



# **Center for Learning in Action (CLiA)**

## Connecting Curriculum & Campus to Community

**Paula Consolini, Ph.D., Adam Falk Director**



# Our Mission



**The Center for Learning in Action (CLiA)** cultivates and sustains experiential learning opportunities, curricular and non-curricular, in service of the teaching goals of our faculty, the civic aspirations of our students and the needs of the wider community.

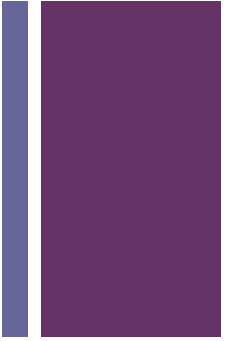


## **Our Ethos**



**Our team takes a wholistic, collaborative, and continuous learning approach, working with faculty, student groups, a wide range of community organizations, and campus partners to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities to address pressing civic problems.**

**We organize relevant trainings for students such as trauma-informed education practices and follow the guidelines outlined in Stanford University's Ethical and Effective Principles of Service.**



# Overview

- 1. Types of Work Available & Levels of Involvement**
- 1. Opportunities in a Dozen Action Areas**
- 3. Some Options and Impacts**
- 4. The Scale of Engagement: Annual Numbers**



# Types of Work Available and Levels of Involvement

## **Work Available**

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- Volunteer
- Paid
- Academic Credit (Semester & Winter Study)
- Summer Internship

## **Involvement**

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- Open Drop-In
- One-Time Event
- Weekly/Monthly/Seasonal
- Winter Study/Summer Internships



# Opportunities in a Dozen Action Areas



**Activism \* Arts & Culture \* At-Risk Youth**

**Education \* Community & Economic Development**

**Health & Wellness \* International Development**

**History, Government & Politics \* Social Services**

**Media & Technology \* Religion & Spirituality**

**Science & the Environment**



## Some Options and Impacts

- **Teach, tutor, or mentor in Pre-K -12 classrooms and special school and community programs: 1400+ K-12 students served annually**
- **Help low income taxpayers file for refunds as an IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistant: An average of 150 clients are served annually, netting \$200,000+ in federal & state refunds.**
- **Tutor inmates at the Berkshire County House of Correction to pass the high school equivalency exam and write papers for their Williams Inside/Out courses: In this new program, so far, over three dozen inmates have been helped.**
- **Become trained in basic optometry and eyeglass fitting and spend 10 days working in mobile eye care clinics in rural Nicaragua during Winter Study: In 2018 alone, 7212 pairs of glasses were distributed to over 4245 patients.**





## **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**



## **Helping move the Berkshire Immigrant Center**







## **Creative projects with disabled friends run by BFAIR buddies**



## **Making children's mittens for a winter clothing drive**





## Teaching science in local schools



## Organizing community cleanups



# Student Project Spotlight


Isabel Arvelo

William College, Class of 2023



**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT**

**BLS Provider**

 American Heart Association

The above individual has successfully completed the cognitive and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) Program.

Issue Date \_\_\_\_\_ Recommended Renewal Date \_\_\_\_\_

 **BFAIR** | INSPIRING ABILITIES. CREATING LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

Berkshire Family & Individual Resources



## WSP Health Coach Research Project Executive Summary

J. Lee, S. Mudakannavar, M. Blaise, A. Cheung, A. Perso, J. Silberman, Z. Houston, E. Yoon, I. Arvelo, S. Fleming, S. Ahmad, S. Dyniack

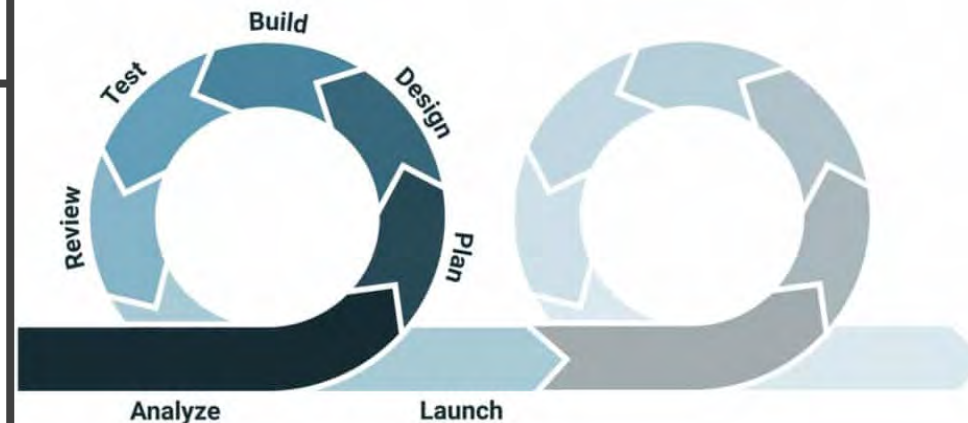
### I. Introduction:

The purpose is to illuminate the areas in healthcare that require attention in Berkshire county and to provide suggestions to address those deficiencies. Our research works to determine whether or not it would be possible to develop a program to address health disparities in our local community while also providing opportunities for pre-med and public health students to gain clinical training and experience. There are a variety of ways a program like this could be modeled so we want to try and understand how we can leverage the resources at our disposal in the most effective way.

### II. Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to address the healthcare deficiencies in Berkshire county while providing healthcare exposure to students interested in pursuing a career in the field. Berkshire county ranked 13 out of the 14 counties for health outcomes and 11th for health factors in 2019 and showed higher rates of poor physical health days and mental health days than the state of Massachusetts as a whole. The limited access to care is apparent in Berkshire county. In 2021, the patient to primary care physician ratio was 848 to 1, which is a 7.32% decrease from the ratio in 2020. This decreasing trend in physician to patient ratio is especially concerning given the aging population in the area. In 2021, 23.9% of the Berkshire county population was over 65 years of age, which is higher than the national statistics of 16.5%. Additionally, Berkshire County's death rate (18.7/100,000) was above the state average (14.9/100,000) in 2016.

According to the CDC, nearly half of adults in the United States (47%, or 116 million) have hypertension. This is defined as a systolic blood pressure greater than 120 mmHg or a diastolic blood pressure greater than 80 mmHg. However, only about 1 in 4 adults (24%) with hypertension have their condition under control. High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke, the leading and fifth-leading causes of death in the United States. High blood pressure is often known as "the silent killer" due to its often lack of signs or symptoms. Many people unknowingly have hypertension. Once diagnosed, however, it can be controlled through a combination of diet, exercise and medication. High blood pressure has become an





# The Scale of Engagement: Annual Numbers



- **Courses involving experiential learning: 100+**
- **Students working in local education: 350+**
- **Students volunteering or working for other community organizations & initiatives: 500+**
- **Annual miles driven in CLiA community service vehicles & college vans: 15,000**
- **Number of collaborating non-profits: 60+**



## Learn More

**Website:** [learning-in-action.williams.edu](http://learning-in-action.williams.edu)

**Email:** [CLiA@williams.edu](mailto:CLiA@williams.edu)