

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SHOUT-OUTS

Recognizing outstanding civic engagement work in our community.



Ayana Allen-Handy, CBL Faculty Fellow, Faculty Member in School of Education



Ayana engages in deep social change work through her community-engaged research projects, and works intentionally to develop and share her practices alongside others in the faculty fellow cohort. Ayana shows care for all those she works with- checking in on her colleagues, supporting young people and community members who work with her, and developing long-term supportive relationships. Her work offers guidance to young professionals in her field, and she draws on wisdom from others including intergenerational partners in her work, faculty peers, and social justice perspectives/voices her field.

Vivek Babu, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student

Vivek Babu serves as a Civic Influencer with
DrexelVotes and has been a true leader in the youth
voter and civic engagement space. Vivek and the rest
of the DrexelVotes team organized an amazing Civic
Engagement Fair on Primary Election Day and created
two social media guides for voting and understanding
the ballot. Vivek's enthusiasm and positivity is
infectious. So proud of all his hard work and can't wait
to see how he and the rest of the DrexelVotes team
change the world.

Nominated by: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer

Angela Chen, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student

Angela Chen served as a Data Civic Influencer with DrexelVotes. She was charged completing a data survey project to collect vital youth voting data. Angela is a great student leader in the data and civic engagement space. I'm so proud and can't wait to see her and the rest of the DrexelVotes team change the world.

Nominated by: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer

Akilah Chatman, CBL Course Assistant, Undergraduate Student



Akilah worked with the Lindy Center to bring liberatory pedagogy, anti-racism, and justice to environmental studies courses. They worked to develop a lesson plan and class session for introductory environmental science students about justice and racial inequities in the field, helping them to reflect on the lens with which they understand the scholarship they read to critically ask what voices are published and heard, what forms of science are accepted, and how the field connects to histories and systems of inequity. Akilah also offered support, community and relationship to other course assistants, creating a space where all assistants belonged and shared with one another.

Maurice Cottman, Staff Member, Drexel's Student Center for Diversity & Inclusion

Maurice has been a pillar of support for so many people at Drexel and I can only begin to put into words everything that he has done to build a caring community. The way that he centers students' voices and treats people as whole beings has created a space that feels like family that constantly work towards a more just future today.

Anonymous Nomination

Callalilly Cousar, Member of Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood Community Advisory Council, Community Member

A resident of East Parkside, Ms. Cousar is a staunch advocate for neighborhood children and families. She is a member of the Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood Community Advisory Council and works at connecting the East Parkside community to information and beneficial resources and partnerships. Through her commitment and dedication to her community, Ms. Cousar is a true partner to the Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood and embodies the spirit of the Lindy Center's mission.

Nominated by: Rachel Viddy, Promise Neighborhood Project Director

Isabela Curtain, Lindy Center Student Worker, Undergraduate Student

Izzy shows up as her authentic self in the best way. Her ability to co-create stories, whether that's through conversation or D&D, along with her willingness to make change and center growth is so important to fostering community and collective problem solving. I'm so excited to see where she goes during her time at Drexel.

Anonymous Nomination

Isabella DiBlanda, CIVC 101 Course Assistant, Undergraduate Student

Isabella has been welcoming and inclusive to all the students in our class and me. She has demonstrated how impactful this course and the efforts of the Lindy Center have been to her being the way she communicates and connects with others. Isabella is leading by example, and I believe that where she goes professionally, she will make sure to apply herself civically and support causes as best she can. Super proud of her and her accomplishments.

Nominated by: Zoraida Cordero, CIVC 101 Instructor

Steve Dolph, CBL Faculty Fellow, Faculty Member in Global Studies & Modern Languages



Steve relentlessly builds opportunities for students, partners, staff and other faculty to engage in learning and growth together to address issues related to climate change and migration. While he cares deeply about students and the issues he teaches, he never looses sight of the people around him and the intentional processes he utilizes in his work. He turns everything "backwards" to center values aligned with the Lindy Center when it is requires more time and effort- he centers relationships rather than individual outcomes and justice rather than competitive definitions of success or achievement. Steve embodies the idea of collective learning, action and reflection, and offers others the resources and spaces to do it well.

Drexel Urban Growers, Student Organization

In the past year, Drexel Urban Growers has blossomed into a proactive thoughtful organization that centers the idea of community collaboration and connection in everything they do. From their work in the community garden at Dornsife to nutrition education to sustainable agricultural practices such as vermiculture and aquaponics, they are building community and resources within Drexel and beyond.

Anonymous Nomination

De'Wayne Drummond, President of the Mantua Civic Association (MCA), Community Member

A resident of Mantua, De'Wayne is the President of the MCA. MCA's mission is to ensure that neighborhood residents are engaged in making decisions about the changes going on in the Mantua community. De'Wayne is a staunch advocate for neighborhood children and families, especially those in the Morton McMichael School community. In addition to his participation in the City's Promise Zone Collaborative Engagement Initiative, he is actively involved in violence reduction efforts in the Mantua neighborhood. Through his commitment and dedication to his community, De'Wayne is a true partner to the Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood and embodies the spirit of the Lindy Center's mission.

Nominated by: Rachel Viddy, Promise Neighborhood Project Director

Desiree Easter, CIVC 101 Instructor, Staff Member, Steinbright Career Development Center



Desiree was monumental in creating the Career Closet over at the Steinbright Career Development Center to provide professional work attire for students going on coop and/or entering the workforce. She began organizing it in 2019 but had to place things on hold due to the pandemic and wasn't able to do a soft opening until March 2022, which was a huge success with 257 students coming to get clothing. She is making sure the closet is stocked by running donation drives and helping to host additional events where people can come get clothes. This is all on top of her work in Steinbright as a coop advisor and her work as a CIVC 101 instructor, a role which she puts a lot of effort and dedication into to ensure her students have a meaningful experience in the class. (Image is students at the Career Closet.)

Amaris Felton, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student



Nomination 1: Amaris Felton serves as a Civic Influencer with Drexel Votes. Her and the rest of the DrexelVotes team have been instrumental at turning out the vote for Primary Election Season. She planned andhosted a Documentary & Donuts night and played "All in: The Fight for Democracy" and gave out donuts to Drexel students who

came and either checked their voter registration or registered to vote. She also hosted a voter registration tabling event. I'm so proud of her and the rest of the DrexelVotes teams and can't wait to see how they change the world.

Nomination 2: Since we all began our work as Civic Influencers this year, I have gotten to know Amaris and am extremely grateful to have had that opportunity. Working with Amaris was simultaneously easy, fun and enjoyable. While we definitely faced more than our fair-share of obstacles in our Civic Influencers experience, Amaris was instrumental in our group overcoming these challenges. She was amazing at coming up with catchy, alliterative titles for events, as well as bringing her friends to all of our events so we could help register them to vote. Her values and work-ethic made not only the Civic Influencers organization better, but it makes Drexel University better and has made all of us who worked with her and are now friends with her better.

Nominations from: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer and Paulie Loscalzo, fellow Civic Influencer

Jahdae Gardener, Lindy Student Worker, Undergraduate Student



Jahdae's ability to design promotional materials that communicate information related to civic engagement across communities has directly impacted the way that the Lindy Center can share resources and opportunities with the Drexel community and beyond. Since working in person, she has been a joy to talk to and an amazing person to bounce ideas off of.

Anonymous Nomination

Zack Levy-Dyer, Lindy Center Staff Member

Zack Levy-Dyer serves as a Campus Advisor for Civic Influencers' DrexelVotes team. He has been a tremendous asset and without him and the support of the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement we would be able to host so many great youth voter engagement activities at Drexel. Big thanks for serving his first years as advisor!!!!!

Nominated by: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer

June He, Faculty Member in Westphal College of Media Arts & Design



June He's Aging + Design course uses a community-based co-design approach to build long-term trust and collaboration between the aging population in Philadelphia's Asian Community and interdisciplinary college students at Drexel University. Her program brings the voices and lived experiences of diverse aging immigrants to the academic environment, increases students' awareness of inclusive and empathic design, as well as brings diversity, equity, and inclusion to the design course pedagogy.

Val Ifill, CBL Faculty Fellow, Faculty Member in Westphal College of Media Arts & Design



Val is a faculty member in dance and has been teaching students in community-based learning as she works to enhance her departments commitment to anti-racism, student learning, and civic engagement. Val works in community with other faculty to reflect on their practices, intention, and impact on this work. She continuously strives to learn from others as she shares her own insights. She works to form connections with other community-engaged faculty, building community as she extends it to others.

Johanna Inman, Staff Member, Teaching and Learning Center



Johanna has been a champion of the Lindy Center's work for several years now - giving our Community-Based Learning team several opportunities to share CB-EL pedagogy with a wider audience of faculty members and open the doors for new faculty to join us in presenting these types of classes to students. The Lindy team greatly appreciates her partnership and also her wider efforts to make teaching and learning more equitable, accessible, and inclusive.

Aunnalea Grove and Jeffrey Jordan, Staff Members, West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood





Jeffrey and Aunnalea have been working for the past year on an amazing effort called the West Philadelphia Community Power Academy, a series of trainings meant to empower community members to be advocates and community organizers to bring about the changes they'd like to see in their own communities. The two of them have led the process in an extremely collaborative way, inviting a diverse working group of people to come together to create curriculum and structure for the Academy in ways that take accessibility and equity into account. In just a short time and in ever-changing pandemic conditions, they have launched several workshops for the Academy that have gotten great feedback from participants. They are truly committed to sharing tools with community members so they can use their voices and make social change!

Khadija Koita, Lindy Center Student Worker, Undergraduate Student



Khadija's journey, from her time as a Drexel Community Scholar to her experiences with CBL to her work as an administrative assistant, exemplifies so many of the pathways that students can take through involvement with the Lindy Center. Her decision to connect her senior project directly to the West Philly community highlights her commitment to issues of equity and community.

Anais Leone, CBL Course Assistant, Undergraduate Student

Anais is a committed member of the CBL Course assistant community and has been one of our most requested and valued course assistants by faculty and CBL students. Anais has a strong capacity for reflective thinking and analysis of issues that help students think more critically and personally about what they learn in CBL. Anais brings her background in public health and language to strengthen the ways groups experience issues and how they communicate those experiences with one another. Lindy, CBL faculty, and CBL students are all grateful to have Anais as a CBL Assistant in this work!

Nominated by: Carrie Hutnick, Associate Director of Community-Based Learning, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement

Caspar Nguyen, Undergraduate Student, Maker Jawn Facilitator at Fab Youth Philly

From their mentorship through Fab Youth Philly to their commitment to assistive technology, Caspar embodies the ideals of just and equitable access. Their work in supporting first-generation, LGBTQIA+, and BIPOC students has created spaces for vulnerable, supportive conversations about the placement of Drexel students in the broader Philadelphia community.

Rachel Lopez, Faculty Member, Kline School of Law

Rachel has worked tirelessly to support student learning about the legal system and its impact in the community while supporting impactful community and scholarship projects that moves issues closer to equity and justice. Rachel builds intentional relationships and partnerships with community groups and organizations who are most impacted by incarceration, the legal system, or other community issues that could benefit from legal support. She then guides law students in projects that adds

She then guides law students in projects that adds capacity to this community work. One of these groups, in addition to the support of an anti-racism mini-grant, resulted in commutation workshops in West Philadelphia that ended in two West Philadelphia community members recommended for commutation after 30 and 40 years inside. Rachel also co-authored an article about life without parole from a human rights law perspective alongside currently and formerly incarcerated community members serving those sentences.

Nominated by: Carrie Hutnick, Associate Director of Community-Based Learning, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement

Cara Scharf, Lindy Center Staff Member

Cara Scharf serves as a Campus Advisor for Civic Influencers' DrexelVotes team. She has been a tremendous asset and without her and the support of the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement we would be able to host so many great youth voter engagement activities at Drexel. Big thanks for always being there for the fellows for the last few years!!

Nominated by: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer

Paulie Loscalzo, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student



Nomination 1: Paulie Loscalzo served as a Civic Influencer with Drexel Votes. He and the Drexel Votes team hosted a myriad of voter education, voter registration and get out the vote events including Documentary & Donuts and Polaroid at the Polls. He is a great leader in the youth voting space. Soo proud of all he and the Drexel Votes team have accomplished. Can't wait to see him change the world.

Nomination 2: Paulie is dedicated to engaging students to vote! We worked together to plan voter engagement events on campus. This term we held a voter registration table, viewing of All In: The Fight for Democracy with voter registration, and a photo booth to get people excited to vote on Election Day. Paulie worked hard to make sure these events were successful, which showed his true passion for voter engagement.

Nominations from: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer and Olivia Maddox, fellow Civic Influencer

Olivia Maddox, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student



Nomination 1: Olivia Maddox served as a Civic Influencer for DrexelVotes. Her and the rest of the DrexelVotes team worked to host a Documentary & Donuts event, voter registration event, and a Polaroid At The Polls event on Primary Election Day. She is a tremendous asset to youth voter engagement. I'm so proud of her and the rest of the DrexelVotes team and can't wait to see them change the world.

Nomination 2: Olivia Maddox is a first year student at Drexel University with a fierce passion for civic engagement. Through her work in the Civic Influencers, she has devoted her time & energy to educate the student body/surrounding community in the important topic of civic engagement. Her character, leadership, & kindness was truly an honor to work with & the impact she made can be felt throughout our campus. I am looking forward & cannot wait to see all that she is able to accomplish in the future!

Nominations from: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer and Aidan Winkler, fellow Civic Influencer

Chelsea Martin, CBL Course Assistant Undergraduate Student



Chelsea has worked over the last year to develop a writing exchange between community members and people incarcerated through a writing and creative exchange. Chelsea applied for and received an anti-racism grant to support her work, continued to develop it even when abroad in Senegal, and co-constructed the exchange with community co-coordinators inside. Chelsea also participated in the CBL Course Assistant program while away, participating in group meetings with other CAs and building community from around the world. Chelsea balances patience, urgency, care and intentional commitment to her work on anti-racism, abolition, and liberation. Lindy is better for having Chelsea as a part of its community of student leaders!

Rida Memon, Undergraduate Student



Rida volunteered more than 144 hours with the Borgen Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to alleviate global poverty. While she was expected to raise \$500 and mobilize 2 dozen people to email Congress, she raised \$1081 from 37 unique donors and mobilized 73 people in her community to help pass critical poverty-reduction

legislation. Now, her local Congresswoman cosponsors the Girls LEAD Act which will help millions of young girls around the world to be more active in their communities. She also wrote 10 articles for the Borgen Magazine and Blog to educate people about poverty-related issues related to the environment, human trafficking, and refugees to encourage her audience to get involved in the cause. Soon after, she accepted her first co-op at HIAS Pennsylvania, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal and social services to refugees and asylum seekers. As an aspiring lawyer, her primary task was to help clients with legal applications for green cards, travel documents, family petitions, and public

benefits like food stamps and medical assistance.

Nonetheless, she embraced opportunities to help clients in ways outside of her job description. For example, she was committed to finding and enrolling clients in ESL classes that accommodated their schedule and needs. Little did she realize the significance of her actions until she received a message from one of the clients, thanking her for making them feel seen at the end of her internship

Gwendolyn Morris, Leader in the Mantua Civic Association, Community Member

A long-time resident of Mantua, Ms. Gwen is a leader in the Mantua Civic Association (MCA). MCA's mission is to ensure that neighborhood residents are engaged in making decisions about the changes going on in the Mantua community. Ms. Gwen is a staunch advocate for neighborhood children and families, especially those in the Morton McMichael School community. Through her willingness to support other local civic organizations and youth-focused programming, Ms. Gwen is a true partner to the Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood and embodies the spirit of the Lindy Center's mission.

Nominated by: Rachel Viddy, Promise Neighborhood Project Director

David Pickett, President of the West Belmont Civic Association, Community Member

As the leader of West Belmont Civic Association, David consistently demonstrates his commitment to his community. In his leadership role on the 16th Police District Advisory Council, he works to improve the relationship between the police and the community. He also prepares and coordinates food delivery for neighborhood seniors and organizes community day events for neighborhood children and families. Through his willingness to support other local civic organizations and youth-focused programming, David is a true partner to the Drexel's West Phiadelphia Promise Neighborhood and embodies the spirit of the Lindy Center's mission

Nominated by: Rachel Viddy, Promise Neighborhood Project Director

Deja Oliver, CBL Course Assistant, Undergraduate Student



Deja brings the CBL course assistant community together, and reminds us what it means to work as a community to lead opportunities for student to learn, engage, and reflect. Deja shows care and compassion for others while modeling unwavering commitment to the work and values of CBL and anti-racism. Deja has been a leader of student leaders and CBL faculty at the Lindy Center and has guided our work by leading student advisory groups. Deja pays attention not only to the work of community engagement, but the resources and processes required to do it well and make it accessible to all. Deja embodies values of equity, justice, and collective problem solving to address issues of oppression and injustice through education and meaningful action.

Mira Olson, CBL Faculty Fellow, Faculty Member in College of Engineering



Mira is leading an effort with the Lindy Center to establish an approach to training students in quality community-engaged research. Mira is valued by students in her attention to their experience, learning and growth. She shows a dedication to community partners in her attention to creating thoughtful community-based learning projects and courses. She supports the Lindy Center and other faculty by being a part of a supportive community of practitioners.

Sam Samuels, Leader in Mantua Civic Association, Community Member

A long-time resident of Mantua, Sam is a leader in the Mantua Civic Association (MCA). MCA's mission is to ensure that neighborhood residents are engaged in making decisions about the changes going on in the Mantua community. Sam is a staunch advocate for neighborhood children and families, especially those in the Morton McMichael School community. Sam supported her neighbors during COVID quarantine through coordination of meal deliveries to seniors and educational supplies to students. Through her commitment and dedication to her community, Sam is a true partner to the Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood and embodies the spirit of the Lindy Center's mission.

Nominated by: Rachel Viddy, Promise Neighborhood Project Director

Mehajabin Wara, Lindy Center Student Worker, Undergraduate Student



Mehajabin embodies the Lindy Center's focus on community building. Her ability to foster a welcoming environment and willingness to share ideas has made the center a better place and I can't wait to see her continue throughout her time at Drexel.

The Civic Influencers Drexel Team at Drexel



As the National Organizer for Civic Influencers, I could not only give a shout out to one student but to the entire Civic Influencers team at Drexel University -- Vivek Babu, Amaris Felton, Paulie Loscalzo, Olivia Maddox, Aiden Winkler, and Angela Chen. I have been tremendously impressed by the hard work of these students. It is clear that Drexel University puts the importance of both voter and civic engagement as vital cornerstones to the culture and mission of their university. I have always been impressed by the strong relationship between our organization and the impressive work of the Lindy Center. Thank you all for everything that you do to make sure that every student at Drexel not only votes, but believes that their vote matters.

Nominated by: Liam Hysjulien, National Organizer for Civic Influencers

Stephanie Smith Budhai, CBL Faculty Fellow, Faculty Member in School of Education



Stephanie cares deeply about enhancing her practice in community-based learning and scholarship and is committed to embedding it into her work here at Drexel. She serves as a mentor to students who care about community and applying their learning to public problem solving. She shares her perspectives from the field of education to strengthen the frameworks of community engaged work for others while bringing joy and relationship into her collaborative projects and fellowship.

The Staff of UESF, Community Partner



The UESF staff have joined me in my side-by-side course Writing for Social Change as true co-teachers and co-learners with us at Drexel. They are always open to the texts we read, always offering suggestions for others, always listening to students and valuing their voices. What I most appreciate is how willing they are to recognize that social and organizational change is not a one-way street. Of any group that I have ever been a part of, they are the best at creative synthesis, putting together past and present, theory and practice, reason and heart in order to create something better for all Philadelphia.

Nominated by: Elizabeth Kimball, Faculty Member

Dane Ward, Faculty Member in College of Arts & Sciences



Dane has demonstrated a commitment to supporting students and partners in their learning, efforts, and collective capacity for social change. He particularly works to bring anti-racism to the environmental science courses, preparing students to see inequities in the field and who has access to STEM learning opportunities. Dane demonstrates a care for supporting the work of partners and uplifting the gifts and knowledge of students, leading and offering resources from behind. He centers equity and justice in his teaching and community work, and offers examples and collaboration opportunities for others to do the same.

Jayla Washington, Lindy Center Student Worker, Undergraduate Student



Despite her short time as an admin assistant, Jayla has become an integral part of the Lindy Center team. She has brought so many innovative ideas and ways of engaging with students to the center. Every conversation I have with her opens up new avenues of thinking about social change.

Alexis Wiley, CBL Course Assistant, Undergraduate Student



Nomination 1: Lex is an incredible human. They have been involved with the Lindy Center their entire time at Drexel, and it's so fitting that their final year at school culminated in them teaching a community learning course about Black urban farming. Their hard work and passion for sharing ancestral farming knowledge,

combined with their love for sharing the history of Philadelphia, captivates everyone they meet. Lex is the most incredible, accommodating facilitator, and is always learning. Lex taught Lessons of Da Land, a CBL program that explored the intersections of race, resource equity and food apartheid in Black Philadelphia. Their commitment to equity, and preserving and nuturing histories that are often silenced is truly admirable.

Nomination 2: In the Fall of 2021, Lex lead a co-curricular CBL program titled "Lessons of Da Land". This program was innovative and participatory in many ways, and resulted from years of patient and meticulous collaboration. I am honored and humbled to have been involved in the planning of this course.

Nominations from: Lara Bros, Drexel Alum and Steve Dolph, Faculty Member

Aidan Winkler, Civic Influencer, Undergraduate Student



Nomination 1: Aidan Winkler served as a Data Civic Influencer with DrexelVotes. He was charged completing a data survey project to collect vital youth voting data. In addition to all his tremendous data work Aidan also stepped up to help out the rest of the DrexelVotes team with all their on-campus events. Aidan is a great student leader in the civic engagement space. I'm so proud and can't wait to see him and the rest of the DrexelVotes team change the world.

Nomination 2: Aidan was hired as a data civic influencer and did not have to participate in any in-person events for his position. Despite this, Aidan was very helpful with planning and executing the in-person events with the rest of our team. He went above and beyond his role and helped make beautiful graphics to promote our events. His commitment to helping with our voter engagement events showed his passion for bringing out the vote on Drexel's campus!

Nominations from: Johanna Mudry, Civic Influencers Statewide Organizer and Olivia Maddox, fellow Civic Influencer