the CEM and CUPI programs at NAU

COMMUNITY ENGAGED PEDAGOGY

AND STUDENT SUCCESS
History of Community Engagement at NAU

democratic participation
building shared, personal, and relational power
direct collaboration with community partners to address real issues
Two Programs
CUPI & CEM

CUPI
community-university public inquiry

CEM
community engagement minor
CUPI OVERVIEW

- We use research to improve the social and ecological conditions of our communities in Northern Arizona.
- We provide applied, real-world, interdisciplinary, and ethical research skills to NAU undergraduates.
- We build lasting and reciprocal relationships with NGOs, grassroots community groups, and municipal government.
- We develop leadership, mentoring, and facilitation skills in NAU graduate and undergraduate students.
Pod Structure

Graduate Facilitators
Liaise between all groups
Facilitate weekly meetings
Provide student support

Community Partner
Provides direction
Explains need & background

Undergraduate Students
Learn research skills
Share disciplinary knowledge
Conduct applied research

Faculty Advisor
Research method expertise
Syllabus support
Grad facilitator support

CUPI Structure

CUPI PODS
- Climate Action Pod
- Immigrant Youth Equity Pod

Hood Initiative
Rural Food Systems Pod

CUPI COORDINATING TEAM
CUPI Pods
Offered the 2022 - 2023 academic year

Rural Food Systems
Research with clients and distributors of food box programs in rural Northern AZ communities.

Climate Action Plan
Weatherization & just transition with low-income residents & the City of Flagstaff.

Immigrant Youth Equity
Action research with immigrant families to improve support in K-12 school communities.

Hood Initiative
Autoethnographic research to transform educational experiences for "hood" students.
Engage

40 elective classes from across the university engage students from a wide range of majors to this interdisciplinary minor.

Empower

Each core class has a fieldwork experience lab, in which students work directly with a community partner on issues impacting them.

Organize

Focuses on skills of social change: relationship-building, community organizing, leadership development, advocacy strategies.
Indigenous Circle of Flagstaff
Renaming the Peaks

Arizona Students' Association
voter engagement.

Rural Arizona Engagement
Abortion access

Sodexo Sustainability
Expanding food recovery and reducing waste

Fossil Free NAU
divestment from fossil fuels

CEM Action Teams
Fall 2022
Sense of belonging

- 24% of college graduates are first generation college students
- 65% of Hispanic undergraduate students are first generation

Data from the US Department of Education
CEM connected students to long-standing community organizations to address real needs
After Graduation
Evaluating Impacts

- Participatory evaluation
  students set their own goals, relating to the program goals, evaluate their own progress

- Specific skills
  participatory research, relationship-building, power analysis, communication

- Post-graduation
  Students identify post-college success in their own terms

- Sense of belonging
  How students identify their own community, how it feels to work on issues that impact them directly, how their experience affects their sense of community connection
Contact Us

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