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Creating Community Connections On & Off Campus: RamCorps

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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
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
WeCU Here

1. Four Service Projects
   a. Getting 1st year students involved
   b. Community Engagement
   c. 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!
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 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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