Engaging to Make a Difference

Duquesne University’s new Office of Community Engagement (OCE) connects the University and community resources across five areas of impact: growth and innovation; health and wellness; education; individual empowerment; and volunteerism.

OCE focuses on the Duquesne tradition of service that has been central to the University’s mission since its founding in 1878 and is still alive today.

To help create a vibrant, productive community that recognizes the value and importance of all individuals who collectively contribute to the rich tapestry of life in this region and beyond, the University is involved in pivotal city partnerships, neighborhood development groups, corporate and government collaborations, community health care services, local education initiatives and so much more.

Following are some recent examples of how service remains a core part of the Duquesne identity.

1. In April, Duquesne University’s START-Play Hackers adapted toys with youth in the Wilkinsburg neighborhood as part of the Pittsburgh Learning Commons after-school program. Duquesne students hacked toys with the children and taught them how wiring works. These toys can now be played with by children with disabilities.

2. Vice President of Community Engagement Bill Generett was a panelist at ANSYS, Inc.’s Leading Innovation with Diversity and Inclusion event in June. He joined a group of dynamic leaders as they shared insights on how diversity and inclusion drive innovation.

3. Bill Generett recently presented on Pittsburgh’s inclusive innovation and equitable development efforts as a featured speaker at the Cities of the Future conference in Bilbao, Spain. He also had meetings with many Bilbao political and economic development officials and at the Universidad de Deusto to discuss Duquesne’s community engagement efforts.

4. Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood was on campus in May filming a segment of the award-winning children’s show with Mary Pappert School of Music master’s student Caroline Bucher. The episode is scheduled to air next year.

5. Hundreds of Duquesne students, faculty and staff volunteered in the greater Hill District and South Side neighborhoods of Pittsburgh in April as part of the University’s 30th Annual Spring Clean-Up.

6. Students and faculty from the Duquesne University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences recently shared their enthusiasm for science and the positive impact of the field of pharmaceutical sciences with 2,200 students from 54 area schools at SciTech days.

7. Duquesne’s reach is global and students recently immersed themselves in communities around the world to make a difference. Here, Maymester Africa students are shown in Tanzania with four Duquesne academic advisors and eight alumni and friends.

8. During the spring semester, Duquesne business students studying supply chain process improvement partnered with Life’sWork of Western PA, which works to increase the quality of life of people with disabilities and others with barriers to employment through productive employment opportunities. The students were tasked with assessing the operations of the organization and provided a list of meaningful and realistic recommendations to help grow Life’sWork.

Visit the Office of Community Engagement online:

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