

Community Outreach

Within this pillar, we encourage students and faculty to reach beyond the classroom and assist the local community and its residents. Involvement is encouraged through areas of Civic Engagement, Literacy, College and Career Readiness, and Workforce Development.

As 72% of adults in Niagara Falls read at a fourth grade functional level, literacy is a large focus of our work. Targeting literacy through outreach projects will better prepare city residents for college and/or careers, and well as further develop the workforce. A productive city is dependent on a literate society. If we support reading and the development of reading for individuals from birth to adulthood, we can make a difference.

College & Career Readiness: Early College Smart Scholars

The Early College Smart Scholars (ECSS) program is funded by the New York State Education Department. ECSS is designed for first generation college goers to have the opportunity to graduate from high school with up to 30 college credits. This tuition free program provides academic supports for students all during their four years in high school. The supports range from: academic days on Niagara University’s campus, tutoring, mentoring, on-campus summer camps, family activities, and college courses offered in a variety of delivery settings (face-to-face, hybrid, and online).



>200
NFHS students
have participated
in ECSS since 2011

In collaboration with the Niagara Falls City School District since 2012 over **200 students** have participated in ECSS program with an impressive **eighty-seven percent** going on to a two or four-year higher education institution. **Eighty-five percent** of students have graduated with between twenty-four and thirty college credits.



Each summer, a week-long camp exposes students to learn about the importance of good oral and written communication skills and on their knowledge of topics that are covered during the camp. Students gained:

Topic	Knowledge Before	Knowledge After
Careers	28%	88%
Civic Engagement	8%	88%
Fake News	56%	88%

Literacy Programs: 21st Century Grant

The Levesque Institute aims to develop generations of lifelong readers, creative thinkers and learners. In partnership with the Niagara Falls City School District, the Institute uses literacy community outreach programs as a tool. Children and parents benefit from exposure, instruction, and repetition of literacy to further develop their skills. This type of experiential learning benefits NU students through integrating educational coursework with real-life applications.

\$10,500

Economic Impact
Value of NU
student service



Children's Book Club

The book club offers fun, engaging and motivating reading experiences that pair literature with age-appropriate discussion and activities. Children actively read and engaged with a variety of well-known children's literature.

Parent Literacy Workshops

Parent Literacy workshops provide parents with the resources, skills, and strategies needed in order to engage in their child's journey learning and developing literacy.

21st Century Literacy (Secondary)

Undergraduate students in the College of Education plan lessons and direct instruction targeting one of the main areas of literacy.

21st Century Literacy & STEM (Intermediate)

Undergraduate students in the College of Education provide lessons aligned to literacy and STEM curriculum. Lessons focus on literacy instruction for the first hour followed by STEM for the second hour.



LITERACY OUTREACH: Developing generations of lifelong readers

Children and parents benefit from additional exposure, instruction, and/or repetition of literacy to further develop their skills.



Niagara County Coalition of Services to the Homeless

The Levesque Institute represents Niagara University as a member of the Niagara County Coalition to Services to the Homeless. The coalition is made up of representatives from various agencies throughout Niagara County. The Institute is an active partner in several initiatives of the coalition.

Niagara County Poverty Conference

The 6th Annual Niagara County Poverty Conference, “Compassionate Communities: Where Do I Fit In?” was held in March 2018. This annual conference features keynotes and guest speakers who have extensive knowledge of poverty and homelessness, as well as best practices to eliminate these issues.

212
representatives
from over 80
organizations
attended



PROJECT CONNECT NIAGARA

265 2016
313 2017
232 2018
People served at Project Connect each year

70
Different organizations have participated (50+ each year)

Over 120
People participate in wellness testing administered by Catholic Health each year

EMPLOYMENT & DENTAL
Services most attendees seek information about

www.niagara.edu/projectconnect

Project Connect Niagara

Project Connect Niagara is held annually every July. This one-day event is designed for individuals and families in need to receive services at a central location.

Each year, over 200 members of the community come to Project Connect Niagara to speak with representatives from various organizations regarding issues such as employment, housing, health & wellness, vocational training, emergency preparedness, etc. Catholic Health provides on-site health testing and screening for HIV/AIDS, depression, substance abuse, blood pressure, cholesterol and more.

Volunteer Fair/Niagara Falls Volunteer Hall of Fame

The 4th Annual IMPACT/ReNU Volunteer Fair was held at the Niagara Community Center. The Volunteer Fair brings various organization together to recruit potential volunteers in the community.

This year also marked the second inauguration of volunteers into the Niagara Falls Volunteer Hall of Fame. Five Niagara Falls residents were recognized for their outstanding volunteer work in the community were announced at the Volunteer Fair and inducted at a ceremony in July.

Learn more about our Community Outreach Programs:
levesqueinstitute.niagara.edu/programs/community-outreach/