

## *Community Social Psychology Practicum Sites and Placements 2013-2014*

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**Placement Organization:** Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI)

**Student Name:** Cassandra Sanchez **Student Email:** Cassandra\_Sanchez@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Cheryl Amey

**Supervisor Contact Information:** CAmey@commteam.org

**Web site:** <http://commteam.org>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** CTI is a nonprofit community action agency in Lowell. They serve low-income families in Lowell and surrounding towns. Some of the programs that they offer are childcare, WIC, heating assistance, Farmer's Market, housing, financial services, and volunteering opportunities.
  
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** My practicum was in the planning department at CTI. The planning department consisted of my supervisor Cheryl and two others. During my time at CTI it was a Strategic Planning period, which occurs every three years. During the Strategic Planning process, CTI is required to evaluate the programs they currently offer as well as the needs of the community, to see if there is an area they are not currently addressing. This is a year long process that involves as many people as possible, from legislators and board members to everyday staff, clients and community members. I began by researching the best ways to collect the data that is important to CTI. Then, I worked with the planning department to, decide on the populations we wanted to collect data from, create survey instruments and focus group questions, conduct surveys and focus groups, and analyze data. I also tied in my personal interests by researching and collecting data about CTI's interaction with clients with mental illness and mental health providers/resources in Lowell. Although CTI will be finalizing the Strategic Plan write-up over the summer, they will still need interns to help implement the plan and work on upcoming projects that will continue to improve CTI programs.

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**Placement Organization:** Girls Inc of Greater Lowell

**Student Name:** Janelle Diaz

**Student Email:** Janelle\_Diaz@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Jennifer Demers

**Supervisor Contact Information:** [jdemers@girlsinclowell.org](mailto:jdemers@girlsinclowell.org)

**Web site:** [www.girlsinclowell.org](http://www.girlsinclowell.org)

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell is a non-profit organization that strives to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. They do so by offering creative after school programs for girls aging from 5-18. All programs are conducted in a safe and nurturing environment, to teach the independence and personal responsibility girls need to succeed.
  
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** While at Girls Inc. I have had the pleasure of working with the dedicated staff to create enriched programs for the young ladies that attend the after school program.

Additionally, I have developed program evaluation tools and have helped with volunteer recruitment. Throughout the year I have had the opportunity of working one-on-one with the program specialists, outreach coordinator, program coordinator, and the program director. The organization has a small number of full-time staff which allows interactions at every level. They are all devoted to offering a quality practicum experience and tailor each one to your interests!! I am so glad to have learned from and been a part of this amazing organization!

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**Placement Organization:** Budget Buddies

**Student Name:** Jen Lindsay                      **Student Email:** Jennifer\_lindsay@student.uml.edu

**Supervisors Name:** Anita Saville and Kathy Brough

**Supervisors Contact Information:** A.Saville@budgetbuddies.org, Kathrynbrough@verizon.net

**Web site:** <http://budgetbuddies.org/BB/>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Budget Buddies is a non-profit organization designed to provide women the support and guidance to help other women gain financial literacy and stability through a one-on-one program of mentoring and support. “Coaches” work with their “buddies” for a period of six months as they attend financial literacy workshops and develop goals tailored to the buddies’ needs.
  
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** My time with Budget Buddies has been spent working as the Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator links the volunteers recruited to the organization into their volunteer position, depending on their interests and skills. In addition, I have been working to organize the volunteer processes, as well as detail the processes of the organization for the future Volunteer Coordinator and other practicum students.

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**Placement Organization:** Center for Community Research and Engagement (CCRE)

**Student Name:** Jennifer A. Burns                      **Student Email:** Jennifer\_burns@student@uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Melissa Wall

**Supervisor Contact Information:** Melissa\_Wall@uml.edu & (978) 934-4772

**Web Site:** <http://www.uml.edu/Research/CCRE/default.aspx>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** The Center for Community Research and Engagement(CCRE) promotes healthy, productive, and sustainable communities through research and scholarship, technical assistance, program development, partnership formation, and funding from public and private sources. CCRE engages in reciprocal relationships with local communities and service agencies. CCRE is committed to addressing community challenges collaboratively through high-quality research, scholarship, and through appropriate creative applications of knowledge. We further believe that students engaged in community research and service; learn how to work more collaboratively and effectively in a variety of different settings, and contribute productively to civic life in a diverse society.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** Placement at CCRE has allowed me to engage in multiple community projects. We have collected data, designed surveys, assisted in logic model formulations, conducted interviews with community members and stakeholders, attended community meetings with partners and analyzed data.

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**Placement Organization:** Lowell Community Health Center TeenBLOCK

**Student Name:** Hannah Tello

**Student Email:** Hannah.tello@gmail.com

**Supervisor Name:** Stephanie Buchholz

**Supervisor Contact Information:** StephanieBu@lchealth.org

**Web site:** www.lchealth.org

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC) is a community-based non-profit healthcare service provider. LCHC is committed to the provision of high-quality, culturally-competent health and wellness services to community members. The Teen Programs wing of LCHC is a community-based outreach program designed to engage teens actively in programs to develop leadership, promote educational attainment, reducing unhealthy risk-taking behaviors, and improve overall quality of life. Programs include both on-site activities and community-based activities that take place in schools and other community centers. Activities undertaken by Teen Programs include prevention programs addressing youth violence, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STIs, and substance abuse prevention activities like education retreats, cultural enrichment, mentoring, art and dance, and tutoring.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** The primary responsibilities of my placement include designing, implementing and analyzing evaluations including needs and outcome assessments; collaborating with other community organizations to develop continuum-of-care and wrap-around programs; supporting staff with the implementation of after school programming; and coordinating efforts to recruit and retain teens to our program.

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**Placement Organization:** City of Medford

**Student Name:** Erika Christon

**Student Email:** Erika\_christon@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Penelope Funairole

**Supervisor Contact Information:** pbruce@medford.org

**Web site:** www.medfordhealthmatter.com

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Medford Health Matters is a community coalition geared to provide a positive quality of life for people who live or frequently visit the town of Medford. Medford Health Matters provides community-based organization with mini grants that they receive from state funding. For example, the community coalition has been receiving funds from Mt. Auburn hospital, and has giving those funds to middle schools for improvement of programming. This coalition has worked on many different projects in the community and their main goal is for these projects to have sustainability.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** My practicum placement has been a great experience. Many of the different tasks I was assignment to helped me with new skills, which provided me with a better understanding of community social psychology. Many of the tasks I completed were geared to preventing substance abuse in the city of Medford. I completed a resource guide for the community to understand more about opioid use and prevention. I conducted key informant interview, participated in focus groups and analyzed quantitative data. During the practicum, I completed outreach to pharmacist and physicians by handing out surveys and helping the participants utilize the state prescription monitoring program. I also conducted an evaluation for the drug free community grant. This site helped me gain experience on working with public policy and implementation of programs on a city/state level.

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**Placement Organization:** Lowell Community Charter Public School (LCCPS)  
**Student Name:** Tanya Cameron                      **Student Email:** Tcame71@gmail.com  
**Supervisor Name:** Sonya Patton  
**Supervisor Contact Information:** Spatton@lccps.org & 978-323-0800 ext 248  
**Web site:** www.Lccps.org

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** LCCPS is a charter school for grades K-6 located in downtown Lowell in an old shoe mill building. It was established in Lowell in 2000. Charter schools are exempt from many of the state regulations public schools must adhere to but, they are expected to meet state testing standards. In other words, they are still expected to meet MCAS requirements. They are publicly funded and rely on grants and private donations to support many of their programs. They create their own curriculum and guidelines and alien them with the State of Massachusetts Common Core Standards and have an entity of the organization called the Friends of LCCPS that allows the school to have a non-profit status. They have been a level 1 school for the last 2 years.
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** I absolutely love this site. It was a perfect placement for me. During my practicum I wrote a grant to the American Immigration Council and received it. I had to organize and implement the project for the grant; a media workshop for the after-school program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. I organized and planned community events; City of lights Parade, Read across America, and several parent workshops. I had to have strong computer, organizational and communication skills. I enjoyed working with Sonya because she gave me my own projects and did not micro-manage me. I worked as part of a team but also had to be able to work independently. Everyone at the school is extremely nice and engaging. If you are interested in an academic setting encourage you to look into this for your practicum site.

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**Placement Organization:** Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC) - Teen BLOCK  
**Student Name:** Burhan Colak                      **Student Email:** burhan\_colak@student.uml.edu  
**Supervisor Name:** Linda Sopheap Sou

**Supervisor Contact Information:** 161 Jackson St 2nd Floor Lowell, Massachusetts 01852 (978) 322-8949

**Web Site:** <http://www.lchealth.org>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Before describing Teen BLOCK, it will be meaningful to revise briefly its hosting agency Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC). LCHC is located in the city of Lowell. The Health Center is a diverse, community-based health care agency with non-profit 501(c)(3) status. LCHC presents a great example of cultural competency in serving communities of Greater Lowell with multi-lingual staff who speak over 25 languages. LCHC's mission is to provide competent health services to the people of Greater Lowell, regardless of their financial status; to reduce health disparities and enhance the health of the Greater Lowell community; and to empower each individual to maximize their overall well-being.

Aligning with its hosting agency, The LCHC's Teen BLOCK supports the healthy development of young people and empowers them to become leaders in the community by working to reduce risky behaviors that lead to teen pregnancy, HIV/STIs, substance abuse and violence in Lowell, with the belief that promoting healthy behaviors will enhance future prospects for young people. Teen BLOCK explicitly embraces the orienting concepts of community psychology: empowerment, stress coping, and prevention in the offered programs. With the direct involvement of youth, the Teen BLOCK has been developing a range of afterschool youth development programs. Besides, youth members have been serving on community boards and engaging in grant making, and leadership skills development.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** I am working under supervision of program director; therefore, I have chance to involve in various activities ranging from grant-writing to programming, outreach to program evaluation, etc. You can decide on which activities you are going to take part in. Teen BLOCK is a leading youth agency in Lowell.

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**Placement Organization:** Raising a Reader Massachusetts

**Student Name:** Andrew Etherington **Student Email:** [Andrew\\_Etherington@student.uml.edu](mailto:Andrew_Etherington@student.uml.edu)

**Supervisor Name:** Robyn Long Navas, Regional Program Manager

**Supervisor Contact Information:** [Robyn@raisingareaderma.org](mailto:Robyn@raisingareaderma.org)

**Web Site:** <http://raisingareaderma.org/>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Raising a Reader MA (RAR) is an early literacy focused program in several MA communities, including Lowell. The Lowell program operates in many of Lowell's Pre-K classrooms. The main pieces of the program are a bag exchange and parent workshops. New books are exchanged every week in the classrooms which children bring home. The parent workshops seek to show parents different ways to engage their children in early literacy practices.
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** RAR was a great fit because of how wonderful my supervisor was. Robyn understands the needs of a practicum student and helped me strategically work towards my learning

goals. I was able to attend and engage others at professional meetings with school administrators and other RAR employees. I got RAR involved in social media for the first time. I created RAR's parent volunteer initiative. My office was in the local library but I also got to visit our partner schools and other regional offices so I never got bored. Practicum placement quality seems very dependent on the supervisor quality and you couldn't go wrong with Robyn at RAR.

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**Placement Organization:** Raising A Reader MA- Lawrence

**Student Name:** Zara Otamias

**Student Email:** Zara\_Otamias@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Tasha Espendez, Regional Program Manager

**Supervisor Contact Information:** tasha@raisingareaderma.org

**Web site:** raisingareaderma.org

◆ **Description of Organization:** Raising A Reader MA is an evidence based non- profit organization that reaches out to families of children of ages 0-5 to develop routine interactive reading practices at home. The work of the organization, which both increases access to books and offers families tools and other support needed to strengthen the culture of reading at home, is based by 25 years of research that demonstrates the most important factor that influences a child's lifelong achievement is being regularly read to by their parents or other caregivers before starting kindergarten.

◆ **Description of Placement:** At Raising A Reader MA, I had the opportunity to learn and be involved in the greater Lawrence community to promote early literacy. A project that I have been involved is organizing for parent community workshops, which is parent education on reading strategies. These workshops teach parents of about reading strategies to practice at home, which has an additional theme beyond reading strategies by inviting community organizations to be introduced to families and share an activity. Other projects I have been involved in my site: network to other community organizations, off-site visits to schools and FCC sites around the city of Lawrence, documenting work for future interns, researching and collecting data for various initiatives, assist in inventory data entry and order assembly, updating various online data management resources, and set-up for workshops, trainings and events. Overall, my experience at my practicum site has been a good, positive experience, which helped me learn new skills and also improve my current skills that will be useful to apply in the future.

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**Placement:** Volunteer Coordinator/Development Assistant

**Organization:** Lowell Transitional Living Center

205-209 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Tel: 978-458-9888

**Student Name:** Isabel C. Cano

**Student email:** isabelcano@gmail.com

**Supervisor:** Elaine Miller, Development Officer

**Supervisor Contact Information:** emiller@ltlc.org

**Web site:** <http://www.ltlc.org/content/welcome-home>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) is a non-profit organization that provides meals, individual assessment, referrals, medical care, case management, stability, and dignity to the most vulnerable adults in the community. In partnership with city leaders LTLC is now implementing the City of Lowell's 10 Year Action Plan to End Homelessness which uses an innovative and cost effective "Housing First" model of permanent housing and employment.
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** LTLC has given me the opportunity to take on a number of roles, such as Volunteer Coordinator and Development Assistant. The center has allowed me to feel comfortable identifying and pursuing fund-raising, grant, and sponsorships opportunities. In addition, LTLC has taught me to promote self-sufficiency and empowerment among its clients, staff, and volunteers while developing leadership skills. If you are interested in working with the most vulnerable adults in the community and take numerous roles, LTLC is the right place for you!!

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**Placement Organization:** The Center for Hope and Healing

**Student Name:** Komal Hayat

**Student Email:** komal\_hayat@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Daniel Basil Hamilton

**Supervisor Contact Information:** daniel@centerforhopehealing.org & 978-452-7721

**Web site:** <http://www.centerforhopehealing.org>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** The Center for Hope and Healing (CHH) is the organization committed to creating an environment that is not racist, sexist, classist or homophobic, and where sexual violence and other forms of oppression are eliminated. CHH gives free confidential counseling, advocacy and medical treatment to the rape victims and survivors. The organization also works on other community services such as education and outreach, volunteer training.
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** In fall semester my competency areas were program planning and development. I wrote grant, attended workshops related to sexual assaults. Also, I did community outreach in Dracut high school and LCHC Teen Block. My spring semester projects are mostly related to program implementation such as curriculum development for Lowell high school, education and outreach in Dracut high school, UMass Lowell and other community partners and program evaluation.

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**Placement Organization:** Bridgewell Counseling Services: Lowell Adult Day Treatment

**Student Name:** Mary Ejaife

**Student Email:** mary\_ejaife@gmail.com

**Supervisor Name:** Yakaira Rigueiro MSW

**Supervisor Contact Information:** yrigueiro@bridgewell.org & 978-459-0389 ext 55

**Web site:** [www.bridgewell.org](http://www.bridgewell.org)

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Bridgewell is inspired by the values of caring and respect. They guide individuals with disabilities and other challenges to achieve and enjoy their highest quality of life and personal growth.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** Lowell Adult Day Treatment (LADT) is a day treatment facility that provides five-day per week intensive treatment for adults with persistent mental illness and substance abuse issues. My duties include program evaluation, running group therapy sessions and community outreach.

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**Placement Organization:** Middlesex Community College – Service-Learning Dept.

**Student Name:** Emily Kaskan;                      **Student Email:** emily\_kaskan@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Cynthia Lynch, Director of Service-Learning

**Supervisor Contact Information:** lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu

**Web site:** <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/servicelearning/>

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Service-learning at MCC is a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of the course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Service-learning focuses on critical reflective thinking and civic responsibility; the service and the learning are designed to be both valuable for the student and the community partner.

- ◆ **Description of Placemen:** Working with the service-learning office at MCC has given me the opportunity to see the college and how it encompasses multiple ecological levels. I have been acting as the lead writer on an optional accreditation for community engagement, which requires the collection of data from almost every department at MCC. This has allowed me to see how the different parts of the college work together and with community partners to address community needs. A high level view has been interesting, but I have also seen up close what service-learning can accomplish by acting as a resource for a criminal justice class that needed assistance analyzing data. Additionally, I have created measures to assess the effectiveness of a newer service-learning model (project-based service-learning) and will be presenting my findings at a conference. I will also be creating measures to assess the state of the service-learning department’s relationships with some of its key community partners.

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**Placement Organization:** Middlesex Community College

**Student Name:** Jordan Hamilton                      **Student Email:** jordan\_hamilton@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Carina Self

**Supervisor Contact Information:** selfc@middlesex.mass.edu

**Web Site:** [www.middlesex.mass.edu](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu)

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Middlesex Community College (MCC) hosts a wide range of students with varying goals and abilities. It supports a very diverse student population, and is actively engaged in helping students achieve the highest level of academic success possible. MCC is also very experienced at helping students determine the best academic path to obtain their career goals. Whether it be



through a certificate program, associate degree, transfer to a bachelor's degree program, or to a new job or career advancement, MCC is well suited to help students in the decision making process.

- ◆ **Description of Placement:** My role at MCC is to support the assistant dean of social sciences and service learning, Carina Self. Together we worked on a three year grant to incorporate themes of civic engagement and multicultural literacy to the arts and humanities courses. During my time at MCC I've assisted in developing feedback, co-facilitated workshops, found research on teaching pedagogies, and held interviews. Every project has been a great source of experience and knowledge.

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**Placement Organization:** Coalition for a Better Acre  
517 Moody Street, Lowell, MA 01852  
Tel: 978-452-7523

**Student Name:** Sijia Li

**Student Email:** Sijia\_li@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Suzanne Frechette

**Supervisor Contact Information:** Suzanne.frechette@cbacre.org

**Web site:** www.coalitionforabetteracre.org

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) is a membership-based Community Development Corporation dedicated to resident empowerment and sustainable community revitalization for current and future residents of Lowell. As a Community Development Corporation (CDC), CBA is a professional, not-for-profit organization providing economic development, real estate development, and resident empowerment to promote and support our community and region.
- ◆ **Description of Placement:** At the CBA, I am responsible for analyzing the data of residents' survey, giving suggestions to improve organization's programs/projects, organizing community meetings and activities, designing flyers, drafting meeting and activity plans, and community outreaching, etc. After a whole year's practice at the CBA, you will be able to learn more about how a community-based non-profit organization works, and improve your leadership, community working skills, and teamwork skills.

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**Placement Organization:** East Pawtucketville Neighborhood Group  
**Student Name:** Cameron Goodrich **Student Email:** Cameron\_goodrich@student.uml.edu  
**Supervisor Name:** Judy Davidson  
**Supervisor Contact Information:** Judith\_Davidson@uml.edu

- ◆ **Description of Organization:** I work with the East Pawtucketville Neighborhood Group, a Grassroots community organization. The neighborhood borders North Campus and the group is dedicated to improving relations between residents as well as the appearance of the neighborhood. The group holds regular meetings for residents to come and voice their concerns about the neighborhood. We then work with other key officials in the city to try to get issues resolved

for residents on a case-by-case basis. We also hold events for the neighborhood, such as the 2013 Franco-American Festival.

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**Placement Organization:** Acre Family Child Care

**Student Name:** Cristiane Martins da Silva   **Student Email:** Cristiane\_DaSilva@student.uml.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Kathy Reticke

**Supervisor Contact Information:** KReticker@acrefamily.org

**Web site:** <http://www.acrefamily.org/>

◆ **Description of Organization:** Acre Family Child Care has been serving Lowell, Massachusetts since 1988. Their mission is to help women build licensed, home-based family child care businesses while providing community-based child care to the families of Lowell. Acre provides care for nearly 400 children every day, including overnight and weekend child care for parents working 2nd and 3rd shifts, in a network of family child care homes. Acre staff visit the homes to monitor the quality of care, and offer family support services and early childhood training programs in multiple languages throughout the year.

◆ **Description of Placement:** I initially chose Acre based solely on its community/educational nature. However, it turned out to be a placement in which I've had the chance to learn about CSP practice in a variety of fundamental organizational activities such as program development, program evaluation, grant writing, fund raising, etc. It has been a challenge to become familiar with so many diverse areas in such a short period of time, but, at the same time, because it is a small organization, I have been able to receive support from almost every department there, as well as to develop essential skills for my future career.

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