

2024-2025 OUTCOMES REPORT



Center for
**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**
at Slippery Rock University

A Bold Vision for SRU Community Engagement

Slippery Rock University (SRU) is embracing its dual civic roles: to educate engaged citizens and to positively impact local and global communities. A robust community engagement strategy enhances student retention, fosters leadership skills, and bolsters career readiness. Recognizing these benefits, SRU has established the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), a restructured and strategic approach to align with the university's Strategic Plan Pillar #3: Commitment to Community Impact and Collaboration. The mission of the CCE is to provide programming and resources that support and prepare civically minded graduates through community-university collaborations.

The CCE will work to amplify SRU's community impact by striving toward three strategic goals: 1) enhance academic initiatives that more fully integrate civic learning and student engagement, 2) empower students by expanding opportunities that enhance civic understanding and leadership development, and 3) grow community partnerships by promoting campus coordination and communication. As such, the CCE will establish SRU as a leader in preparing students for engaged citizenship and community betterment.

For this inaugural impact report, we present data that align with these strategic goals from our essential existing programs, highlight important growth revealed in our 2025 Carnegie application for Community Engagement reclassification and self-study, and present some exciting new initiatives on the horizon. In doing so, we highlight the kinds of impacts for which we are striving in our new configuration. Finally, we welcome the continued input and feedback from campus and community stakeholders as to what impacts are useful, compelling, and yet to be determined, as we work together to chart a new direction for community engagement at SRU!

Onward!

The CCE Professional Team -



Jeffrey Rathlef
Director



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Associate Director



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ACE Faculty Fellow

HIGHLIGHT DASHBOARD FROM 2024-2025

SRU submits application to be Carnegie reclassified for Community engagement in 2026.
[See Application snapshot.](#)

CCE creates ACE Pathways in support of Pillar #3: Commitment to Community Impact & Collaboration. *[Learn more about ACE Courses.](#)*

770 SRU students contributed 10,365 verified hours of service. *[See additional data regarding SRU](#)*

232% increase in number of SRU Students undertaking civic actions toward the betterment of community and society. *[See more details on students' civic engagement.](#)*

The Haverlack Civic Scholars involve 263 SRU students in civic engagement activities.

[Meet the Haverlack Civic Scholars](#)

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: ACADEMIC INTEGRATION

As part of its commitment to academic integration, the CCE supports faculty in incorporating civic learning into their teaching, enhancing student engagement and real-world relevance. The center fosters sustainable community partnerships and develops academic programs that strengthen career readiness and professional growth. In collaboration with campus departments, the CCE also advances the development of community engagement learning outcomes across the curriculum.



120 students engaged in United Way's Poverty Spiral



ACE Pathways

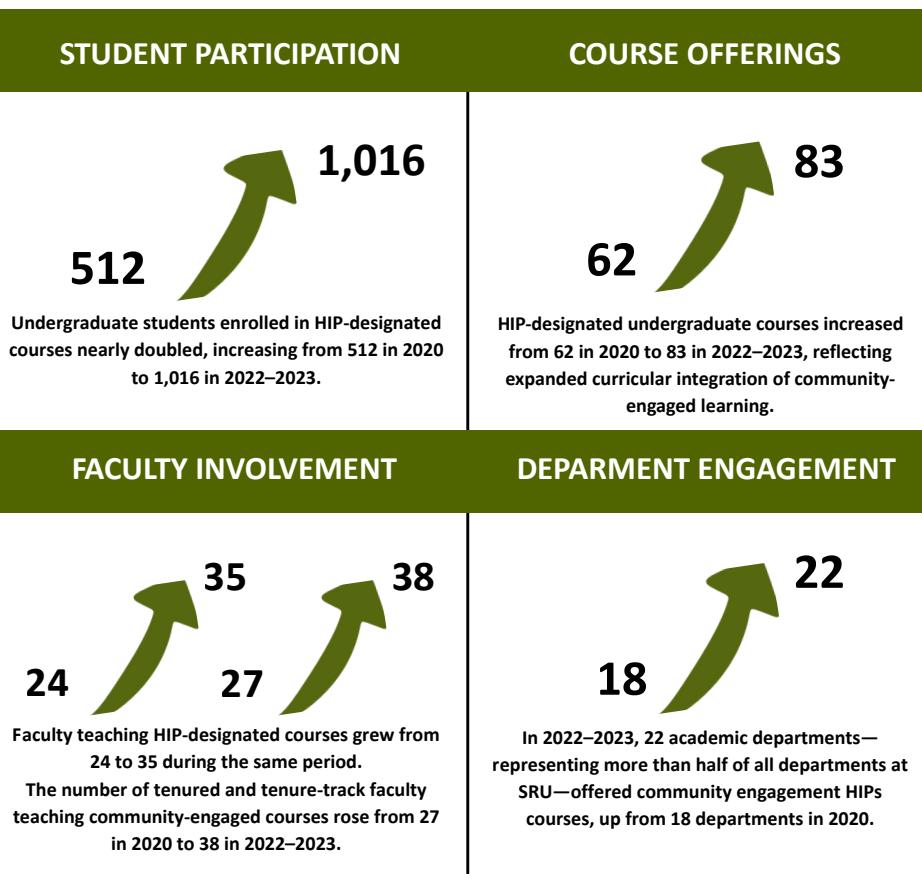
SRU Center for Community Engagement

The **Academic Community Engagement ACE course designation** is established to respond to Carnegie findings (i.e. promoting high-quality standards with evidence-based outcomes) and the CCE mission and strategic goals in support of SRU Strategic Plan Pillar #3: Commitment to Community Impact & Collaboration. (CCE creates the **ACE Pathway** as an application process for ACE course designation).

Expected outcomes of ACE course designation:

- 100% accuracy in tracking/reporting of students, faculty, and community partners.
- Assessment of students' civic learning in all ACE courses.
- Assessment of community impact and collaboration outcomes for all ACE courses.
- See the [ACE Frequently Asked Questions](#)

As part of our 2025 Carnegie Community Engagement Reclassification application, the CCE collected and analyzed the most recent and comprehensive data available, covering the 2022–2023 academic year. This data illustrates significant institutional growth in the integration of High-Impact Practices (HIPs)—active learning strategies that foster deep student engagement and real-world application—since our previous Carnegie application in 2020.



This upward trend in student participation, faculty leadership, and departmental involvement demonstrates SRU's ongoing commitment and institutionalization of academic integration and community impact, in alignment with the university's strategic priorities and the CCE's mission.



STRATEGIC GOAL 2: STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

As part of its commitment to student empowerment, CCE continues to deepen the integration of civic engagement into the academic experience. In 2024–2025, the CCE expanded opportunities for experiential learning that promote civic awareness, community involvement, and leadership development.



SRU Football players preparing to serve at Butler Community Meals

Signature Initiative: RockServe

RockServe (powered by GivePulse, Inc.), SRU's community engagement digital platform, connects students, faculty, and community partners to service and civic engagement opportunities. The CCE views the tracking and verification of student volunteer hours not merely as a reporting tool, but as a meaningful way to measure the economic impact and community value of student-led initiatives. The RockServe platform enables students and organizations to capture and reflect on their civic contributions through a comprehensive engagement transcript. In 2024–2025, the CCE recorded a 13% increase in student participation in community engagement activities from the previous year. While many students and student organizations participate in community-based projects, increasing registration and use of the platform remains a priority to enhance the visibility, coordination, and impact tracking of our community partnerships.

2024–2025 RockServe Accomplishments

- 115% increase in volunteer opportunities posted by community partners from the previous year.
- 622 SRU students featured on the RockServe Leaderboard.
- The most engaged students participated in sustained, recurring volunteer efforts, demonstrating long-term commitment and deep engagement with their communities.

Campus Group Engagement

Campus groups are increasingly leveraging RockServe to document and showcase their impact.

- PSY Field Placement – 21,500 impacts.
- Psychology Department – 3,479 impacts.
- OIE – 2,613 impacts
- CCE – 2,374 impacts.
- Macoskey Center - 717 impacts.



- Storm Harbor – 599 impacts.
- Athletics – 285 impacts.
- RockTeach – 285 impacts.
- Honors College – 102 impacts.

Note: An “Impact” is a general term on RockServe that describes all types of community engagement activities such as philanthropy, direct service, training, research, voter participation, and reflections.



Partnership between SRU and the Midwestern Intermediate Unit

With the generous support of a three-year, \$75,000 grant from the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, Slippery Rock University launched a hybrid (remote and in-person) tutoring initiative to support K-12 students in foster care or experiencing housing insecurity. During the 2024-2025 academic year, ten SRU student tutors helped revitalize a key partnership with Emily Brittain Elementary School. Each tutor worked closely with K-12 students—more than 30 in total—providing individualized academic support and building meaningful relationships that strengthen the connection between higher education and local schools.

Civic Action Scorecard

The Civic Action Scorecard is an online civic engagement toolkit used by faculty in their courses, with over 175 experiential opportunities designed to empower SRU students to become civically engaged (University Wide Outcome #7). The Scorecard guides students' civic educational growth, allowing students to earn badges and awards for their efforts, and assists them in creating a portfolio to demonstrate their learning.

See [FULL List of Civic Actions](#)

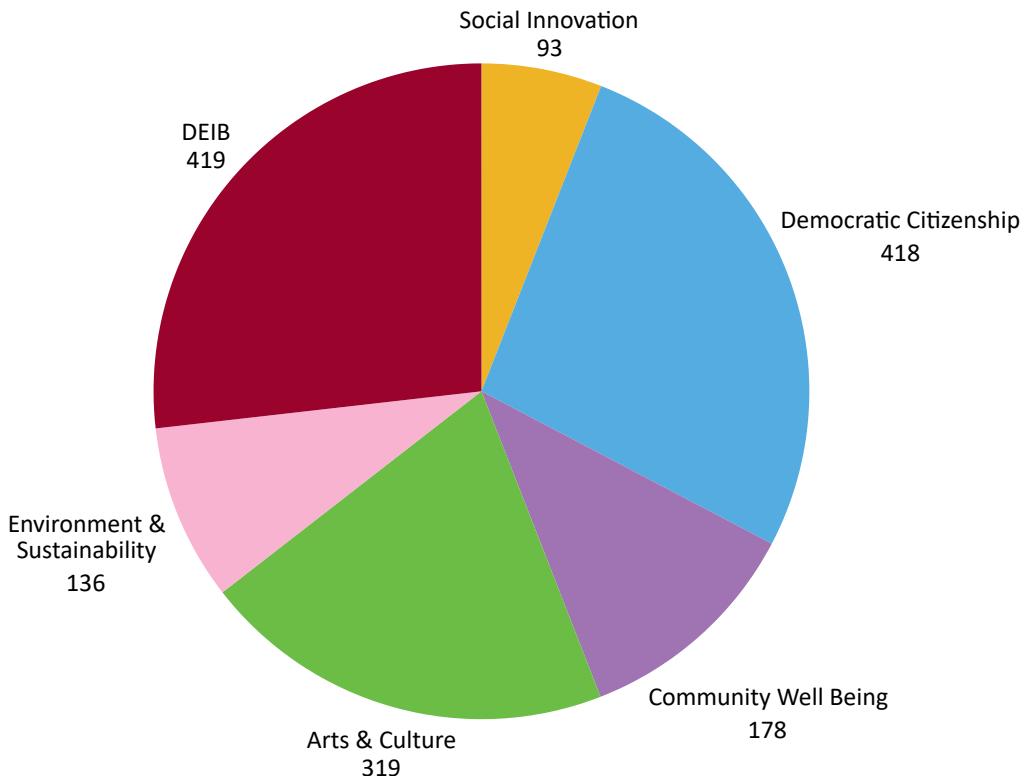
- Student civic actions increased by 959 in the 2024-25 Academic Year from the previous year.
- 226 more students engaged with the Civic Action Scorecard in the 2024-25 Academic Year from the previous year.



2024-2025

Civic Action Impacts

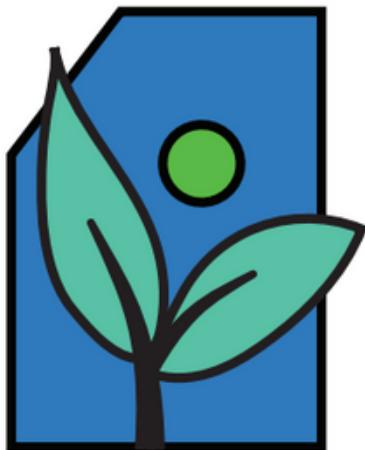
Total: 1,563



Haverlack Civic Scholars

Endowed by the Frank and Margaret Haverlack Good Citizen Scholarship, the [Haverlack Civic Scholars program](#) at SRU aims to prepare students for lives of public purpose and engaged citizenship by encouraging actions that enhance both campus and community life. Over four years, Haverlack Civic Scholars develop the ability to engage civically, reflect on their identities, inspire others, and apply civic skills across personal and professional contexts. Students build a civic skillset that includes collaboration, cultural humility, effective communication, and a deep understanding of community issues. The program culminates in a signature project that benefits the community.

[Meet the 2024-2025 Haverlack Civic Scholars](#) and read their narratives on service, leadership, and growth.



HAVERLACK CIVIC SCHOLARS

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

2024-2025 Haverlack Civic Scholar Accomplishments

Eight students served as Haverlack Civic Scholars, including **six** who launched the new program model this year.

The Scholars' work blended community service with **campus leadership responsibilities**.

Together, they engaged **263** unique SRU students in civic activities such as **voting, service, and community engagement**.

They also completed **145 civic actions**, with **four Scholars** earning the **Silver Civic Action Award**.

A total of **812 hours** of Scholar service generated an estimated **\$25,415** in regional economic impact.

GOAL 3: ENHANCE COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

The CCE is committed to strengthening and sustaining mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations. This goal will be advanced by establishing long-term, collaborative relationships that support shared objectives and by implementing ongoing, strategic assessment practices. Regularly evaluating and reporting the partnership impact will allow the CCE to continuously refine its strategies and enhance outcomes for both the university and the broader community. We continue to see significant growth in both the number of service opportunities offered by community partners and their use of RockServe. During the 2024–2025 academic year, 770 students participated in service activities in collaboration with community partners. Community partner engagement on RockServe has increased by 47% over the past two years, resulting in a total of 217 posted service opportunities.



Students preparing meals with Katie's Kitchen.

2024-2025 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sustained, mutually beneficial partnerships are at the heart of meaningful community engagement. Below are some of the many organizations with whom SRU partners—fostering trust, advancing shared goals, and creating long-term impact for both the university and its community partners. These organizations have committed to long-term partnerships by graciously offering to host Haverlack Civic Scholars for up to four years.

- The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education and Research
- Slippery Rock Community Library
- Legacy Fitness Butler
- Kids Innovation Playground
- Butler Center for the Arts & Gallery

New for 25-26

**Slippery Rock Institute for
Learning in Retirement
Butler Children's Advocacy Center**

Strategic partnerships with community coalitions—such as chambers of commerce, healthcare systems, and manufacturing consortiums—are essential to aligning the university's resources with regional needs. These collaborations create pathways for workforce development, innovation, and shared problem-solving, while also providing students with real-world learning opportunities. By engaging with cross-sector partners, the university strengthens its role as a driver of regional vitality and a responsive, community-centered institution. These are some of our critical partners.



PARTNERS FOR
Campus-Community
Engagement



Community Voices Series

Led by SRU's CCE, Community Voices is a regional forum that brings together diverse stakeholders—from concerned citizens to leaders in government, nonprofit, business, economic development, and workforce sectors—to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaborative action around critical community issues. Designed to foster connection and collective problem-solving, Community Voices creates a welcoming space for sharing ideas, encourages open discussion, supports local projects, and strengthens relationships through events and networking opportunities. The forum continuously evolves based on participant feedback to better serve the region and promote inclusive community building. Facilitated by local experts, Community Voices takes place at various Butler County nonprofit, community and economic development, or government locations.



Thank you to our 2024-2025 Community Voices Presenters

Organization	Presenter
Center for Community Resources	Barb Sarvey, Base Service Unit Coordinator
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania	Jesse Sprajcar, Director of Regional Impact Initiatives
In Toto Community Resource Center	Sydney Selfridge, Executive Director
Heritage Wellness Center	Laura A. Carlantonio, Assistant Director
Center for Community Engagement	Dr. Melissa Swauger, Professor of Nonprofit Management, Empowerment, and Diversity Studies, Gender Studies Co-Chair, ACE Faculty Fellow
Butler YMCA	Elizabeth Short, Executive Director
Neighborhood Legal Services	Nicole Coleman-Hammett & Nikki Christopher, JD
Remote Area Medical Clinic	Lynn McKinnis, Coordinator
Jean B. Purvis Community Health Clinic	Kim Reamer, Executive Director
Independence Health Systems Food Institute	Breanna Perkins, Nutritionist
Butler YMCA Reach and Rise Program	Tiffany Croutzer, Manager
Butler County Parks & Recreation	Braden MacBeth, Assistant Director

A key component of university-community engagement—and one of the CCE's core strategic goals—is the ongoing assessment of partnerships to ensure they are sustainable, mutually beneficial, and built for long-term impact. Below, we highlight just a few of the many community partners with whom we are deepening our relationships. Their involvement across multiple CCE initiatives demonstrates a shared commitment to the region, Slippery Rock University, and student success.

- **Butler Legacy Fitness** – Haverlack Civic Scholar site partner and academic community engagement
- **Butler Coffee Lab** – Community Voices sponsor and participant, academic community engagement
- **Butler Center for the Arts & Gallery** – Haverlack Civic Scholar site partner and also engaged a second Haverlack Civic Scholar with the 2025 Age of Aquarius Arts Festival
- **Butler Area Public Library** - Community Voices sponsor and site for the former Bonner Leader Program
- **Homeless Bag Project** - Academic Community Engagement and Community Voices participant



For comments, feedback, or questions, contact the CCE Professional Team at
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Compiled and designed by Nina Sullivan
2024-25 CCE Strategic Communications Coordinator

