

Community Engagement and Leadership at William & Mary Drew Stelljes, PhD



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Connecting William & Mary and community to support students' development as active and educated citizens and to promote positive, community-driven social change

Students in OCE programs:

- Apply knowledge of complex social issues and concepts such as power and privilege
- Cultivate meaningful and productive relationships across difference
- Practice critical and reflective thinking
- Integrate academic experiences with community engagement

"OCE has supported me as I have learned how to mobilize care, lead service, educate others, and engage with people with very different backgrounds from mine"

Student in OCE programs

Students report:
97% increase in self-efficacy
87% increase in communication skills
85% increase in sense of belonging

DC SUMMER INSTITUTE

- 20-25 undergraduate fellows
- 7 academic credits
- 10 week internship
- Living in DC



INQUIRY BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Focuses on investigating complex questions and problems.
 - The student is challenged to ask probing questions, collecting data, using evidence-based reasoning and qualitative inquiry practice to develop conclusions.
- Allows the professor to build a community of learners by moving students beyond general curiosity for the topic into critical thinking and more nuanced understanding of the topics.
 - We develop a basic understanding of problems and challenges in order to develop a set of common questions to be asked at each site visit and with each guest in order to support students' investigation using qualitative research practice.

INQUIRY BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING

- By providing structure for meeting with experts and touring sites, we created a research rich environment, with data collection serving as a priority.
- Students are taught the fundamentals of qualitative research with real world experimentation in DC

INQUIRY BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING

- As emerging professionals, our students are using qualitative inquiry to make sense of how individuals and groups make meaning.
 - When we understand that we have the awesome power to paint our life story, we are free. We no longer feel the need to impose our story on others and to defend our interpretation of the world. Instead, we see all of us as artists with the right to create our evolving masterpiece.