

West Chester University

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Sustainability Research & Practice Seminar
Presentations

Sustainability Research & Creative Activities @
WCU

4-7-2021

Creating Community Connections On & Off Campus: RamCorps

Shannon Gillespie

Nick Marcil

McKenna Kovatch

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SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH *and* PRACTICE SEMINAR

April 7, 2021

Shannon Gillespie, Assistant Director,
Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact,
Nick Marcil, M.S. Higher Education Policy & Student Affairs 2022,
and **McKenna Kovatch**, B.S. Biochemistry 2022
Creating Community Connections On & Off Campus: RamCorps

Wednesday, 12:00 to 12:50 pm in our Zoom room
<https://wcupa.zoom.us/j/94812143774>

Creating Community On & Off Campus: RamCorps

Shannon Gillespie, Nick Marcil, McKenna Kovatch
Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact

Today's Discussion

- What is RamCorps?
 - Sustainability “On” & Off Campus
 - Looking forward
 - Questions?
-

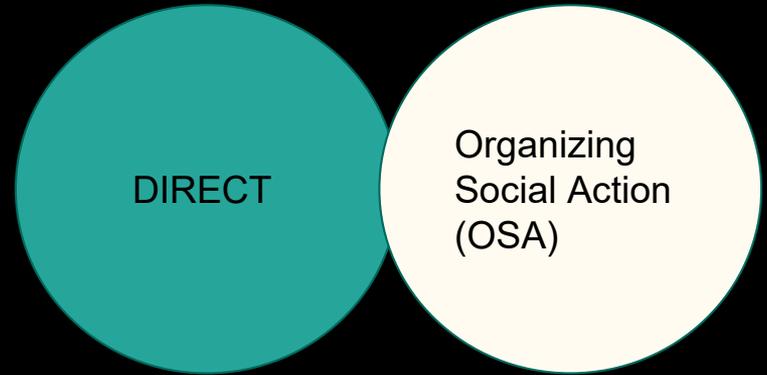
How do we get
students invested
in issues of public
concern?

Enter: RamCorps

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RamCorps

RamCorps is a civic leadership program for WCU students committed to the ideals of public service, active citizenship, and the promotion of positive social change.



RamCorps DIRECT

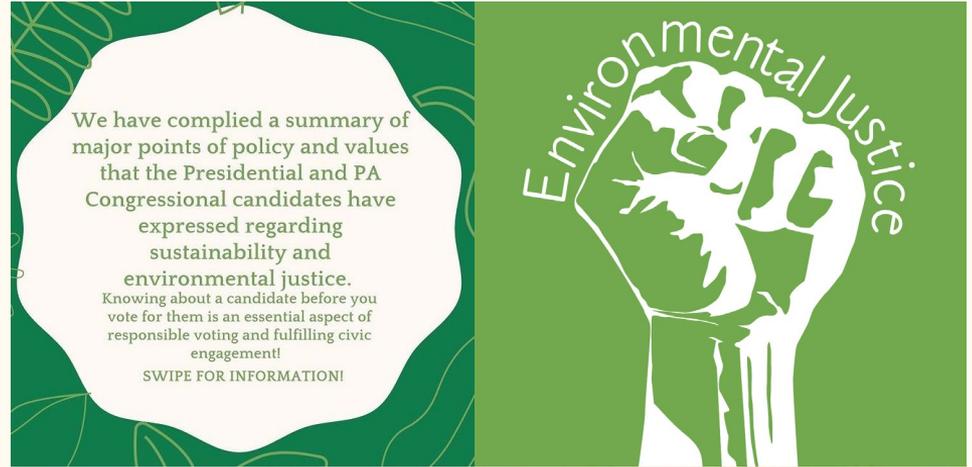
- Serve 6-10 hours per week working with their assigned site
- Monthly reflection meetings
- Issue Area Cohorts

RamCorps OSA

- Serve 6-10 hours per week developing educational content, events, and (eventually) hosting service opportunities
 - Weekly team meetings
 - Issue Area Cohorts
-

Fall Semester -Winter

1. Hired & Started Late October
2. Posts Every Week on Environmental Justice (EJ) & Sustainability
 - a. Candidates on EJ
 - b. Reducing Food Waste
 - c. (In progress) Looking at the WCU Carbon Neutrality Plan
3. Event: There's Something in The Water: A Deeper Look Into Environmental Racism



Spring Semester Part 1

1. MLK Week of Service
2. Posts Every Week on Environmental Justice (EJ) & Sustainability
 - a. Defining our terms & Being an Advocate
 - b. Service Saturdays
 - c. (In Progress) Reaching out to WC Borough about their Initiatives
3. Transition in Leadership

RAMCORPS OSA
PRESENTS:

SERVICE SATURDAYS

Email us some pictures of you and your organization performing an act of service and a brief description of what you did to get featured on our Instagram page!
Email: MD913077@wcupa.edu

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- **AMPLIFY BIPOC (BLACK INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF COLOR) VOICES WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY.**
- **VOTE FOR OFFICIALS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECTS ON BIPOC.**
- **EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS ON WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS.**
- **SPEAK UP WHEN YOU SEE ACTS OF INJUSTICE OCCURRING.**

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Maere Dowd

Urban and Environmental Planning Major
GIS Minor
Student Government Association Parliamentarian

Over the past few months I've been picking up a few new hobbies like knitting, playing guitar, and painting!

WeCU Here

1. Four Service Projects

- Getting 1st year students involved
- Community Engagement
- Education about issues within our community



New Member: McKenna

—

Spring Semester Part 2

Texas: A Case Study

Discussion on why and how this disaster happened! Looking at the environmental, social, and political causes of this man made natural disaster.

Partnership between RamCorps OSA of CCESI & SPE's of The Office of Sustainability!

THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL IMPACT



Texas: A Case Study

Join us on March 25, 7:30-8:30 pm and leave with deeper understanding of why and how this happened.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CLIMATE CRISES



HOW THEY IMPACT INDIVIDUALS

Extreme weather events can worsen preexisting conditions in overburdened communities

We will be talking about the environmental, social, and political causes of this manmade natural disaster.

Texas Arkansas



The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

RAMCORPS RECAP

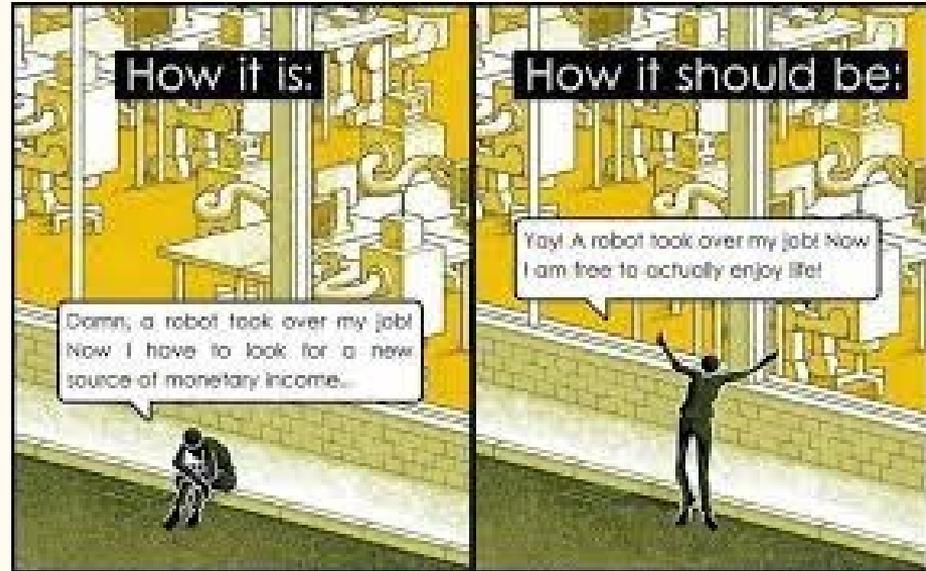


ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Continued:

Post Scarcity

Partnering with SPE's to potentially do an event discussing what a Post Scarcity Society could be and what that means for achieving Environmental Justice



RamCorps DIRECT Experience



BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY

- Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art
 - A not-for-profit organization that specializes in land stewardship, conservation, engaging communities and protecting water
 - **Land stewardship:** the conservation of a property's natural resources and features over a long period of time
- Helping out where it counts (and learning a lot along the way!)
 - Aerial map making for virtual land stewardship
 - Updating the database
 - Writing blog posts and newsletters
 - *Upcoming:* collaborating to create educational content for public outreach programs at the Laurels Preserve

Looking Forward

- Form new DIRECT partnerships
- Broaden OSA offerings (service, speakers, etc.)
- Expand CCESI's offerings - Social Impact Leadership Academy
- Continue to create sustainable opportunities for students to get involved

Thank you!

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