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Pavlis  
Honors  
College



Michigan Tech

# 2019-2020 Community Engagement Annual Report

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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: PATHWAY PROGRAM

### Peace Corps Prep

The Peace Corps Prep Program had 23 students enrolled this year. Three students graduated with Pavlis Honors College recognition and a Peace Corps Prep certificate from the U.S. Peace Corps. Below are highlights of the graduating seniors' accomplishments:

#### **Addie Saltarelli (B.S., Forestry)**

Addie devoted her college years to working with youth at Jeffers High School and Clear Lake Education Center Camp. In addition to coaching basketball for three years, she designed and taught a greenhouse class at Jeffers High School to help students learn basic garden skills. Addie notes, "When kids learn to grow food, they become connected to their earth and community. They gain a sense of ownership over their food and health." For her greenhouse project, Addie received the Outstanding Community Service Project Award through the 2020 Michigan Tech Student Leadership Awards.

#### **Sam Kiluk (B.S., Civil Engineering)**

Sam completed her honors project with the Western UP MiSTEM Network, developing a curriculum for solar energy and facilitating a Math Circles program for 2nd-5th graders. She also traveled with the International Senior Design Program to Panama, and with her senior design team, created a plan for improving water access and quality in the water delivery system of Valle Risco. Sam also volunteered in the EMS program at Michigan Tech.

#### **Lucinda Hall (B.S., Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)**

Lucinda completed the Global Leadership Program at Tech. During her five-week international experience in Ghana, she worked with community and school partners near Sunyani, Ghana on health education, STEM education, and community project planning

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW BLOG AT [blogs.mtu.edu/global-community-engagement/](https://blogs.mtu.edu/global-community-engagement/)**

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## Community Engagement

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, Pavlis Honors College students offered their time and talents in communities in the U.P. and beyond. Here are more highlights of their service and community engagement this year in addition to the PC Prep graduates:

### Highlights



**Lydia Savatsky** is a third-year majoring in math. For three summers, she has worked with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP), a non-profit organization that provides home repairs for low-income residents in five states. This summer for her honors project, she designed surveys to gauge general homeowner satisfaction and basic needs, and to track how utility bills change after ASP completes repairs. She is compiling the data from these surveys to improve the organization's impact and help secure grant funding. Lydia is also on the leadership team of [Tech Tutors](#), a student and alumni-led Covid-19 response to virtually tutor K-12 students.

**Zoe Reep** is a third-year majoring in psychology and math. For her immersion experience during summer 2020, Zoe had a global virtual internship through the Spanish company Eloquenz, researching and curating podcasts to help kids learn comprehension and communication skills. Zoe also volunteered this year with the Young Women Leadership Program mentoring middle schoolers.



## COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

With the support of the Pavlis Honors College and a grant from the Superior Health Foundation, the Community Ambassadors Program supported nine students in fall 2019 to serve in the local community and build bridges between Tech and community organizations for future partnerships. Six undergraduate students and three graduate students participated, completing together a total of 300 hours of local volunteering at their respective community partner organizations. Over four semesters, this program has provided 950+ hours of service to our local community.

### Fall 2019 Community Partners

Omega House  
Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility  
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly  
Chassell Township

Western UP Food Systems Collaborative  
Husky Food Access Network  
KBIC Department of Natural Resources

### Highlights



“Little Brothers had no practical way of letting volunteers know what items were needed. To remedy this, I embedded a Google spreadsheet into the Little Brothers website that [the program director] could easily and continuously update with donation needs. The donation list makes it simple for Little Brothers staff and fast and easy for individuals who want to donate.” - **Max Reaume, Community Ambassador**. Max also visited seniors in their homes to provide companionship and practical support.



In partnership with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Department of Natural Resources, **Community Ambassador Deanna Seil** designed and created a KBIC informational brochure titled, “Shared Governance and Stewardship: Rights and Responsibilities of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.” As an experienced wildlife ecologist from her master’s research in Tehuacán Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve (Mexico), she also participated in wildlife monitoring with KBIC.

## PEACE CORPS MASTER'S INTERNATIONAL (PCMI)

Nineteen students were enrolled in the PCMI program for the 2019-2020 school year. Nine served overseas for some portion of the academic year, while the others had finished their Peace Corps service and were working on a research thesis or report. The nineteen remaining students represent six departments and served in Paraguay, Mexico, Ghana, Panama, Lesotho, Tanzania, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, Jamaica, Vanuatu, Peru, and Nicaragua. All students still serving in Peace Corps by March 2020 were brought home due to the coronavirus pandemic. At the start of fall 2020, seven PCMI students will still be in the program completing their degrees. This year’s graduates have been hired by EPA, FEMA, a startup called Kijenzi in Kenya, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and Federal Bureau of Prisons, among others.



### Highlight

**PCMI STUDENT CELINE CARUS DESIGNED AND EXECUTED A PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROJECT TO EVALUATE WELL**

**RECHARGE AND WATER DEMAND IN THIAWOR, SENEGAL, COMBINING GEOPHYSICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC DATA FOR HER MASTER’S RESEARCH. HER PROFICIENCY IN BAMBARA AND TWO YEARS OF IMMERSION IN THE COMMUNITY WERE KEY TO THE PROJECT’S SUCCESS.**

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## IDEA HUB

A Global and Community Engagement working group was formed during the 2019-2020 school year, as part of the IDEA Hub Tech Forward initiative on campus. The group, which included faculty, staff, and students, focused on developing cohesive and structured campus-wide programming that offers students and faculty opportunities to engage with cultures and communities, both domestically and abroad.

Outcomes of the year-long working group include a subscription to GivePulse, a volunteer matching and tracking tool. A campus ambassador program will also be launched in fall 2020 to hire students to promote global and community engagement opportunities. Finally, a proposal was crafted and submitted to President Koubek to grow global and community engagement opportunities for students over the next five years.

## VOTER ENGAGEMENT

In September 2019, the ALL IN Democracy Challenge team hosted National Voter Registration Day, where students, faculty, staff, and community members collectively registered new voters across campus. Over the last three years, about 500 new Michigan voters have been registered through National Voter Registration Days in addition to facilitating other out-of-state registrations. The ALL IN team, along with Undergraduate Student Government, will hold a similar event in collaboration with the Michigan Secretary of State office, League of Women Voters, and local clerks during fall 2020.

## D80 CONFERENCE



Fifteen student groups presented at D80 on their community engagement work in places as diverse as Panama, Ghana, Peru, Bolivia, Senegal, Mexico, Guatemala, and the US. Additionally, scholars and professionals working with communities joined us for breakout sessions on sustainability, service careers, the Father's Day Flood response, voting and redistricting, food security, and community histories.



External advisory board member and Tech alum Otha Thornton inspired the group to keep serving in their communities in diverse ways through his keynote address. The 2019 conference theme was "The Intersection of Public Service and Community Engagement."