12 community-engaged projects focused on themes including sustainability of RVs at end-of-life, access to healthy food, pedestrian-friendly trails, neighborhood development, safe and affordable housing, community asset mapping, traffic calming, equitable access to data, and K-12 STEM engagement. Further details about these projects and related work are included in this report.

We were excited to receive a National Science Foundation Improving Undergraduate STEM Education research grant that will provide \$1.2M to CCI, \$700,000 to partners at Youngstown State University, and \$700,000 to partners at the University of Louisville to replicate CCI's Community-Engaged Educational Ecosystem

Model in these partner Rust Belt Cities over the next four years. CCI's associate director for research, Dr. Danielle Wood, will lead the grant with several other team members contributing. These funds will also support interns and projects in our local community.

As always, we are very thankful for the support of our community partners, mentors, and sponsors who provide so much in so many ways to our talented interns.



Sincerely,

Dr. Jay Brockman, Director



CCI 2021 summer interns conducting community site visits: from left to right, Lead Remediation, Elkhart Trails, and Bilingual Services project team members.

The Center for Civic Innovation's (CCI) Internship Program connects local college and high school students and faculty with local stakeholders, including schools, businesses, nonprofits, and governments, to address issues ranging from safe and affordable housing to stormwater management. CCI brings students from various disciplines, cities, and schools. Students partner with local professionals, faculty, and community members to find innovative solutions to community identified issues in the South Bend-Elkhart region. In its seventh summer, the CCI Internship Program tackled a total of 12 projects in a remote learning environment.

**48  
Interns**

36 college and 12 high school students were hired to work on community identified projects in the Elkhart - South Bend Region. Students worked for 8 weeks for 35 hours a week, totaling 13,440 hours of community engagement work.



**12 Community Engaged Projects**

**26  
female  
interns**

One of our goals is to engage more women in STEM related disciplines. This summer, women represented 50% of the Center for Civic Innovation intern team.



**25 Under - represented Minorities (in STEM fields)**

CCI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM  
KEY STATISTICS 2021



2021 Elkhart interns participating in morning report out.

## Bud Ahearn Leadership Award

CCI presented the **Bud Ahearn Leadership Award** at the 2021 Final Presentations for each location. This annual award is named in honor of the late Joseph "Bud" Ahearn, distinguished Notre Dame alumnus and supporter of the CCI Internship Program. Awardees exemplify Bud's principles of leadership, selflessness, service to others, and commitment to fostering meaningful relationships.

## Gary Gilot Civil Service Award

The **Gary Gilot Award for Civil Service** is named in honor of CCI Internship co-founder and current volunteer project mentor Gary Gilot. Awardees exemplify Gary's principles of a heart for civil service, servant-leadership mindset, and doing things "with" and not "for" or "to" the community.

### ELKHART AWARD WINNERS

#### Bud Ahearn Leadership Award

##### Grace Wetli

- Hometown — West Lafayette, Ind.
- Rising sophomore chemical engineering major at the University of Notre Dame
- Part of the Advanced Manufacturing & Sustainability Project team

#### Gary Gilot Civil Service Award

##### Miguel Sanchez

- Hometown — Goshen, Ind.
- Rising second-year liberal arts major at Ivy Tech Community College
- Part of the Tolson Neighborhood Project team

### SOUTH BEND AWARD WINNERS

#### Bud Ahearn Leadership Award

##### Marilyn Zizumbo

- Hometown — Corona, Calif.
- Senior studying environmental engineering at the University of Notre Dame
- Part of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project team

#### Gary Gilot Civil Service Award

##### John Healy

- Hometown — Rochester, N.Y.
- Sophomore studying electrical engineering at the University of Notre Dame
- Part of the dataMichiana Project team

## Academic Year Courses and Capstone Projects

### Civic Innovation Project Reflections

Dr. Danielle Wood and Alisa Zorning Gura

### Community Based Leadership

Dr. Kara Boyles

### Complex Problem Solving in the Public Sphere

Dr. Jay Brockman and Dr. Danielle Wood

## Elkhart Internship Project List

The Elkhart cohort consisted of 14 total interns this summer, tackling 4 community engagement projects with the assistance of 7 Elkhart community mentors. The projects focused on subjects including recreational vehicle (RV) end-of-life-cycle sustainability in collaboration with Thor Industries, public trail design proposals, bilingual communication in schools, and community asset mapping.

### Advanced Manufacturing

Interns worked closely with THOR Industries in Elkhart to research RV end-of-life cycle sustainability and help identify opportunities to limit landfill waste. Objectives included researching current usability of RVs (lifespan, end-of-life destinations), composing a list of opportunities for reuse and repurpose of RVs, and developing a premature business plan based on RV reuse.

### Elkhart Trails

This project was designed to work with organizations in the City of Elkhart to create a signage proposal for the New River Greenway trail. Promoting more active pedestrian transportation in Elkhart, our interns worked to make it simple and attractive for people to take advantage of the trail. The group researched wayfinding techniques and formulated a proposal plan based on feedback and resources from community partners.

### Tolson Neighborhood

The goal of this project was to provide residents of the South Central Tolson Neighborhood with knowledge of assets that already exist in their neighborhood. This was accomplished by creating asset based maps, brochures, and posters that visualize the neighborhood's greatest resources according to resident surveys.

### Bilingual Services

This project worked to identify the main issues that arise within the language barriers between bilingual families/students and Elkhart Community Schools' (ECS) staff and offer the best solutions to close these gaps. These methods included completing a literature review of bilingual education practices and translation devices, a survey of parents/teachers for input/suggestions, and the translation of important documents for ECS.

## South Bend Internship Project List

This summer, 37 interns worked on 8 projects with over 25 South Bend community mentors. Interns tackled projects related to food access, lead remediation in homes, and affordable housing. For the first time, CCI partnered with the City of South Bend's Engineering Department to embed the City's interns into CCI's program while they also were able to work in person at the City.

### Safe & Healthy Housing — Lead Remediation

CCI partnered with the Notre Dame Lead Innovation team to pilot the lead mitigation solutions that were researched by 2020 interns. Interns created a framework for a lead remediation kit, recruited 7 participants, and implemented the remediation strategy in 3 homes.

### Mentoring with 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend

CCI partnered with leaders and mentees from 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend to explore enhancements to their mentoring program. The team designed and scheduled 10 different field trips/events focused on STEM exposure and assisted with a TechPoint Foundation 4 Youth grant that will fully fund a 2022 robotics team for 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend.



2021 South Bend interns during weekly presentations.

### Food Information Networks

To address the issue of limited access to healthy food options among vulnerable populations, CCI partnered with Notre Dame faculty, Purdue Extension, and Saint Joseph County Health Department to address food-decision support and access problems using recommendation technologies based on user needs and preferences. The team created an initial prototype of an app that gathers and stores user information and compiled a written report on the sustainability of a food hub delivery model.

### Southeast Neighborhood Housing Rehabilitation

CCI partnered with South Bend community development corporation 466 Works to research housing rehabilitation best practices and create a process map for acquisition of homes for rehabilitation. 466 Works will be able to apply this process to future housing rehabilitation projects.

### Pre-approved Building Plans

CCI partnered with the City of South Bend Department of Community Investment, independent consultants, and Notre Dame staff to test the viability of various housing designs on local lots. Interns developed site plans, proformas, and a final report with recommendations.

### Urban Sustainability and Resiliency Project

CCI partnered with the South Bend City Forester to modify the existing tree planting program application that included distribution criteria to ensure trees were planted in under-resourced areas first. The team also started a process with the Department of Public Works to acquire three additional vacant lots for new native tree nurseries.

### Rum Village Neighborhood Traffic Calming

CCI and the City of South Bend Engineering Department partnered to create a unique internship experience. The interns received professional mentorship, training, and project management support from CCI while working in person with the City's Division of Engineering. For this project, interns facilitated and presented at two community meetings, collected and analyzed traffic data, and created and presented a proposal to the Engineering Department for traffic calming in the Rum Village Neighborhood.

### dataMichiana

For the second summer, CCI partnered with Notre Dame faculty and community members to construct data narrative storyboards through ArcGIS that were focused on areas related to housing mobility. They developed new data visualizations focused on areas related to internet access and preventative health measures. This team also developed a data viewing tool featuring multiple map layers with data relevant to the Michiana region.

## Thank you to our partners!

City of South Bend ▪ Elkhart Community Schools ▪ enFocus, Inc. ▪ City of Elkhart ▪ SOAR ▪ 466 Works ▪ South Bend Venues Parks & Arts ▪ ND LIT ▪ THOR Industries ▪ INDustry Labs ▪ Riley High School ▪ South Bend Regional Chamber ▪ MACOG ▪ Bike Elkhart County ▪ La Casa De Amistad ▪ Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

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University of Notre Dame College of Engineering ▪ University of Notre Dame Office of Public Affairs ▪ University of Notre Dame Office of Research

## Funding for interns provided by:

University of Notre Dame College of Science ▪ enFocus, Inc. (grant) ▪ Ivy Tech Community College ▪ John and Katie Anthony Family ▪ Judd A. Leighton Foundation (grant) ▪ USDA NIFA (grant) ▪ Wilson Family in conjunction with South Bend Venues Parks & Arts ▪ Community Foundation of Elkhart County (grant) ▪ INDustry Labs ▪ Elkhart Community Schools ▪ Holy Cross College ▪ Indiana EARN ▪ Anonymous Grants ▪ Anonymous Individual Gifts

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## CCI VISION

**Be a national model of innovation and learning for the common good within a community**

## CCI MISSION

***"To promote the common good by building partnerships between Notre Dame faculty, staff, and community organizations that foster innovative research and educational programs."***