

## James N. '96 and Kara H. Proctor Fellows Program

The Landis Center facilitates the Proctor Fellows Program to build upon current Landis Center partnerships and allow participants to develop an understanding of the role higher education plays in the advancement of the public good and how individuals can contribute their skills and knowledge to the advancement of democratic ideals. Proctor Fellows are student/faculty pairs that work in partnership with a community organization to better understand the structures that support societal inequities and how they, as individuals, can take ethical action to address them through the different methods of community engagement and social entrepreneurship.

Participating faculty members work with the professional staff of the Landis Center to develop an understanding of community engagement principles so that they can act as informed advisors to student-fellows. Faculty development focuses on the trajectory of community engagement as a social movement, community partnerships, goal and outcome development, the impact of community engagement on teaching and learning, design thinking, and the power of reflection activities.

The fellowship is a 2-year commitment primarily for students in their junior and senior years. Using the Social Change Model of Leadership and Design Thinking as a guide, student-fellows examine the different ways people support their community and create possible solutions to community challenges. Student-fellows focus both on the assets and challenges of the community to develop a comprehensive picture of the community and their partner organization.

The program charges student-fellows with the task of exploring the various ways people enter and integrate into communities. Special attention should be paid to who has access to which resources, and why. Societal resources include education, employment, housing, transportation, healthcare, food, public spaces, etc. Student-fellows examine, through application to a particular situation: why resources exist or do not exist, how communities and organizations can make the best use of existing resources, and how new resources are created and deployed. Projects should focus on the creation of social value in that particular situation, as measured by the perception of positive impact by the community and/or community partner organization.

Student-fellows and their faculty mentors collaborate with their partner organization through a combination of direct engagement and action research. They first seek to understand how the organization is resourced and whether these resources are sufficient to support the resources the organization in turn shares with the community. Student-fellows then evaluate whether the resources the organization provides to the community are sufficient to meet community needs, and they develop a proposal to create or expand community access to those resources.

Please contact Chelsea Morrese if you are interested in becoming a Proctor Fellow.