



**FOR A
MORE JUST
& EQUITABLE
WORLD**



**CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
+ JUSTICE**

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

2023-24 ANNUAL REVIEW



Greetings,

I am excited to present our 2023-2024 Annual Report. Our community of students, faculty, staff, national service members, and community partners have been creating, learning, and growing together all year. The programs and projects outlined in this document reflect their efforts. The Center continues to foster this collective commitment to the service of faith and the promotion of justice, as it has for over three decades.

The Center also houses the York Road Initiative, for which Loyola received its first Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development SEED Anchor Institution Fund Award (\$225,000) for pre-construction activities for a new community-university hub at the 5104 York Road lot. The hub will also receive capital funding from Loyola's latest federal community projects award, a \$1,000,000 grant administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Fund. I am grateful for these funds, as well as the support from others that we received this year.

As we wrap another year, I am excited for the future. The university will begin its implementation of the new Together We Rise strategic plan in the coming year. I am inspired by its vision of innovative changemaking that is rooted in love, justice, and the success of all students.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. McGinnis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr. PH.

Executive Director for Loyola's Center for Community, Service, and Justice & York Road Initiative

STUDENTS

Student Leadership Formation

CCSJ strives to offer high quality student formation programs that are grounded in the Ignatian Pedological Paradigm. First-year students are introduced to the community through CCSJ's Experience Baltimore program before choosing from a wide variety of activities to participate in during their time on campus. Students can also apply to CCSJ's intern program and to competitive fellowships. Loyola student leaders have been recognized regionally and nationally for their leadership in service and civic engagement.

Loyola students performed
1,818
weekly direct service hours
in 2023-2024.

Experience Baltimore

Experience Baltimore offers first-year students an opportunity to explore and learn about Baltimore and invites them to begin considering how they would like to engage in the city during their time at Loyola. Through community-led learning, individual and group reflection, service, and engaging conversations, students learn to critically analyze how historic redlining has shaped the city and engage with Baltimore residents who are creating change within their own communities. Six student facilitators guided 40 participants through their experiences including service and site visits at the Franciscan Center, Beans and Bread, Healthcare for the Homeless, Strength to Love Farm, and Our Daily Bread.



Student Intern Program

The CCSJ Student Intern Program is the student programmatic engine of the Center. Eighteen interns supported volunteers, assisted faculty with community-engaged learning courses, promoted outreach and advocacy activities, and provided support for the York Road commercial corridor. The interns are assigned a CCSJ staff supervisor that guides them through weekly Racial Justice Formation assignments, and the cohort gathers monthly for professional development and reflection activities.



Student Leader Spotlight Betsy Schuler, Class of 2024

Betsy Schuler dedicated her time at Loyola to service. Betsy was involved with CCSJ for three years as both a volunteer tutor at Govans Elementary School and also an intern. Betsy also served with Health Outreach Baltimore, which is a Pre-Health Program outreach partnership with Mercy Medical Center where student volunteers staff a community resource desk in the mother-baby department of the hospital.

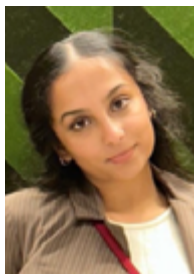
During her senior year, Betsy was recognized regionally by Transform Mid-Atlantic, winning its Transformational Student Leader Award for her ongoing efforts supporting the Community Engaged Literacy Program at Govans Elementary. In her acceptance remarks, she thanked her family, mentors, and community partner, Sandi McFadden, and discussed how youth at Govans Elementary played an instrumental role in her leadership formation. Betsy was also one of the 2024 winners of the Reverend J.P O'Connor Award for Service. Betsy is participating in a post-grad service opportunity with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

"Being a person 'for and with others' is something I have strived to embody through my life's work. The opportunity to engage with various communities and people has brought immense joy and meaning to my life. Whether it is simply having a conversation with Ms. Sandi at Govans Elementary or connecting a mother from Mercy Hospital to food resources, each interaction I have with someone is a gift."



Left to Right: Betsy Schuler, Sandi McFadden, Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH.

STUDENT FELLOW PROFILES



Neoline "Nea" James Transform Mid-Atlantic Civic Fellow

Nea James is a Loyola graduate student (undergraduate Class of 2023) who was nominated by President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., to be one of 13 students selected as a regional Transform Mid-Atlantic Fellow. Nea's capstone experience for her fellowship was a comparative research project focusing on Baltimore's Circuit Mental Health Court and DC's Superior Mental Observation System. Capstone experiences had to incorporate United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The program culminated in a retreat in Washington, DC. Nea was later awarded a Kolvenbach Research Award for her project.



Newman Civic Fellow

Tim Schluth, '24, was nominated by President Sawyer to serve as this year's National Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow. Tim served as CCSJ's Civic Capacity Builder Intern where he connected the Loyola community and resources to its neighboring York Road Corridor through engaging in advocacy, organizing community events, and facilitating city and statewide legislative campaigns.

France-Merrick Scholar

Jalen Taylor, '25, is a France Merrick Fellow and a third-year scholar. France Merrick Fellows receive a partial tuition award for four years and participate in leadership activities around community engagement. Jalen's community engagement leadership activity was participating in the UMBC Choice Program College Nights Program.

IMMERSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Kino Border Initiative Immersion Experience

Offered in partnership with Campus Ministry, The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) immersion offers student participants the opportunity to spend time with migrants and learn from their stories, as well as understand the broader context of the U.S./Mexico border and immigration policies. The immersion includes time in Kino's shelter and comedor (soup kitchen), where participants will serve food and have the chance to speak with individuals who are awaiting asylum or who were recently deported. Groups also participate in Mass with ranchers in a rural town in southern Arizona and learn about their experiences and perspectives, attend immigration court, meet with border patrol, and experience conditions in the Arizona/Mexico desert. Throughout the experience, participants engage in reflection, dialogue, and advocacy-and are asked to translate their learned experience into action steps upon return to campus.



SUPPORTING OUR YORK ROAD CORRIDOR

The Center's York Road Initiative serves as Loyola's commitment to its local commercial corridor. The Center administered the search for the corridor's inaugural executive director of the York Corridor Business Improvement District Management Authority (York Corridor BID), and several Loyola offices have provided administrative support to the organization. In addition to continued efforts resourced by a U.S. Small Business Administration grant, Loyola was awarded its first Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's SEED Anchor Institution pre-construction grant for a future community-university space on its 5104 York Road lot. As these larger-scale projects unfold, there continues to be ongoing efforts in neighborhood outreach, food access programming, and commercial development.

Lortz Lane Alley Design

Through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, CCSJ has partnered with a planning team consisting of the Baltimore City Departments of Planning and Transportation, the 4th District Councilman's office, the York Road Partnership, the York Corridor BID, and the placemaking design company Grahams Projects to design the future site of a pop-up pedestrian and entertainment alley, Lortz Lane. Several community engaged design activities have occurred to get input on the alley's layout, including online voting, school-based outreach, public meetings, and a Design Day event. Design Day featured music, information tables, and a station where residents could select alley design features on a poster map of the alley. Each Design Day participant received a free lunch from businesses bordering the event (Hex Superette, Nailah's Kitchen, Angeli's Pizza, or Heritage Barbeque), which was subsidized by funding. The alley will be completed by Fall 2025.

105

Design Day attendees

80

design ideas submitted by Govans Elementary youth

\$1,707

revenue generated for local businesses participating in Design Day



Govans Farmers' Market

The Govans Farmers' Market celebrated its 12th season providing the local community with access to fresh food and produce. Eleven weekly vendors participated in the four-month (16-week) season with an average of 250 customers per day. Vendors are all based in the state of Maryland, with 60% based in Baltimore City. The following numbers represent the economic impact for the 2023 season. Last season the market also continued to offer community compost services.

Credit/Debit

\$13,768

EBT/SNAP (food stamps)

\$14,881

Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

\$1,356

Bonus Bucks

\$4,928

Approximate Cash (at stall sales)

\$13,815

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$47,808



Loyola Consulting Club Partnership

CCSJ retained the services of the student organization, the Loyola Consulting Club, to conduct needs assessment and planning activities around boosting campus involvement in the York Road Corridor. A student team worked with CCSJ staff on boosting local purchasing power for the commercial corridor, while a second team supported operational needs of the York Corridor BID. Over the course of the year, students conducted a student transportation study, created marketing materials for a Belvedere Square weekend shuttle, secured a future Loyola student discount from a local coffee chain, and drafted plans for a campus-wide student task force to sustain their efforts.



Govans Expungement Clinic

Loyola's College of Arts and Sciences, through their Pre-Law Program, continues to partner with Maryland Legal Aid to offer two expungement clinics a year. This year clinic events were held at the Loyola Clinical Centers. There were 73 attendees across both clinics, and 49 of those clients had cases that were eligible for expungement. Over 100 expungement petitions were filed. CCSJ supported volunteer training and onboarding processes.

York Road Community Days

York Road Community Days connect neighborhood leaders that have clean up and spruce up projects with teams of Loyola students who want to connect with their local community. Students learn about the history and legacy of redlining in the neighborhood before participating in mornings of volunteer service. Each event concludes with volunteer teams reflecting on their experience. The event is also a popular activity for Loyola student organizations and athletics teams. Approximately 372 volunteers performed 1,122 hours of service.



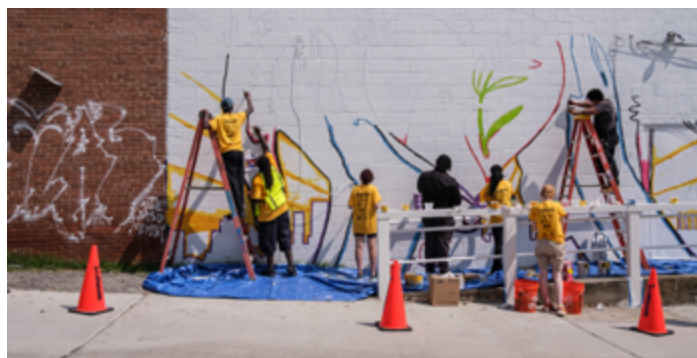
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Over 90% of CCSJ's weekly direct service hours are in support of youth and young adults. Youth partners include Soccer Without Borders, Refugee Youth Project, Govans Elementary School, Tunbridge School, the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School, and the UMBC Choice Program. CCSJ also continues to have a national service partnership that provides the support of an AmeriCorps VISTA for two schools along York Road. The Center also hosts summer programming for youth and young adults through a workforce partnership with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development.

Art@Work 2023

The Center partnered with the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) for a third time to offer a 5-week summer artist apprentice program for youth ages 14-21. The program culminated with the Art@Work team completing a mural on the side of a commercial building located at 4601 York Road. The mural, which is entitled "Elevate," was inspired by the perspectives of various community residents, who were interviewed by the youth for the project. Loyola provided one youth program assistant, recruited youth from the Govans area, and provided BOPA with community contacts. BOPA provided on-site artists, arts project management staff, and secured all supplies and materials. Youth were paid via the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)'s YouthWorks Program.

Photo Credits: Nate Larson ©2023



UMBC Choice College Night Program

CCSJ was excited to again host College Nights with the Choice Program—one of the longest-standing service opportunities CCSJ offers. Twice a month, youth from the Choice Program are invited to Loyola's campus for an immersive and impactful campus experience. Loyola students spend time with Choice youth sharing a meal and then participating in educational and recreational activities. In the fall semester, College Night participants explored forensics and photography, visited the Karson Institute for Race, Peace, and Social Justice, and learned about college scholarships and financial aid from CollegeBound. Eleven College Nights were held this year with approximately ten Choice Program youth visiting campus per session.



105 HOURS

of on-the-job arts and design training provided

20 HOURS

of skill building workshops provided (financial literacy, career exploration)

60 RESIDENTS

attended a community unveiling celebration

20 YOUTH

from the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School engaged in the design process

Community Engaged Literacy Program (CELP)

A partnership with the School of Education, CELP provides afterschool literacy tutoring at Govans Elementary School. Volunteers performed over 100 hours of service working with Govans youth in grades 3-5. The training curriculum was designed by Loyola literacy faculty. CELP youth have shown continuous improvement in literacy. Four students from CELP showed continuous improvement during the Fall of 2023 session and were able to test out of CELP by year's end under the recommendation of the student academic coaches. The Center's Transform Mid-Atlantic(TMA) York Road Schools AmeriCorps VISTA service members provided volunteer management and on-site support for the program.

Annual Halloween Block Party

CCSJ and Loyola's Student Government Association co-sponsored the Annual Halloween Block Party, which provided a fun and safe way for families to enjoy the holiday. The event featured decorated trunks by Loyola student volunteers, arts and crafts tables, games, and a costume contest. Approximately 40 student volunteers participated in the day, and over 240 community members attended the event.



Support for the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School

The TMA York Road Schools AmeriCorps VISTA service members provided support to out-of-school-time programming and family and parent engagement efforts one day a week at the school.

They supported the school's efforts to establish its Parent-Teacher Organization. They also supported volunteer recruitment, coordination, and distribution of over \$5,000 worth of canned food, fresh fruit, and veggies to 400+ students, parents, and community members at the Walter P. Carter Food Pantry.

Presents for Christmas

Over **\$4,000** raised for **FIVE** community partners through the Presents for Christmas Fund

400 gifts donated across campus to Catholic Charities of Baltimore for Head Start families

H2O Hounds Swim Program

For over 10 years, area youth have participated in a six-week swim safety program led by members of Loyola's swim team at the University's Fitness and Aquatic Center. This year the program doubled, when 30 North Baltimore youth from Govans Elementary School, the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School, and the Dewees and Northwood Recreation Centers learned swimming fundamentals under the guidance of 26 swim team volunteers.



ADVOCACY

Students are encouraged to learn about pressing social issues through educational awareness programs offered throughout the year. They also have opportunities to engage with elected officials at national, state, and local levels through various campaigns and rallies.

Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice

In October 2023, 19 Loyola students attended the **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice** in Washington, D.C. As the largest Catholic social justice gathering in the United States, Loyola students joined participants from other Jesuit high schools and universities for three days of transformative speakers, breakout sessions, and reflections. The experience culminated with Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill where Loyola students had seven in-person meetings with Congressional staff to advocate for federal environmental justice legislation and more human immigration laws. Inspired by a breakout session at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, seven Loyola students attended a national virtual rally to end solitary confinement.



Restorative Schools Maryland Circle of Ten Partnership

As part of Restorative Schools Maryland's statewide organizing strategy, CCSJ hosted a **Circle of Ten**. Loyola's circle was made up of 10 students who met monthly to write letters to Maryland legislators advocating for the use of Restorative Practices in Maryland schools. Restorative Practices aim to improve interpersonal and community relationships through a focus on maintaining, improving, and healing relationships and have been shown to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, increase student achievement and attendance, and create schools where students feel safe. Students also met with David Hornbeck, chair and executive director of Voices for Restorative Schools. Circle students wrote 50 letters to Maryland legislators encouraging them to pass a law putting Restorative Practices in Maryland schools.



Death of Innocence Youth Justice Forum & Fair

Inspired by her Circle of Ten experience, CCSJ intern and SGA leader **Nosa Omoregbee** organized the Center's first Youth Justice Forum & Fair. The forum featured a panel consisting of the Reverend Marlon Tilghman, Ph.D., of Bridge Maryland, **Nicole Shoenerberger, Ph.D.**, of Loyola University Maryland, Michael Pinard, JD of the University of Maryland Francis Carey School of Law, and Kelly Quinn, Ph.D., of the UMBC Choice Program. Approximately 77 students attended the event. A youth-serving advocacy fair featuring youth programs such as Community Law in Action, Mentoring Mentors, and the UMBC Choice Program followed the panel and the event also featured an art-based action session led by students in the Notre Dame of Maryland University Art Therapy Program.



CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Loyola students promote sustainability and environmental justice through service, advocacy, and philanthropy. This year, student leaders came together to form the Forever-Green Team, a student network dedicated to raising campus awareness, partnering with the Environmental Action Club and other environmental organizations on campus, and advocating for justice.



Forever-Green Thrift Store

The Forever-Green Team organizes the campus thrift store, which was offered once each semester. Clothing donations are collected from across campus and sold on campus to raise money for a local environmental non-profit. This year over 600 student shoppers raised \$2,770 for the Patterson Park Audubon Center and \$2,205 for the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. Through buying used clothing, this year's shoppers saved over 824,597 gallons of water. The store also featured information tables on ways students could get involved in environmental causes and information on the dangers of fast fashion.

Loyola students raised
\$4,975
for environmental organizations
through the Forever-Green
Thrift Store events

Support for York Road Partnership's Crematorium Campaign

Loyola students provided support for the York Road Partnership's efforts to oppose a human crematorium. Twenty Loyola students joined members of the York Road community to express environmental justice concerns to the Maryland Department of the Environment about a proposed human crematorium at a winter community meeting. Loyola student leaders supported York Road Partnership neighborhood canvassing efforts about the crematorium to ensure that residents were aware of the project. During the legislative session, students travelled to Annapolis to join members of the York Road Partnership, researchers from the University of Maryland, and local elected officials to show support for two pieces of state legislation designed to prevent human crematorium from being built close to certain educational facilities and vulnerable populations.



Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home

Students attended the Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home's (MCCH) Teach-in and Lobby Event. The Teach-In focused on how care for creation relates to Catholic values. Attendees learned about eight key pieces of legislation supported by MCCH. They then met with legislators to advocate for those eight pieces of legislation (three of which were ultimately signed into Maryland law).



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING AND SCHOLARSHIP (CELS)

In the 2023-24 academic year, CCSJ continued the process of rebuilding our Community-Engaged Learning and Scholarship (CELS) programs. CCSJ administered 63 sections of designated service-learning courses across 18 departments. CELS faculty collaborated with 26 community organizations with the support of CELS staff and student interns. Approximately 224 students were connected to direct service activities through CELS sections.

New efforts for this year included the launch of a Community-Engaged Research Seminar Program, the creation of a new campus-wide Faculty Award for Community-Engaged Teaching, and Course Development Grants with an advocacy focus. The Center continues to offer its signature Community Engaged Teaching Faculty Fellows Program, the Reignite Community-Engaged Teaching Seminar, and its Kolvenbach Research Grant Program.

The Center offered three broader CELS training and dissemination events. In the fall, the Center held its first Research in Action: Scholarship and Social Justice Forum, where Kolvenbach grant recipients presented their work. Also in the fall, faculty that received Advocacy Course Development Grants shared their lessons learned to a lunch-time audience of 20 faculty and staff. In the spring, the annual May Community Engagement Workshop included 33 participants from universities across the region. Jamilah Ducar, Ph.D., assistant vice chancellor for the Engaged Campus (University of Pittsburgh) and chair of the Place-Based Justice Network, was the keynote speaker and workshop leader.



Faculty present at the Research in Action Forum

CELS Spotlight: Senior Capstone in Public Relations

Students taking the senior capstone course taught by **Paola Pascual-Ferrá, Ph.D.**, associate professor of communication, invited students to apply communication concepts while exploring the issues of criminal justice and mass incarceration. Students designed a PR campaign for Urban Reads Bookstore, a black-owned and woman-led business. Urban Reads owner Tia Hamilton is also the creator of “State Vs. Us” Magazine, which is sold in the store. The magazine highlights the true stories of those in prison and the successes of formerly incarcerated individuals.

As a course extension, Pascual-Ferrá, her students, and community partners from Urban Reads and the organization Pivot Baltimore traveled to Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang re-entry and rehabilitation program in the world. The trip was a pilot of a new immersion experience for fall break. In preparation for the experience, students read Father Greg Boyle’s book, *The Whole Language*.



Class visit to Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles

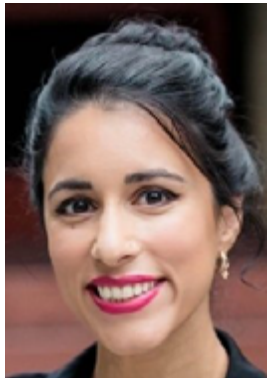
AWARDS & HONORS

FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Nouf Bazaz, Ph.D. (Clinical Assistant Professor, School Counseling Program)

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING

Suzanne Keilson, Ph.D., Engineering



Nouf Bazaz, Ph.D.



Suzanne Keilson, Ph.D.

MILCH AWARD: CASH CAMPAIGN OF MARYLAND



Rob Bader accepting the Milch Award at the 2024 Commencement from Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D., Loyola's provost and vice president for academic affairs

REVEREND J.P. O'CONNOR AWARD

Betsy Schuler and **Mia Agileco**



Betsy Schuler



Mia Agileco

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2023-2024 CELS FELLOWS AND RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES

FACULTY FELLOWS FOR COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

Lorreta Holmberg-Maden, M.Ed. (Education), **Jon Weinstein, M.A.** (Entrepreneur-In-Residence, Simon Center), **Sondra Guttman, Ph.D.** (English), **Cynthia P. Fraga-Cañadas, Ph.D.** (Modern Languages), **Qiancheng (James) Zheng, Ph.D.** (Finance)

RE-IGNITE SEMINAR FELLOWS

Suzanne Keilson, Ph.D. (Engineering), **Heidi Shaker, Ph.D.** (Modern Languages), **Fuat Gürsözlü, Ph.D.** (Philosophy)

FACULTY AND COMMUNITY FELLOWS FOR COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH SEMINAR

David Carey, Ph.D. (History), **Michelle Gawerc, Ph.D.** (Sociology), **David Fukunle, Ph.D.** (Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Morgan State University)

KOLVENBACH RESEARCH AWARD GRANTEES

Michelle Gawerc, Ph.D. (Sociology), **Jasmine Raysor** (Graduate student, Clinical Psychology), **Lauree Stewart** (Graduate student, Clinical Psychology), **Natalie Wallace** (Graduate student, Clinical Psychology)

SUPPORT OUR WORK BY MAKING A GIFT

