

Advancing Community Engaged Scholarship through UACS



COUPER-OWENS CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

- Multidisciplinary Research Affiliates
- Community Engaged Learning Course Grants
- Community Engaged Learning for Educators
- Reimagining Schools Undergraduate Course and Research Lab

Multidisciplinary Research Affiliates

- **35+ affiliates** from across the university
 - Representing **Colleges of Nursing, Engineering, Arts & Sciences**, and **Community & Public Affairs** (4 of 6 colleges/schools)
 - **College of Community & Public Affairs:** Teaching Learning & Ed Leadership, Social Work, Higher Education & Student Affairs, Human Development
- **Intentional process** to connect affiliates to community schools
 - New Faculty Orientation
 - Communication with Deans
 - NSF Broader Impacts Presentations

BUCS-CEL Course Development Grants

- Connect BU faculty & K–12 teachers to address local challenges (health, STEM, environment, AI in society, arts, human rights)
- 8 course partnerships
1-2 per college, up to \$7,500 over 2 years
- Supports course development (materials, stipends, subs, etc.)
- Includes ongoing BUCCS logistics support
- Course launch: Fall 2026 or Spring 2027
- Applications submitted in December 2026 (received 8)
- Challenge: Faculty need help with teacher partnerships
- Will notify faculty in February

BUCS-CEL Course Proposals

Basics of Financial Literacy: Redesign and expand Math 346, Intro to Financial Math, into an accessible, real-world–focused course that introduces K–12 students, particularly high school learners, to essential money and financial literacy skills. The revised course shifts from actuarial preparation to practical financial concepts that equip students to manage money confidently and effectively.

Neurogenic Communication Disorders I: University students create and present educational videos for middle or high school audiences on neurogenic communication disorders and the role of SLPs. Aims to increase community awareness, support communication partner understanding, and build early knowledge of SLP practice.

MGMT 224 – Honors Seminar: Connects Ernst & Young Student Leaders in SOM with schools business mentorship for a student-run enterprise and one-on-one guidance on college pathways. Provides training in soft and technical skills and seeks funding to support transportation and on-campus engagement opportunities that deepen student exposure to higher education and professional networks.

BUCS-CEL Course Proposals (continued)

General Chemistry Laboratory: Reimagines CHEM 106 as a community-engaged, research-driven general chemistry laboratory that connects undergraduate students with regional high schools and Cornell Cooperative Extension to study PFAS contamination in local water systems. Activities include data collection and analysis using low-cost spectroscopic techniques.

How We Choose: Rules and Outcomes: Introduces hands-on, civics-focused learning program using (OPRA platform) to help students explore how different decision-making and voting systems shape outcomes in civic, economic, and classroom contexts. Activities: interactive simulations and ethical inquiry to deepen understanding of fairness, representation, and collective decision-making.

Sustainability Data and Decision-Making: New course that examines the metrics, data systems, and knowledge practices shaping community sustainability planning, with attention to both technical indicators and community-based ways of knowing. A central component is a community-engaged participatory data project in which graduate students partner with local high school students to co-produce sustainability data, building skills in collaborative data collection while advancing more inclusive and effective sustainability action.

Community Engaged Research for Educators (Pilot)

- Partnership between Vestal CSD, BT BOCES, and C-O Center
- Objectives:
 - Build lasting educator–community partnerships through UACS
 - Connect educators, students & university researchers
 - Support Seal for Civic Readiness and/or IB Extended Essays
- Approach:
 - 8-session PD (open to all districts; register through BOCES)
 - Explore community-engaged research methods that support teacher inquiry and service learning through UACS
 - Apply research methods to address school and community identified problems
- Participants from Vestal, Union-Endicott & Binghamton
- Planning: Summer service learning institute for HS students

Topics

- Community Schools & University-Assisted Community Schools
- Mental Health in Schools
- Climate Change & Sustainability
- Food Systems
- Community Arts

