

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development & The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Working Together to End Poverty in the U.S.

Since 2010, ACCU and CCHD have cooperated to connect ACCU member schools to local CCHD groups. The heart of this partnership is a mutual exchange of benefits between Catholic colleges and CCHD.

What is CCHD?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education.

Benefits of Partnering with CCHD

- Provide educational resources for student reflection on poverty and Catholic Social Teaching.
- Invite speakers to campus who can share about poverty, faith, and social action.
- Connect with CCHD-funded groups that offer sites for volunteering and service learning.
- Increase awareness among young Catholics about the causes of poverty in their community.



CCHD-ACCU Campus Partnerships

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What does partnership look like? Here are some success stories of how CCHD and Catholic campuses have partnered already!

Community Blend

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Xavier University students and faculty, along with CCHD-funded group Interfaith Business Builders, Cincinnati is preparing to welcome its first worker-owned cooperative coffee shop. IBB works to develop and promote co-ops in low income Cincinnati neighborhoods. Xavier students helped to develop portions of the business plan as part of their coursework, while Xavier's Community Building Institute helped promote community participation. Community Blend will serve the community, selling Fair Trade and locally made products, ensuring a living wage for workers, artisans and farmers. The venture gives Xavier business students an opportunity to gain experience and give back to the community. This partnership serves the good of Cincinnati, embodies the Jesuit, Catholic mission of Xavier, and promotes solidarity.

Idea: Business schools can provide real-world experience for students through technical assistance to an economic development project.



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Supporting the Community and Enhancing Learning

The St. Thomas University Center for Justice and Peace has worked alongside the CCHD-funded group People Acting for Community Together to establish the Mentoring and Induction for New Teachers program and spur the city of Miami to pledge to improve its drug problem and increase security at inner-city schools.

The University has also collaborated with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, another local CCHD-funded group. CIW is one of the leading grassroots farmworker organizations in the United States, and St. Thomas students are working with CIW to produce radio and video public service announcements that will be used to further the farmworkers' advocacy campaigns. In addition, the University now offers full 3-credit immersion courses, which focus on the intersection of Catholic Social Thought and immigration and farm labor.

Idea: Communications and marketing students can use their expertise to promote a local CCHD-funded group's work in their community.



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This sounds great. I want to get started!

How to get started

- Email the ACCU Peace and Justice intern at intern3@accunet.org to find the CCHD contact for your diocese.
- Identify CCHD-funded groups that would potentially benefit from the campus partnership.
- Meet with the diocese contact to discuss a plan of action for starting a partnership.

