The partnerships that exist between Allegheny College and Meadville represent innovative approaches to strengthening our community. The Civic Engagement Council (CEC) at Allegheny acts as an umbrella organization for the following programs, engaging students, faculty, and community partners in collaborations that seek to develop responsible citizenship, improve community conditions, and build the capacity of our communities, while also enhancing learning and scholarship across the disciplines at the College.

**Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED)**

Creates innovative approaches to environmental stewardship, environmental education, and regional revitalization. The following are examples of CEED programs:

- **Arts & Environment Initiative**
  Uses art to beautify our environment and promote regional revitalization.

- **Ecotourism Project**
  Works to promote nature tourism in the region.

- **Environmental Health Initiative**
  Surveys the risks and assesses the damage of environmental factors on the health of the community through programs such as Healthy Homes Healthy Children.

- **Local Foods Network**
  Works with area farmers to promote locally grown foodstuffs.

- **Sustainable Communities**
  Brings community partners together to create a sustainable Meadville. The Northwest Pennsylvania Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) is part of this effort.

- **Sustainable Forestry Project**
  Promotes better forest management and strives to increase the economic contribution of the wood products industry in this region. Currently developing curriculum modules for schools in Meadville and Titusville.

- **Sustainable Manufacturing Initiative**
  Works directly with local industry, specifically tool and die companies, to research, identify, and solve challenges related to their ability to be competitive and successful.

**Community-Based Research**

Matches faculty and student research skills with the needs of our community partners. A few examples:

- **Biofuels Research**
  Resulted in a proposal to produce biofuels from cooking oil to run city vehicles.

- **Switchgrass Research**
  Resulted in a market feasibility study on pelletized switchgrass for use in heating homes and small industrial businesses.

- **Wind Assessment**
  Development of a wind study for Acutec’s Saegertown facility.

**Community Service and Service Learning (CSSL)**

Supports numerous co-curricular programs in the local community. Through CSSL Allegheny students complete more than 25,000 hours of community service throughout the year with “Service Saturdays,” free tennis clinics for area children, shoveling snow for elderly neighbors, and many other volunteer activities. CSSL programs include:

- **America Reads Program**
  Approximately 30 college students work one-on-one with children for one hour twice a week doing interactive, fun activities that improve children’s reading and writing skills.

- **Bonner Leader Program**
  Bonner Leaders partner with more than 30 social service organizations in Meadville to address issues related to education, human needs, public safety, community building, and the environment.

- **Clearinghouse of Immediate Needs**
  Local agencies and individual community members call in with service needs that can be filled by Allegheny students. Examples include helping a disabled person move, running an elementary school chess club, tutoring children and adults, and assisting agencies with special events.
• Davies Community Service Leaders Program
  Provides nonprofit agencies with interns who undertake a substantive research project, allowing the agency to accomplish a project or initiative that might not otherwise be possible.

• Gill Village Computer Literacy Program
  Fifteen college tutors work one-on-one with children in grades 3-6, each tutoring two children for two afternoons each week.

• Make a Difference Day
  More than 700 Allegheny students join 700 Crawford County residents each year on a Saturday in October to complete more than 125 cleaning, building, and repair projects in the local community.

• Meadville Community Soup Kitchen
  A team of Allegheny students volunteer at the soup kitchen, located in Stone Methodist Church, each weekday during lunchtime.

• Senior Citizen Recognition Day
  Elderly residents of Meadville come to campus to take classes for the day in the spring semester.

• Service Learning Challenge
  This student-led movement brings students and faculty together to incorporate service learning into our curriculum.

**ENGAGEMENT THROUGH WRITING**

Written and published by Fahrner Community Engagement Fellows, the Civic Engagement Newsletter highlights student and faculty scholarship and service in the local community.

**VALUES, ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION (VESA)**

Engages students, faculty, and community partners in inquiry about the nature of citizenship, service learning, social justice, and democracy.

While not housed within the CEC, **Creek Connections** is an ongoing educational outreach project that facilitates collaborations with regional elementary and secondary schools, using the French Creek and Allegheny River watersheds as outdoor laboratories.