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WPI

Worcester Community Project Center



[re]connect: WCPC in Action

Project Sponsors 2016-2017 Academic Year

Community Harvest Project*
Habitat for Humanity
MetroWest/Greater Worcester**
Park Spirit*
Princeton Historical Society*
Princeton Art Society*
Senator Harriette Chandler
Seven Hills Foundation**
YMCA of Central Massachusetts
Wachusett Earthday, Inc.*
WalkBike Worcester*
Worcester Art Museum**

*new sponsor
**sponsored multiple projects

WCPC Celebrates 15 Years

On March 30, 2017, current students, alumni, faculty and community members gathered at the recently renovated Worcester Community Project Center (WCPC) office to celebrate over 15 years of collaborative research partnerships in the greater Worcester Community. The WCPC was established in 2000 by Lance Schachterle, who had the vision of bringing WPI's global projects program into the Worcester community to work with community organizations to address issues important to the city's future. In 2002, Rob Krueger became director of the Project Center and spent a decade in that role. Krueger handed over the reins to the WCPC's current director, Corey Dehner in 2012.

In recent years, the Project Center has expanded to operate in four terms, and now serves approximately 16-20 community organizations and 70 students annually. Due to this expansion and the growing role of the WCPC in Greater Worcester, in 2014, the WCPC welcomed Laura Roberts as Assistant Director.

Over the course of its 15+ year history, the Center worked with more than 40 project sponsors and over 600 students. With each of these students dedicating 40+ hours per week for 7 weeks to their project, plus the 7 weeks of their prep term where they work approximately 20 hours per week. This represents a conservative estimate of over 240,000 quality research hours on issues critical to our vibrant Worcester community.

The growth of the WCPC would not be possible without the phenomenal community partners we work with. "I can't talk about the WCPC's work in the community without acknowledging the sincere dedication, intelligence and drive of the 40+ Worcester based organizations and agencies the WCPC partners with. Some of the organizations we work with are staffed by all

volunteers and all have limited budgets. Most importantly, these organizations are on the front lines of necessary environmental or social justice issues and are important threads of greater Worcester's social safety net," said Corey Dehner, WCPC Director, "we can't thank them enough for allowing WPI students to be part of the important work they are doing."

WCPC Presents Inaugural IQP Award

This year marked the presentation of the inaugural Worcester Community Project Center Award, honoring its top Interactive Qualifying Projects. All student groups who completed their IQP during the 2015-2016 academic year were eligible to apply. In January, a faculty committee, reviewed all the applicants and narrowed the candidate pool down to two top contenders and one honorable mention.



The top two finalists, presented their projects at the WCPC's 15th Anniversary celebration on March 30, 2017. The audience had the opportunity to ask questions about the projects and the two judges, David Connell, Association Vice President at the YMCA of Central Massachusetts and Bruce Bursten, Provost at WPI, selected one team for the top honors. The audience and judges were impressed by knowledge and depth of both projects and the judges faced a difficult decision.

WCPC Award Winner

[Recommendations for a Comprehensive Massachusetts Underground Storage Tank Policy](#)

Student Researchers: Kelsey Regan, Brian D'Amore, and Julia Holtzman
Sponsor: Office of Senator James Eldridge
Advisors: Corey Dehner and Melissa Belz



Runner Up

[Management of Volunteers and Build Sites Using Technology](#)

Student Researchers: Andrew Bauer, Chris Xavier, Anna Schozer, and Erin Bracken
Sponsor: Habitat for Humanity
Advisors: Corey Dehner and Laura Roberts



Honorable Mention

[Leicester Water District Analysis](#)

Student Researchers: Shanel Chisholm, James Commisso, and U Shwe Thein
Sponsor: Town of Leicester, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Advisors: Corey Dehner and Laura Roberts

Project Highlights

Students collaborated with [Senator Harriette Chandler](#) to address community concerns regarding a large scale composting operation in Northborough, Massachusetts. Students investigated composting best



practices and regulations and then developed a video and website to act as a resource for food waste recycling operations.

Students comparatively analyzed similar nonprofit community farm organizations both nationally and locally to ultimately optimize farm operations and outreach at [Community Harvest Project](#).



A project team worked with [Park Spirit Worcester](#) to increase utilization of the East-West Trail by assessing current awareness of the trail, compiling an inventory of points of interest along the trail, creating a promotional video, and most importantly, developing and implementing a mobile application for trail users.



Working with the [Princeton Historical and Princeton Arts Societies](#), students created a self-guided tour of the Princeton area that is available in both digital and print format.

Students designed and created interactive activities for visitors to the artist Shih Chieh Huang's *Reusable Universes* exhibit at the [Worcester Art Museum](#). The activities will allow visitors to see how discarded items can be reused to make works of art. The *Reusable Universes* exhibit opens June 24, 2017.



Visit the Worcester Community Project Center website to see all the projects completed in the [2016-2017 academic year](#).

[Worcester Community Project Center](#) | [Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#)
100 Institute Road | Worcester, MA 01609 | (508) 831-4959 | [wpi.edu/+wcpc](#)

Corey Denenberg Dehner, Director, cdehner@wpi.edu
Laura Roberts, Assistant Director, lroberts@wpi.edu

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