



SARENA AKHTER

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING: THE NATIONAL RESPONSE WITHIN INSTITUTIONS

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH INTERNSHIP: RESEARCH OUTPUT 2022

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING?

DEFINITION

THE MANY WORDS OF CEL

CEL can take many names. Community Engaged Learning / Community Service Learning / Service Learning. Our research will focus primarily on CEL/CSL/SL as interchangeable (and other similar programs that holds similar definition).

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING?

DEFINITION

WESTERN'S DEFINITION:

LINK: [HTTP://CEL.UWO.CA/](http://cel.uwo.ca/)

"Community Engaged Learning (CEL) allows students the opportunity to take their skills beyond the walls of the classroom and into the community. CEL experiences partner students with groups, individuals, and organizations in the [local] region and abroad to tackle important problems and issues."

WHY DID WE CHOOSE THIS TOPIC?

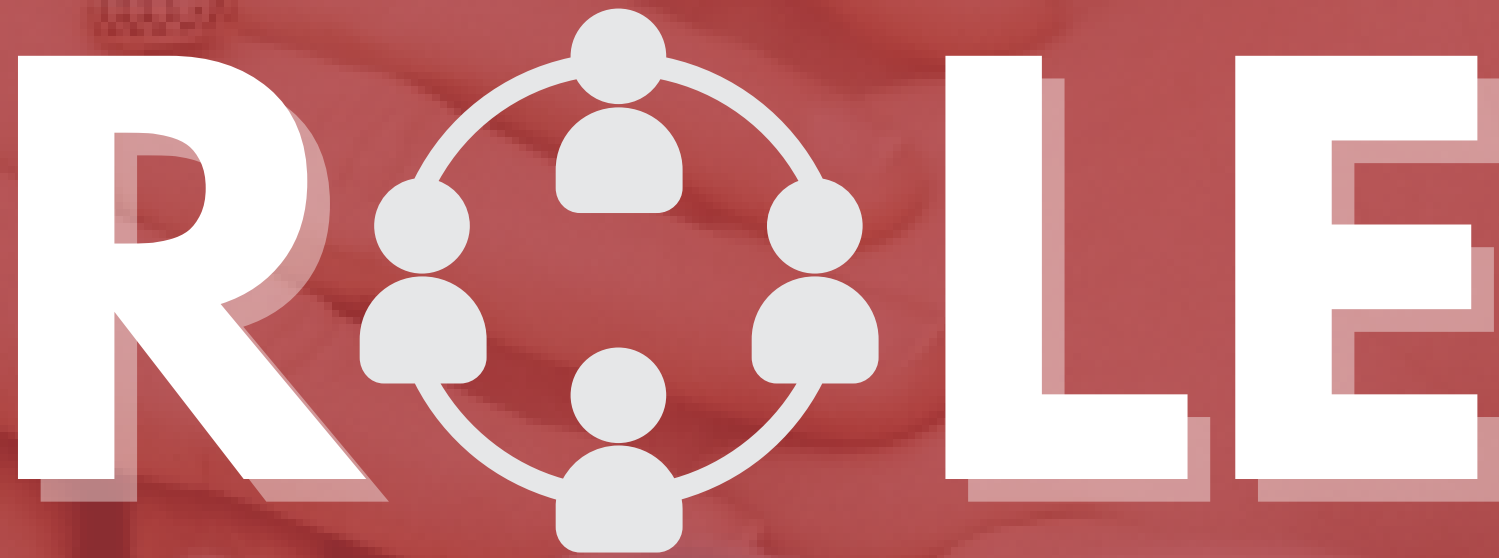
REASON



CEL/CSL: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Relevance: Western partakes in CEL. An environmental scan of the national landscape will give us an idea of whether CEL will be the next big thing. How is each institution implementing it differently? How many institutions are part of the movement?

RESPONSIBILITIES AS USRI STUDENT



INDEPENDENT RESEARCH NATIONALLY

One of our duties in the USRI program was to collect information about institutions (e.g., public parent universities) and their connection to community-engaged and/or service learning (CEL/CSL) at a national (Canada-wide) level.

HOW DID WE APPROACH THIS PROJECT

METHOD

RESEARCH METHODS

Our team focused mainly on data collection and drawing conclusions from the subsequent information. The digital landscape of institutions (e.g., their websites, online articles, emails, and other digital documents) will be our primary source of data and premise for our academic analysis.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES ARE

Our research project will yield information about the following:

- a) accessibility and transparency about CEL
- b) the significance and direction CEL will take nationally (positively or negatively)
- c) has CEL become a developed culture that is an integrated part of the institution in question

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

GOAL



1. PRIMARY RESEARCH AND DATA

Identify and examine the publically available information about CEL (or lack thereof) from institution (university) websites.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

GOAL



2. VALIDATE INFORMATION

Validate primary information by contacting staff at respective institutions for corrections/interest in our work.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

GOAL

3. CREATE AN ACADEMIC PAPER

Draw conclusions and key findings from the data and experiences to write an academic article about the accessibility and reach of CEL at institutions on a national scale.

HOW WE APPROACHED THIS RESEARCH

PROCESS

1. CREATING A META-LIST

Creating a meta-list of institutions applicable to research (e.g., a list of over 80+ institutions to be researched and contacted).

Data is collected through search engines like Google and in-site engines to find information

HOW WE APPROACHED THIS RESEARCH

PROCESS

2: RESEARCHING CONCEPTS

Researching concepts
related to our
interrogation for CEL
(e.g., is CEL accessible?
Would Canada benefit
from a standardized vision
for CEL?)

HOW WE APPROACHED THIS RESEARCH

PROCESS

3. RESPONSES AND EAGERNESS

Interrogating the environmental landscape of CEL nationally (e.g., was CEL well-developed? Were institutions interested in our process/paper? Is CEL approached differently by province?)

TANGIBLE USE OF INFORMATION

DISSEM INATION



WHAT WE RESEARCHED

What we found in our search

on:

1. University Websites
2. Emails
3. Articles related to
Institution

TANGIBLE USE OF INFORMATION

DISSEMINATION




1. UNIVERSITY WEBSITES

University Websites

- sometimes unclear if a university has CEL/CSL
- in these cases, CEL was often packed into other crevices (e.g., Experiential Learning, Co-Op)
- accessibility to CEL is higher the more developed CEL is at the institution

TANGIBLE USE OF INFORMATION

DISSEMINATION



2. EMAILS (CONTACT)

Emails

- note: response rate could be affected by summer months/vacation
 - we had a relatively high response rate (15%)
 - some responding staff seemed interested in hearing more about our work
 - meetings with interested staff were made

TANGIBLE USE OF INFORMATION

DISSEMINATION



3. ARTICLES (ABOUT CEL + INSTITUTION)

Articles

- information about funding, and program details could be found only in some news articles
- RBC/Provincial fund through CEWIL was a popular fund
- Redirected from websites about CEL + institution
 - Often third-party (not institution newspaper)

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

GOAL

ACADEMIC PAPER

**Our Academic Paper is still
currently under
development**

- While information is protected, we did make key observations: accessibility, transparency, and a standardized vision for CEL are key in further enhancing the CEL culture nationally

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

GOAL

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- CEL is an emerging powerhouse for Canada
- Information suggests institutions are interested in a national level
- Further environmental scans to develop CEL is encouraged



QUESTIONS?

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FIMS USRI

CITATION N

IMAGES

BUSING, H. (2020). GIRL FRIENDS' HANDS TIED TOGETHER. PHOTOGRAPH, DELCATEUR.

**DOIY, J. (N.D). HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.
PHOTOGRAPH. GETTY IMAGES**

**INFORMATION FOR ACADEMIC ARTICLE WITHIN PUBLICATION (CURRENTLY IN
DEVELOPMENT).**