Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement

Volume 8 | Issue 1

Article 1

2021

Editorial

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Recommended Citation

Bay, Jennifer (2021) "Editorial," *Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement*. Vol. 8 : Iss. 1, Article 1.

DOI: 10.5703/1288284317404

Available at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/pjsl/vol8/iss1/1>

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EDITORIAL

Dr. Jennifer Bay, Associate Professor of English

What a year it has been for service-learning at Purdue!

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we know it in so many ways, from cancelled study-abroad programs to interrupted community engagement projects to students going home after spring break and

not returning until the fall semester. Through all of these challenges, our students and faculty have adapted their service-learning partnerships to the changing conditions. Via those adaptations, they innovated how we can engage in meaningful service-learning when traditional methods are unavailable.

In this issue, you'll read a variety of articles that profile how Purdue's service-learning projects pivoted during the pandemic, as well as how new service-learning projects emerged from the pandemic, including students participating in contact tracing, producing hand sanitizer on the fly, and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations during quarantine.

More important than our pivots during COVID are our responses to the historic racial injustices that were amplified by the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna

Taylor, and George Floyd, to name only a few. This issue features a dearth of articles that focus on how service-learning can address racial injustice, but the ones that do deserve close attention. Sarah Reynolds, for instance, writes about her quest to integrate racial justice into nursing by providing Black and ethnic hair care products to a pediatric unit at an Indianapolis hospital. Temitope Adeoye, Myson Burch, Terrell Glenn, De'Shovan Shenault, and Rachel Scarlett describe the Heads Up Teen Mentoring Program, which provides local Black teens access to Black role models committed to helping them achieve their goals. Finally, several students of Dr. Jason Ware present articles on his important work with urban youth programs in Lafayette, Indiana. We hope that this is just the beginning of articles that address racial justice through service-learning partnerships.

This year, we thank Korbyn Torres, Professional Writing alumna, for her outstanding work as our journal's editorial assistant and welcome Carly Rosenberger in her place. We continue to be grateful to Purdue's Director of Service-Learning Lindsey Payne and Vice Provost of Engagement Steve Abel for their unwavering support of the journal even in these challenging times. And we are especially thankful for our reviewers and editorial board who provide excellent mentoring and support of our student writers. We hope you enjoy reading these articles and learning more about student service-learning initiatives at Purdue.