

Developing Excellent Students Committed to Engaging with Their Local Communities

A Millennial Impact Project by New Jersey Campus Compact DR. SAUL PETERSEN, DIRECTOR

Page 2. Introduction & Mission

Page 3. Structure

Page 5. Approach

Page 9. Recognition

Page 10. Financial Requirements

Page 11. 2018-2019 Calendar

Funding Partner



Business Association



Changebuilder Campuses















We all pay a crucial role

in making New Jersey THE engaged state

Introduction & Mission

Beginning in Fall of 2018, New Jersey Campus Compact (NJCC) and our partners will strive to dramatically increase opportunities for college-going millennials of all backgrounds to demonstrate excellence while engaging with issue-driven projects in communities, thereby enabling them to make a measurable difference in their local communities as *Changebuilders*. This will see a surge in the overall number of young socially responsible graduates with the skills required to be successful – both in achieving their own work-life goals and in their efforts to be a part of change for the better. The *Changebuilders* mission is designed to achieve the following outcomes at minimum:

- 1. Develop sequences of community engagement project opportunities throughout students' educational experience so as to deepen knowledge of and commitment to local community issues, including those who intend to transfer from community colleges to baccalaureate institutions
- 2. Increase employability by developing 21st century workplace skills through high quality community engagement sequences of experiences and through career pathway mentoring. These local experiences will also contribute to these millennial *Changebuilders* staying in New Jersey upon graduation and supporting the economy
- 3. Increase student retention by offering a greater range of community engagement experiences and partnerships with community colleges and baccalaureate institutions.

 This will also improve positive transfer pathways for a more diverse population of student volunteers
- 4. Significantly increase equity and overall college student community engagement in New Jersey, a state struggling near the bottom on national statistics of community service for citizens (46th out of 50) and specifically for postsecondary students (49th out of 50). We will grow the number of community engaged students each year by 500+ annually, ultimately helping to develop thousands of engaged citizens, especially those representing marginalized populations, ready to graduate and address pressing local community issues
- 5. Ensure that a significant number of nonprofits and community service agencies increase their capacity to develop and deliver impactful services and programs for populations struggling at the margins of society. Efforts will include college access and success, educational equality, access to healthy lifestyle options, alcohol and substance abuse reduction, and neighborhood safety

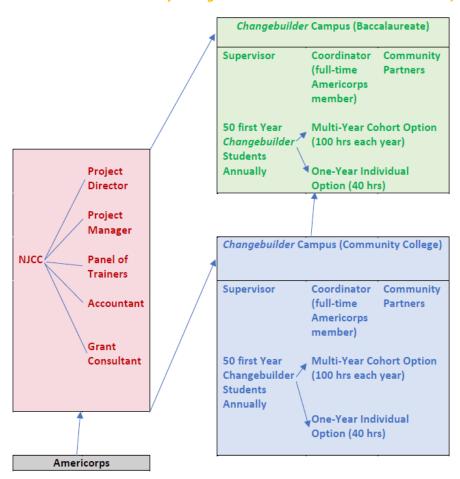
Changebuilder Project Structure

New Jersey Campus Compact (NJCC) is a presidents' higher education coalition that supports community prosperity through purposeful engagement. *Changebuilders* represents a massive statewide partnership between NJCC, AmeriCorps, the New Jersey Commission on Volunteerism, our 10+ partner campuses, expert practitioners from each campus, community partners representing numerous nonprofit and community agencies, as well as regional businesses acting as advisors and career connectors. NJCC manages all requirements from the personnel funder, AmeriCorps.

Changebuilders Coordinator: Through our partnership with AmeriCorps, NJCC will offer each partner campus one trained full-time coordinator to help run an increased number of community engagement programs. NJCC will recruit, train and pay these full-time campus-based coordinators. Graduating seniors offer a great talent pool for possible recruitment for one-year as a coordinator. The position can serve as a one-year stepping stone in this young professional's career in public service or higher education. Campus partners pay a fee in return

Supervisor: Each *Changebuilders* Coordinator will work under the direct supervision of an existing full-time staff or faculty member whose salary is paid by the college or university. The supervisor must, as a significant part of their role, be charged with directing campus-community partnerships/outreach.

Figure 1. Organizational Chart Representing one Baccalaureate Institution and one Community College (Academic Year 2019 has Four Community College and Seven Baccalaureate Institutions)



Three program models are briefly laid out below. Regardless of which model is chosen, campus partners must recruit a **minimum of 50 new student** *changebuilders* **per year** while involved in the program.

One-Year Individual Model

In this model, students are required to commit to the community engagement experience for a period of one year minimum. As the model suggests, campuses are not required to connect these students' experiences to one another in any way. Their distinct efforts are tracked as individuals. Campuses must ensure completion of an average of **40 hours community engagement per student for a minimum of one academic year**. However, campus partners should make an effort to retain these 50 students the next year, for example, by offering them further community engagement and incoming group leadership opportunities.

Multi-Year Cohort Model

This cohort-based model is also an option for participating campuses. The differences between the one-year model and the multi-year cohort model is that these students must commit to **100 hours of community engagement per year for the entire duration of their undergraduate education.** The cohort's experience will include working together and *learning from one another's experiences*. Of those 100 hours annually, 20 hours will be devoted to cohort-based reflection. In this model, a new first year cohort per year are selected and they develop together for the duration of their undergraduate education whether that be at a community college or baccalaureate institution.

Combined Model

Campuses are encouraged to consider developing a combination of the one-year and multi-year models, thereby recruiting **50 students minimum per year and recruiting a portion of them as a multi-year** *changebuilder* cohort.

The combined approach might then result in the following **example**:

2018

50 total students minimum recruited: 20 students in a multi-year cohort (100 hour commitment per year throughout undergraduate education) PLUS 30 other students completing individualized volunteer experiences (one-year 40 hour commitment)

2019

- In the second year, the 20 students in the multi-year cohort continue with their 100 hour commitment throughout their undergraduate education (whether at a community college or four-year institution).
- **50 new students minimum are again recruited**, with a portion serving as a multi-year cohort.

This continues like this with 50 recruited *student changebuilders* annually for the duration of participation in the project.

Overleaf in *Table 1* is a visual summary of the *Changebuilder* approach, followed by a more detailed description of this project.

The Changebuilder Approach



Changebuilders Leadership Pathway for the Community Engaged Graduate

LEADERSHIP & CAREER DEVELOPMENT "Building a Mindset for Career and Society"	DEVELOPMENT OF IN-DEMAND SKILLS "The Skills To Make Change"	DISTINCT EXPERIENCES "The Building Blocks Of Change"	Growth Area
Observe leadership in action - Act on direction from leaders TRACK IN CNG AND/OR DIGITAL BADGE: - Set goals and improve task organization, analysis, and reflection - Improve group discussion related to project completion OPTIONAL - Integrate divic engagement readings into CEL courses	Demonstrate 1-2 completed and nuccessful projects with tracked steps taken mack to complete with tracked steps taken mack to complete projects of perspective. Discover differences of perspective, bedground, and opinion from students and community kederarity about the difficulties involved in making change in communities. Be aware of and improve listening question-assing seff-awareness through reflection, and knowledge of community.	Write a Vision Statement: Looking Forward CO-CURRICULAR (examples): - Volunteer in a pentry or soup sizthen - One on one Tutoring and mentoring Joining in National Days of Service and Alternate Spring Breats - Joining in National Days of Service and Alternate Spring Breats - Joining in National Days of Service and Alternate Spring Breats - Community Repayed Learning (CE) courses and projects (examples): - Completing an afterschool Externation or data on a community issue - Completing module - Research-driven gathering of information or data on a community issue - Conducting mode trials in court OPTIONAL CURRICULAR Contract OPTIONAL CURRICULAR - Complete a required Civic Engagement (CE) Pricourse	Year 1 (40 or 100 hr min.) Direct Community Engagement
Show successful project coordination incentify professionals satisfary cohort. Reflection: individual, group, and peers TRACK IN CAVE AND/OR DISTFAL. BADGE: Project-planning and running meetings. Showing timely and clear communication Understanding the challenges of consensus-building and conflict resolution. OPTIONAL Integrate divic organizement readings into CEL courses.	Demonstrate 5-2 completed and successful projects with tracked steps taken TRACK IN CWG AND/OR DISTRAL BADGE: Uncertainting multiple perspectives from campus and community feadership about the difficulties involved in making charge in communities: Develop a level of critical training and analytical reasoning.	Revisit Vision Statement: Looking Bock - Looking Forward CO-CURRICULAR (examples): - Coordinate Food Drive - Help coordinate National Days of Service and Alternate Spring Breaks - Help coordinate water or policy action, eg, analysing SM campales): 1-2 Community Engaged Learning (CEL) courses and projects (examples): - Religing coordinate a butoring group, eg, setting butoring goals and assessing effectiveness - Research-oniven data analysis effecting a community issue - Helping develop a FR campaign	Year 2 (40 or 100 hr min.) Coordination
-Take on low rick leadership roles with established partners: -Maintain Professional Advisory Cobort and involve them in capstone experience (lead) proposal -Reflections individual, group, and peers TRACK in CMS AND/OR DIGITAL BADGE: -Project management and delegating tasis -Project management -Project mana	-Demonstrate 1-3 completed and successful projects with tracked steps taken TRACK IN CAME AND/OR DIGITAL BADGE: -Communicating your own perspective on the difficulties involved in making change in communication communicate a proposed solution for causes of community challenges.	Revise Vision Statement Looking Back - Looking Forward CO-CURRICULUA (Examples): -Lead a Food Drive - Help lead National Days of Service and Alternate Spring Break: - Help lead voter or policy action, eg, build a SM campaign with goals CURRICULUA (Examples): 1 Community Engages Learning (CE) course and projects (examples): 1 Community Engages Learning benchmarks for effectiveness: - Use of data to compile and present findings - Develop an independent course with a community engagement project focus - Establish a summer community engagement internating (3-8 hirs a week) - Develop a senior capatione experience "Lace" proposal	Year 3 (40 or 100 hr min.) Team Leadership
Oemonatric leadership capabilities on low risk projects with established pathers: Present apations experience "lass" skelection; individual, aroup, and peets TRACK IN CANS AND/OR DIGITAL BADGE: Advocacy and public education Communicating your own story as a Changebusider, and impring others. Career networking and since with Professional Additory Cohort on post-conduction pass.	- Demonstrate 1-3 completed and successful projects, including the consistore fleet with tracked steps taken TRACK IN CMS AND/OR DIGITAL BADGE - Developing and communicating your pain efforts but in place the building blocks of change in communities. - Test a proposed solution to a community challenge.	Resid vipos Statement. Losing Bod - Jossing Farward CO-CURRICULAR (examples): - Ballutte previous pear's leadership roles and set gods for current year, ex- recents food partry services, identify meets such as cost drives, build new ADS or ASB pertnership apportunities CURRICULAR: - Complete apportune experience Tuesc OPTIONAL CURRICULAR - Take a repartone Civic Engagement (CE) column - Take an independent course with a community engagement project frour	Year 4 (40 or 100 hr min.) Wolking Your Changebuilder Path

Partner campuses are required to intentionally recruit students that mirror the diversity of communities in which projects will take place, and to design partnerships and sequences of experiences that are guided the following principles at minimum.

Changebuilder Campuses:

- 1. *Place the highest value on diversity, equity and inclusion* by intentionally recruiting students that mirror the diversity of communities in which their experiences will take place
- 2. Focus on *Project Goal Accomplishment* results achieved through intentional behavior and change in practices
- 3. Emphasize *Tracking to Success* having built-in points of reflection and learning in order to make the changes necessary for end goal success as part of the program
- 4. Tie community engagement to *Sequences of Courses & Experiences* refining and improving students' own practices in making change
- 5. *Tie Experiences to a Career Pathway* invite the support of local professionals to offer mentoring and co-volunteering throughout these experiences
- 6. Seek to develop *Civic Transfer Pathways* concrete incentives for community college graduates transferring to a baccalaureate institution

1. Place the Highest Value on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Connecting civic engagement to education leads to greater commitment to completing your education, to committing to local communities, to enhancing academic attainment, and to being a better co-worker. The gift of supporting the engaged graduate - ready to thrive in the workplace and help in their communities - is that this work cares nothing for privilege. In fact, the more variation in race, culture and lived experiences among our civically engaged college graduates, the better for everyone. This is because success in the 21st century comes from being adaptable to different experiences, from understanding differing perspectives, from innovating, and even from struggle. In a supportive environment, struggle builds resilience.

Disparities by race exist that civic engagement actively plays a role in mitigating. Engaging in issues of concern is a human instinct and therefore automatically of interest to all races - so different races, cultures and experiences ARE VITAL ingredients in building towards change and equality.

By committing to providing *changebuilder* students with access to professional mentoring and networking (#5 below), as well as *workstudy* funding for 100 hours civic engagement annually, we remove barriers to engagement by increasing the overall perceived value of engagement and, in essence, a return on students' investment in their own professional and social growth.

2. Project Goal Accomplishment

A focus on achieving project goals, both individually and in teams, is essential in developing students' abilities to deliver during their undergraduate education and in the workplace. By committing to an end point or product within a relatively small timeframe such as a semester, each contributor to the partnership can track to success (see next point for more on this), including faculty, community partners, mentors, and students

themselves. This is especially important for students learning in real life contexts because their growth as *changebuilders* will necessarily be informed by significant struggles, recalibrations, changing contexts, and even by significant failures along the way. Once students plan a practice or behavior — and then witness the associated results — they can more quickly gain critical self-awareness and competence.

Business coaches such as Hal Williams, along with a great weight of research, highlight the need for students to demonstrate competence working on outcome-based projects. Showing this to employers on a resume and in an interview enables graduates to stand out.

3. Tracking to Success

There are multiple reflection points all along the *changebuilder* experience, allowing students to gather and assess evidence of growth in their demonstrated excellence, leading to students adapting their efforts in order to achieve the outcomes desired. As outlined in the previous point, each project that students undertake and complete allows them to evaluate progress under the guidance of faculty, peers, community partners and advisors.

Changebuilders is using the Civic Minded Graduate (CMG) assessment developed by Bob Bringle at IUPUI to track students' growth in their knowledge, skills, dispositions and intentions to make positive contributions to society. Given that each student brings unique lived experiences and merits, there is no prescribed baseline or final target score for *changebuilder* students. Instead, there is demonstrated self-reflected progress in these competencies over time. CMG is designed to assess evidence of a variety of students' civic learning across a variety of learning experiences.

4. Sequences of Courses & Experiences

The process of refining and improving students' own practices in making change is one that requires a level of personal and institutional commitment to a multi-year process. It requires both rigorous coursework and deeply engaging community experiences. When students spend significant time engaged in issues facing communities, they develop an understanding of how their education applies to the real world and, in so doing, they become an ally to their own educational process. This increases the likelihood that they will finish their degree and commit to those communities upon graduation. These students not only deepen their understanding of context and complexity, but they forge relationships that can prove valuable upon graduation.

Sequencing courses and experiences means providing students with multiple opportunities for learning, experience, and reflection that are planned so as to produce a cumulative effect. While *Table 1* gives a sketch overview of sequencing, *changebuilder* campuses are intimately aware of assets and opportunities available to inform their own distinctive program design.

An expert panel of trainers are part of the team helping to deliver professional development in designing events and programs and practices in such areas as:

- Recruiting and preparing students
- Community engaged learning course development
- Running 911 / MLK Days of Service & Alternate Spring Break Programs
- Community based research

- Community partner management
- Developing results-driven projects
- **Experiential Philanthropy** Lead Trainer, Dr. Lyndsey McDougle at Rutgers School of Public Affairs & Administration will offer workshops to faculty at *changebuilder* campuses who are interested in incorporating experiential philanthropy into their coursework. Experiential philanthropy is a teaching and learning approach that integrates charitable giving with academic study, in order to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. With a small investment from the *changebuilder* campus, 4-5 student groups per course can explore their interests in philanthropy and, at the end of the course, make a donation of \$250 \$500 to the nonprofit that stood out from their research.

5. Tying Experiences to a Career Pathway

The very skills that students develop through community engagement are the same skills that enable employees to thrive in the workplace; and are the same workplace habits that boost employee morale. This investment of time is *not* just about staying in school - it's not just about giving back to communities and serving others - it's about getting ahead in the job search and standing out to employers by being engaged - it's about increasing employee morale and building a thriving workplace. However, college students and professionals need to work together in order to help uncover and then translate these experiences into marketable workplace skills. Many of the student *changebuilders* need the guidance of local professionals in the form of mentoring and networking in order to fully capitalize on their investment in changing society for the better. Specifically, this guidance from local professionals from business and government includes:

- Uncovering with college students the value of volunteer experiences in developing persistence, leadership skills, communication and analytic reasoning, team work skills, and flexible critical thinking skills
- b) Providing valuable networking exposure for college students who might not otherwise have access to this type of support and inspiration
- c) Articulating the pathway from

volunteering → in-demand skills → competitive recruitment

→ a thriving workplace & resilient community

d) Building alliances with higher education that focus on strategies for recruiting student civic leaders, given their unique abilities to demonstrate 21st century workplace skills; how to demonstrate these skills on resumes and in interviews; and how businesses can and should uncover these attributes in the application-submission and interview processes

6. Civic Transfer Pathways & Cohorts

New Jersey is leading the nation in the development of *Civic Transfer Pathways* – these are strategies for encouraging transfer students' academic persistence and excellence through community engagement. These are concrete incentives to community college student civic leaders who wish to transfer to a baccalaureate institution upon completion of their Associates degree.

Actions associated with this strategy include:

- Tracking student community-based experiences while gaining an Associate's Degree

- (for example, through academic transcripts) and the associated knowledge, skills, and attributes developed that will forecast success beyond the two-year degree
- Articulating the pathways for these experiences to be recognized while gaining a Bachelors or equivalent degree (for example by providing tuition scholarships; removing disciplinary and course prerequisites; and counting experiences in ePortfolios)

To date, New Jersey Campus Compact has facilitated the development of 2 such pathways at *Campus Compact member* campuses - firstly between *Bergen Community College* and *William Paterson University* and, secondly, between *Raritan Valley Community College* and *Drew University*. Incentives include counting volunteer experiences in digital badge tracking, removal of costly prerequisites, and inclusion in special scholarship cohorts (valued at \$2,500 per year).

Recognition

Table 2. Recognition Pins for Projects and Hours Completed Annually

One-Year	Required 40	80 hrs /	120 hrs /	160 hrs /		
Individual	hrs.+ 1	2 projects	3 projects	4 projects		
Model	project	(optional)	(optional)	(optional)		
	minimum					
Recognition	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Indigo
Pins						
Multi-Year	Required 100 hrs / 2		200 hrs / 4 projects min.		300 hrs / 6	400 hrs / 8
Cohort Model	projects minimum				projects min.	projects min.

Pins: NJCC will co-sponsor the annual process of recognizing student *changebuilders* with pins and certificates for the projects completed and hours dedicated to a local community. As can be seen in *Table 2*, these are color-coded and reflect the number of projects and community engagement hours accomplished.

Changebuilders Award: Each changebuilder campus will nominate one student finalist annually, from which a single winner will be selected by a panel. The winner will receive a \$1,000 grant to complete a community engagement project or to use toward future studies.

Each institution should consider additional ways to tailor a distinctive form of recognition for their college or university.

Financial Requirements

New Jersey Campus Compact (NJCC) will direct the *Changebuilder* project, involving a project director, project manager, accountant, grant and assessment consultants and, finally, a panel of trainer experts from member institutions. NJCC will recruit, train and pay full-time campus-based coordinators who will receive a very modest allowance from \$14,000 and are eligible for health insurance through NJCC. This is the AmeriCorps rate for one year 1700 hours work known as a *Member Service Year (MSY)*.

Campus Partners: Annually, we will partner with up to 10 to 15 campuses representing public and private 2-year and 4-year Campus Compact member institutions, each paying an annual program fee of \$14,000 payable to New Jersey Campus Compact by August 15, 2018, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and the successful recruitment of a one-year full-time *Changebuilder Coordinator*. Partners must provide their coordinator with office space, computer and printing facilities, telephone, parking, and full access to campus resources such as library and gymnasium.

PLEASE NOTE - Campus partners have the opportunity to add to the \$14,000 annual living allowance for coordinators — in the form of additional dollars toward their living allowance, room and board, or other financial incentives. This will help significantly with being competitive in the recruitment process.

Also, many *changebuilder* campuses are signing commitments to **provide coordinators a \$6,000 match** if the coordinator applies to return to that institution as a graduate student. This refers to the education award coordinators receive upon completion of their year's work. This option will be included in the MoU.

Students in the multi-year *Changebuilders* cohort model (100 hours per year including 20 hours cohort-based learning) should have the opportunity, when eligible, to avail of Federal Work-Study funding as part of the 7 percent institution's community service commitment. This is a common practice at dozens of multi-year community engagement programs across the country. It is also the case that institutions provide other forms of remuneration such as modest tuition scholarships, given the significant commitment of the students to local communities AND the fact that cohort-based community engagement programs tend to demonstrate higher retention rates than the average student population.

Student in the one-year *Changebuilders* **individual model** (40 hours per year not as a cohort) should not be eligible for financial incentives other than being eligible to win the annual \$1000 award from New Jersey Campus Compact.

Changebuilders Calendar for 2018 - 2019

2018

April to June – Adapt and post one-page *Changebuilder* Coordinator Position Overview to promote to outgoing seniors and graduate students – (promote position as "pending grant approval from AmeriCorps in May 2018" until such a time as project approval is given)

May to early June – learn of project approval from AmeriCorps State Commission on Volunteerism

June to August – actively recruit *Changebuilders Coordinator* and possibly the multi-year student cohort (based on decision made by each campus regarding their own recruitment process)

September Orientation

3-day Coordinator orientation & 1-day Supervisor orientation:

- Project reporting and tracking procedures, sequencing of a pathway experience, 911/MLK Day of Service, Alternate Spring Break programs, civic engagement transcript and digital badge, civic transfer pathways, Civic Minded Graduate (CMG) assessment tool, community engaged learning course development, community based research, partnership models and practices, recruiting and preparing first year students to serve, communications
- SPECIAL: Preparing a sequenced program for multi-year cohort of students

October to December – monthly trainings for coordinators

2019

January to July – monthly trainings for coordinators

PLEASE NOTE: Final decisions on the reporting schedule is pending the approval from the NJ State Commission on Volunteerism

March – Recruitment Begins for year 2 Changebuilders Coordinator (beginning date in August TBD)

April – Student Recognition: NJCC will co-sponsor the annual process of recognizing student *Changebuilders* with pins and certificates for the projects completed and hours dedicated to a local community.

June to August – Year 2 Preparations are coordinated by current coordinator

We ALL pay a crucial role	
 in makina New Jersev THE engaged state	_