



Ethnography projects provide aid to community partners



Carter Nicoletti, a first-year student with an undeclared major from West Palm Beach, Florida, and David Holcombe, a first-year student with an undeclared major from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, support an ethnography project that involved purchasing 95 boxes of fruit and vegetables to thank the college's facilities, campus safety and Wellness Center staff for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Robert W. Dalton

Rylee Jorgensen '23 is a sprinter on the Wofford track team who has landed in a marathon in the classroom.

Jorgensen, a sociology and anthropology major from Maryville, Tenn., began a project at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership in Spartanburg examining parental involvement and its connection to student success. The project was one of four undertaken by students in Dr. Alysya Handelsman's ethnography class. Handelsman is an assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.

Three of the projects partnered with the Cleveland Academy, the Hub City Farmers' Market and the Spartanburg Food Systems Coalition. Two student research teams worked with each of these organizations.

Another team worked on an equity and diversity project, inspired by the vision of Spartanburg's Truth and Racial Healing Transformation working group.

"Before the semester began, I connected with different community partners to see if they had any research needs my ethnography students could help with," Handelsman says. "This research model is hands-on, experiential learning and it's useful for the community, too. That's what I really like about this design."

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Reminder: JEDI Update

Dr. Christine S. Dinkins and Dr. Ramón Galiñanes Jr., co-chairs of the college's 16-member Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, will discuss the committee's work over the past year, recommendations and next steps for the college during a Zoom town hall today (Thursday, June 3 at 4 p.m.). [Register for the event.](#)

In case you missed it

A new documentary on the Rev. Dr. Will Willimon '68 aired May 27 on SCETV. "A Will to Preach" gives an inside look at Willimon's process for writing a sermon. "A Conversation with Will Willimon," a 30-minute interview, aired the same night. Both can be seen [here](#).

[Read more about Willimon and the documentary.](#)

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