

**David C. Fredrick Honors College**  
**Office of Community Engaged Learning**  
**Scholar Communities**

**About**

Scholar communities address critical 21st-century issues alongside *all* the brightest minds — faculty, students, and community experts across different disciplines. By bringing together scholars from different perspectives, we create a comprehensive hub of knowledge that can evolve and grow. Scholar Communities are:

- Collaborative - Strengthen your work with insights from broad disciplines, backgrounds, and sectors outside of your focus.
- Dynamic - In a tight Community, we can respond quickly to new discoveries, and easily connect findings from disparate fields.
- Impactful - Develop evidence-based solutions that have a tangible effect on a local level, and can also scale globally.

As part of a Scholar Community, your research will shape (and re-shape) the foundation for other scholars working toward the same goal.

**Guidelines**

Scholar Communities are designed to explore a community, social, or political issue as it relates to community engagement and service learning. Communities are meant to provide cocurricular value for students reinforcing social responsibility and learning through community engagement.

Scholar Communities should foster social responsibility and interdisciplinary experiences that provide unique opportunities for FHC students to engage around an issue and work towards positive change.

Communities should engage in high-impact practices that implement grounded theories and investment in intentional community impact to foster learning, academic inquiry, and holistic growth. Successful FHC Scholar Communities demonstrate active practice of:

- 1.) Service – direct and intentional work with community partner(s)
- 2.) Engagement – activities to build issue awareness within FHC community and broader Pitt community
- 3.) Curriculum – coursework to reinforce the philosophical underpinnings and practices associated with the Scholar Community.

## Application

### Purpose/Summary

Please provide 200 words or more surrounding the purpose of your proposed FHC Scholar Community. What issue does it address? What are its philosophical underpinnings and broader community implications? How does it shape students' cocurricular experiences and diversify their understandings of service learning and community and civic engagement?

### Linked Courses

Please share any associated courses with the Scholar Communities, including syllabi and schedule. If syllabi and schedule are not yet created, please propose expected course curriculum.

- Each Scholar Community would be tied to 1 course that contains the Civic Learning Plus Engagement attribute
- The Civic Learning Plus Engagement attribute qualifies as a Honors course for FHC students as either experiential or general credits
- The attribute does not prevent non-Honors students from registering, but does allow those who are FHC Honors students to receive credit
- The course will allow for Honors recruitment and a FHC Advising or staff member will make a 10min presentation about FHC to each course (can be done virtually or in-person)
- All students will be required to log PittServes hours. Those who are FHC will self-identify so that they receive FHC/PittServes hour credit. Instructions will be provided to each class.
- Scholar Community leaders will connect with FHC Assistant Dean, Dave Hornyak, who will help assign the attribute to their course: [hornyak@pitt.edu](mailto:hornyak@pitt.edu)

### Budget

Please provide a budget overview and breakdown of project needs. General details are fine, but the budget should provide a timeline for implementation/completion and use of funds for materials, food, supplies, travel, etc.

### Faculty and Staff Sponsors/Advisors

Please list any involved faculty/staff advisors along with their titles and contact information

### Scholar Community Proposal

The proposal should be the specific activities your FHC Scholar Community plans to

incorporate. The proposal should be 250-500 words and directly address how the Scholar Community explores a community, social, or political issue and provides cocurricular value. Likewise, proposals must address how the Scholar Community fosters social responsibility and interdisciplinary experiences that provide unique opportunities for FHC students to engage around an issue and work towards positive change.

Finally, the proposal should state how the FHC Scholar Community directly demonstrates active practice of:

- 1.) Service – direct and intentional work with community partner(s)
- 2.) Engagement – activities to build issue awareness within FHC community and broader Pitt community
- 3.) Curriculum – coursework to reinforce the philosophical underpinnings and practices associated with the Scholar Community.

**Please contact Dr. Catherine Cordova, Director of Community Engaged Learning: [cgc77@pitt.edu](mailto:cgc77@pitt.edu) with any questions**