

## STUDENT PROFILE: CARLY KIMIECIK



Before coming to Purdue to pursue a PhD in Public Health, Carly Kimiecik was highly involved with youth programs and often worked with organizations that provided mentorship, life skills, sports activities, and college and career readiness resources to children who may not have otherwise been able to engage in similar experiences.

Since becoming a Purdue student, the Center for Health Equity and Innovation (CHEqI) has served as an outlet where Kimiecik can put her passions to work. CHEqI addresses the needs of underserved populations locally and globally by working to reduce health inequity through person-centered approaches.

Since joining CHEqI in the spring, Kimiecik has taken advantage of the unique opportunity to positively impact nearby communities. This past April, Kimiecik used CHEqI's partnership with Purdue Polytechnic High School (PPHS) in Englewood to help coordinate a pilot program with Nine13sports, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for underserved youth to ride and learn about bicycles. Approximately 60 children participated in the "Kids Riding Bikes" program, where they rode indoor stationary bike simulators and completed a brief survey. Many reported having a great experience and expressed that the activity helped them feel energized and positive throughout the rest of the day.

In April of 2022, CHEqI and Kimiecik will continue their work with Nine13sports by partnering with Marion County Extension to offer a six-week course at PPHS Englewood. Along with learning more about bicycles and engaging in physical activity, students will receive information about maintaining a healthy diet. CHEqI is working to establish a partnership with the PPHS North campus to offer similar health and wellbeing opportunities in the near future.

## INSTRUCTOR TO WATCH: LISA NIELSEN



During the summer of 2022, Dr. Lisa Nielsen will direct a service-learning course for humanities students. Funded by the Council of Graduate Schools, this new service-learning course, Grant Writing for Diverse Careers in Humanities, will allow Purdue graduate students to gain experience collaborating with nonprofit organizations on the composition of grant proposals. Grant funding is very important for nonprofits, and our students are eager for real-

world experience to help shape their career development and professional writing.

Students will attend weekly class sessions where Dr. Nielsen will teach them grant writing fundamentals, and guest lecturers will speak about their experiences writing grants for nonprofit organizations. Students will then be paired with nonprofits from around Greater Lafayette. These partnerships include organizations such as the YWCA of Lafayette, Lafayette Urban Ministry, and Food Finders Food Bank, along with other local groups. Once partnered with a non-profit, students will assist with the composition of a grant that will provide resources and support for that organization. Through service-learning, the students will analyze grant solicitations and funding agency goals, interview community partner organization personnel about the project, and investigate available resources, needs, and stakeholders for the grant project. The students and organizations will have an actionable proposal to submit by the end of July 2022.

Reflecting on the course, Dr. Nielsen noted that it gives students ample opportunities to develop and grow transferable skills. "The Grant Writing for Diverse Careers in Humanities course will provide our students the opportunity to collaborate with nonprofit organizations and use their grant writing skills in a non-academic setting. The students will learn how nonprofits plan projects and run their organizations, which will help the students gain transferable skills for various non-academic career paths. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity for additional involvement with their community partner organization for shadowing staff and volunteers as well as project management."

## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: YWCA GREATER LAFAYETTE



Our local YWCA offers many wonderful programs to the community, including the Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (DVIPP). Over the years, the YWCA and staff member Nohemi Lugo, who has worked for the YWCA-DVIPP for 20 years as the Hispanic Advocate, have partnered with Purdue to provide our students many valuable opportunities, including in the area of engagement and service-learning. Additionally, Purdue provides opportunities for training and team building for employees of the YWCA.

In service-learning and through general volunteerism, many students from Purdue work as interns and volunteers with advocates in the DVIPP. When victims of abuse apply for immigration relief, they must write a letter describing the abuse that they have suffered. Purdue students have helped victims by translating these letters to be presented in immigration court. They have also transported clients to their attorneys' appointments and have provided translation services for them. Many Purdue students also volunteer on a consistent basis answering the DVIPP 24-hour hotline. The YWCA relies heavily on the students' aid to be able to offer this service to the community.

In her role with the program, Nohemi does case management and guides others through the difficult legal processes of custody and family cases. As a member of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Lafayette, she is working to help end discrimination and prejudice in our community. About the ongoing partnership between Purdue and the YWCA, Nohemi says, "Purdue students have been extremely helpful to our program. We greatly value the collaboration with Purdue and service-learning projects." YWCA hopes to continue this valuable partnership and find additional ways to work together in the future.

## SAVE THE DATE: 2022 ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

Save the date for the Engagement Summit, **Thursday, February 3, 2021, 1:00 - 4:30 PM** hosted by the Office of Engagement. This event brings together faculty, staff, students, and community partners to discuss best practices in engagement, highlight accomplishments, and increase collaborations.

This year's event will feature opportunities to network and expand partnerships, as well as engage in conversation with Dr. Jerome Adams on health equity in underserved communities. A showcase featuring student engagement stories will conclude the Summit. Registration is free, but required and will open January 2022.

## JOANN MILLER AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Office of Engagement is currently accepting nominations for the 2022 JoAnn Miller Exemplary Community Partner Award. This award recognizes local nonprofits, schools, or government units that contribute to the educational growth of Purdue students by providing volunteer and service-learning opportunities.

Last year, the award was given to LTHC Homeless Services and YWCA of Greater Lafayette. To nominate a person or local organization, you can fill out a form [HERE](#).

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement is accepting proposals and articles for the 2022 issue.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until **January 15, 2022**. Completed articles are due no later than **March 1, 2022**. For more information, contact editor Jennifer Bay at [jbay@purdue.edu](mailto:jbay@purdue.edu)

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Did you know the Office of Engagement has a new website? Click [HERE](#) to learn more about what we do and how we can help you!