

A sunburst graphic consisting of several golden-yellow rays radiating from behind the text. The rays are of varying lengths and angles, creating a bright, celebratory effect.

IMPACT AWARDS

April 17th, 2024



Center for Community Engagement
and Service Learning

WELCOME: DR. CAROL BURTON, VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF 2024 IMPACT AWARDS: JULIA HECKERT, CCESL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2024 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD

This award reflects community engagement projects led by a WCU employee or student that provide institutional resources or services to address a community-identified need. These projects can be on-going or one-time events that engage a university program or unit with community partners. These projects may have an academic learning component but are primarily co-curricular in nature.

AWARD FINALISTS:

Building Efficacy Around Youth Suicide Prevention in Western North Carolina

- Melissa Mecadon-Mann (WCU Human Services)
- Emily Virtue (WCU Human Services)
- Joy Howard (WCU Human Services)
- Kevan Frazier (WCU Biltmore Park)
- Andrew Johnson (WCU Biltmore Park)
- Dustin Evatt (WCU HESA)
- Amanda Chapman (WCU School of Teaching and Learning)
- Myra Watson (WCU Beginning Teacher Program)
- Kristen Harrell (WCU Nursing)
- Tima Williams (Asheville Primary School)

Community Driven Food Solutions

- Elizabeth Milligan (WCU Social Work Student)
- Emma Miller (WCU Social Work)
- Katy Allen (WCU Social Work)
- Jesse Boeckermann (Catholic Charities)
- Beck Dubois (Catholic Charities)
- Bounty and Soul
- MANNA Food Bank
- WNC Food Systems Coalition
- Change Your Palate
- Bountiful Cities
- Lowe's
- French Broad Stone Supply
- Impact Health

Champion Mill Community Scanning Event

- Liz Harper (WCU Hunter Library)
- Jason Brady (WCU Hunter Library)
- Jenny McPherson (WCU Hunter Library)
- Lucas Rogers (WCU Hunter Library)
- Emma Parrish (WCU Hunter Library)
- Caroline Ponton (The Canton Area Historical Museum)
- Jennifer Stuart (Canton Public Library)
- Kathy Vossler (Haywood County Library)
- Brandy Proctor (Town of Canton)
- Lisa Stinnett (Town of Canton)

The Promotion of Hospitality and Tourism Education and Careers

- Ethan Cheng (WCU Hospitality and Tourism)
- Charlie Parrish (WCU College of Business)
- North Carolina DECA
- Asheville Buncombe Hotel Association
- Virtelle Hospitality
- Asheville City Schools
- HospitalityInternships.com
- Southern Hospitality Internship Program
- Sevier County Economic Development Council
- High Hampton
- Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

2024 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING, LEARNING & RESEARCH AWARD

This award reflects community engagement projects involving teaching, learning, and research activities led by any instructor that engage faculty, students, and community partner(s) in a mutually beneficial collaboration. These projects address community-identified needs and deepen students' academic and civic learning. Teaching and learning projects include, but are not limited to, service-learning and experiential learning.

AWARD FINALISTS:

We Are Not Okay: A Collaborative Community Project on Mental Health in WNC Schools

- Joy Howard (WCU Human Services)
- Myra Watson (Beginning Teacher Program)
- Melissa Mecadon-Mann (WCU Human Services)
- Loidaly Rosario-Gonzales (WCU Counseling)
- Jess Weiler (WCU EDL)
- Sarah Pedonti (WCU BK)
- Patricia Bricker (WCU School of Teaching and Learning)

Pro Bono Human Resources Consulting

- Rachel Smith (WCU Human Services Student)
- Marie-Line Germain (WCU Human Services)
- Jeff Pope (President and CEO of Blue Ridge Public Radio)
- Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge
- Arts for Life
- Soundcheck Prevention Network
- MAHEC
- Riverlink
- Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
- Hostelling International USA
- Fayetteville Animal Protection Society
- United Way of Lincoln County
- KARE
- Barbershop Harmony Society

Facilitating Fitness Programming at Hinds' Feet Farm

- Jennifer Hinton (WCU Recreational Therapy)
- Branson Duvall (Hinds' Feet Farm)

2024 LILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Lily Award is awarded to students who participate in and reflect on direct service, awareness and advocacy events, donation and philanthropy programs, and SLC-designated courses.

- Sarah Brantley
- James Carroll
- Isabela Niewiara
- Cody Pegram
- Jenna Schwartz
- Caylie Shew
- Natasha Sturdivant
- Stella Walborn
- Lydia Warthin
- April Wivell



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ADDS
TO, SHAPES, INVESTS IN, AND SHARES
THE STORY THAT IS COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AT WESTERN CAROLINA
UNIVERSITY.**

