

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## Why Does CEC Exist?

Everyone is a part of a community (live, work, play, identity, or shared interest), but that does not ensure that everyone feels connected to their community. Human-centered connections help to foster relationships and help people feel like they belong, thus reducing social isolation. Programming that uses community voice to drive events and research can promote connectedness among individuals and ultimately build a sense of community.



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

This year, 196 community members engaged in CEC programming, which is more than double last year.

## FIRST MPA SCRA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

On an annual basis, students and professionals in the field of community psychology present their work at the Midwestern Psychological Association; however, due to COVID-19, the in-person meeting was canceled. Community Engagement Collective, Society for Community Research and Action, and Midwestern Psychological Association collaborated to create the first MPA SCRA Virtual Conference. Here is [how](#) we did it and check out [videos](#) from the conference.



## BLACK LIVES MATTER

Our opinion piece in the Cincinnati Herald highlights organizations' strategies to align black lives matter messaging with organizational structures.

Here are a few steps to try:

1. Promote diversity in leadership
2. Support black businesses
3. Listen and apply black voices



If you missed the article, check it out [here](#)

## TRADITIONAL NONPROFITS ARE NOT TODAY'S SOLUTION

Traditionally the nonprofit structure strives to address a gap created by system inefficiencies. However, nonprofits tend to focus on sustainability instead of intentional program design that eliminates the need to exist. The conversation dove deeper into this topic and discussed considerations for nonprofits and professionals who work with nonprofits to explore the sector's current value, direction, and impact. Check out the video [here](#)



## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH FUNDING



CEC partnered with Dr. Karen Bankston (University of Cincinnati) to conduct a needs assessment of African American women living in poverty-stricken communities to explore stress, coping, and mental health support needs. Thank you to community members from Winton Terrace, West End, Evanston, and Walnut Hills for making this work possible. We hope to share learnings from these focus groups in 2021.

## FIRST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CLASS

Our CEO taught the first community involvement course at UC, which exposed students to community psychology principles. Students worked hard to apply principles learned in the class to create a community profile describing communities' makeup from history to present challenges. Community members had an opportunity to attend the free final live presentations via zoom, a strategy to help education be more accessible.



## COMMUNITY PARTNER THANK YOU

### ADMINISTRATIVE CAMPAIGN GOAL \$1,000

We have reached 10.5% of our goal. Thank you to those who have given so far and there is still time to help us reach our goal. No gift is too small.

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