

# THE DIFFERENCE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE **COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Travelling  
this summer?  
Consider how  
you can be a  
global citizen**

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## On Being a Global Citizen and Ethical Traveling

Whether it is family vacations, studying abroad, or a service trip, it is an immense privilege to be able to travel. Possessing a United States passport is to have access to the world in a way many people do not. So it is pertinent to be mindful of how travel can be ethical, considerate, and inclusive. In a world that becomes flatter by the day, it's important to reflect on how being a global citizen could help us all cultivate transnational solidarity.

As summer draws near and summer plans are made, let us not neglect to consider where we go, why we go there, and the impact we hope to have in those places. Global citizenship is understood as belonging to a global identity rather than a singular nationality, and appreciating the interdependency of the world and all people to address social, political, economic, and environmental issues at all levels across borders. There is an aspect of global citizenship that relies deeply on civic action and community-based work which

is something we emphasize deeply in the work and collaborations we do.

Service trips will often have an aspect of community-based work that hopes to alleviate a local problem. But so often a service trip can lack a critical understanding of why and how the “work” is being done and who the service is for. When embarking on a service trip, it's important to consider why an area needs the help it needs and what kind of help they need. So often service will be watered down to saviourism, where instead of asking, “What needs do you need met?” we come with our own preconceived notions that make us say instead, “You have this problem, and this is the solution I will implement as I see fit.” It's imperative that we take people seriously on their own terms, and provide them help as they see fit.

Being a global citizen and a mindful traveler includes courteous actions like learning a bit of the

language and responsibly adopting local customs. Learning phrases like “please,” “thank you,” and “hello”/“goodbye” can go a long way in establishing meaningful connections with people.

*“It’s imperative that we take people seriously on their own terms, and provide them what they need as they see fit.”*

These small attempts to learn even the simplest of words and phrases in the language of the country you are in show that you respect them and would like to engage their culture in a meaningful way. And who knows what you might learn along the way – language is a way of thought and the more you learn in another language, the more you learn how people of that culture think and engage the world. Along with this, take on some cultural practices in a way that signifies genuine respect and appreciation. Don’t be afraid to share aspects of your culture with others as you travel. Being a global citizen is being open to inter-cultural and cross-cultural exchange, in a way that people are not speaking and teaching on behalf of their culture, but in a way that allows them to share and be respected.

Being able to travel and have the opportunity to celebrate other cultures is an immense privilege that we must recognize and respect. This world has so much to offer but so few have the opportunity to travel on their own terms. Traveling requires money, accessibility to resources, time, and mobility. Consider your own privileges as you travel. Cultivate a sense of celebration, not exploitation, of the cultural attractions you may be traveling to see. Be mindful of the nature of people from another culture and be open to learning – about the world and about yourself.

- Salem Tewelde



## **Desmond Tutu:** *Words on Compassion and Humanity*

“A person is a person through other persons. None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human. I am because other people are. A person is entitled to a stable community life, and the first of these communities is the family.”

“We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew... Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful... and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things.”

“Transformation begins in you, wherever you are, whatever has happened, however you are suffering. Transformation is always possible. We do not heal in isolation. When we reach out and connect with one another—when we tell the story, name the hurt, grant forgiveness, and renew or release the relationship—our suffering begins to transform.”

- The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World

## Student Group Spotlight: *Aprender Mediante Amistad* (AMA)

Aprender Mediante Amistad (AMA) – which translates from Spanish as “Learning Through Friendship” – partners with the Colorado Springs community to provide homework help, English language assistance, and college/career planning to local K-12 students. AMA brings these students onto campus the first three Tuesdays of each block from 4-6pm. This year AMA introduced PeaceJam curriculum – an education program built around the spirit, skills, and wisdom of Nobel Peace laureates with the goal of inspiring youth to be peacemakers in their communities – into their meetings with K-12 youth. As part of this integration, AMA members served as workshop mentors and took a group of K-12 students to the PeaceJam Slam in Boulder, Colorado last October. On April 19, AMA hosted a Community Cafe in which the students presented a community service project they planned over the course of the year to showcase what they’ve learned from the PeaceJam curriculum. If you are interested in becoming a member of AMA next year, contact Sarah Marshall [sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu) for more information and student leader contact information.



**Community Group Spotlight:**  
*Colorado Springs District 11 (D11): Every student prepared for a world yet to be imagined!*

Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) has been one of the CCE’s strongest and most sustainable community partners. D11 is the tenth largest school district in Colorado with over sixty schools. We currently have thirteen student organizations in partnership with ten D11 schools such as: Biosciences Outreach Club and COOL Science Club partner with Audubon Elementary School, CCLIM partners with West Middle School, COOL Science Club and CREATE partner with Mann Middle School, CPS Tutors partners with Community Prep School, Early Scholar Tutoring partners with Bristol Elementary School, Enseña partners with Steele Elementary School, Mighty Math and SCRATCH partner with Taylor Elementary School, North Boys Enrichment Program and Public Achievement partner with North Middle School, Volunteer Action partners with West Elementary School, and Tesla Mentors partners with Tesla Educational Opportunity School.

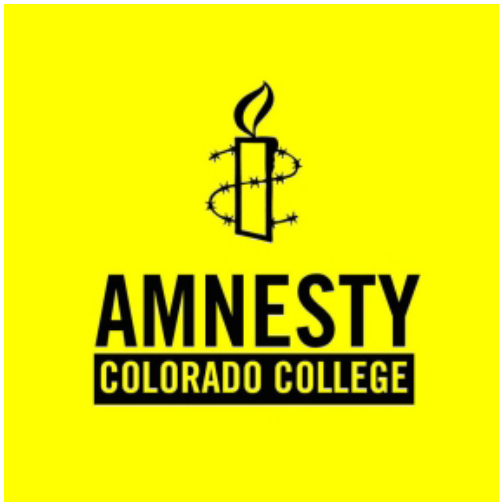
In addition, there are a wide variety of opportunities throughout the year for CC students to engage with D11 students, including district science fairs, working with ESL students, or working in school tutoring centers. CC’s Education Department also works with D11 to provide opportunities for CC students interested in the field of education to gain experience in K-12 classrooms.

While the proximity of the schools to CC is a key to the sustainability of these partnerships, the partnerships are truly made possible through the support of D11’s Volunteer Services & Community Partnerships office which acknowledges that using resources in the community strengthens student learning and improves student achievement. It is their goal to utilize the knowledge and expertise they know exists in the community to positively impact their students with experiences and services that supplement classroom learning. In appreciation of D11’s collaborative efforts, the CCE awarded the district with the Outstanding Community Partner Award as part of its

Community Engagement Recognition Awards in 2015 to recognize how integral the partnership is in advancing CC’s capacity for rigorous community-based work and promoting the development of civic skill-building and civic identity. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the student organizations or would like information about other volunteer opportunities with D11, please contact Sarah Marshall [sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu) or 719-227-8247.

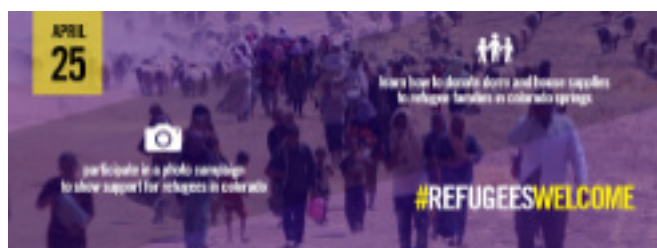


## Student Group Spotlight: *Amnesty International*



Amnesty International is a grassroots activist organization committed to shining a light on human rights offenses around the world. This international group exposes human rights abuses, educates and mobilizes the public, and helps create a safer, more just world.

The CC chapter of Amnesty International focuses on raising awareness of both global and local human rights issues by hosting letter writing campaigns, guest speakers, and events on campus. This semester Amnesty at CC has focused on the issues of human trafficking and refugees, and they have partnered with community organizations to learn more about the issues on a local level. The Human Trafficking Taskforce of Southern Colorado presented about how significant human trafficking is in Southern Colorado and what can be done to address it. On March 4th, the group held their annual Jamnesty event and collected over 150 letters that night for their refugee letter writing campaign. Throughout this past year, the group has written and sent hundreds of letters in support of human rights issues.



On Monday, April 25th, Amnesty International kicked off a donation drive to support Lutheran Family Services. If you would like to participate in the donation drive, donation bins will be located in the Western Ridge Apartments. Lutheran Family Services is in need of the following items, which will directly benefit refugees resettling in Colorado Springs:

- Blankets
- Pots and Pans
- Dust pans
- Linens
- Couches
- Tables
- Chairs
- Microwaves
- Silverware
- Plastic Containers

Amnesty meets the every Thursday at 5pm (with the exception of Block Break) in Worner 215. If you'd like to learn more about Amnesty at CC contact [ccamnestyinternational@gmail.com](mailto:ccamnestyinternational@gmail.com) with any questions.



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# Announcements & Events

## Collaborative Student Advisory Board Call for Applications (2016-2017)!

Want to help shape the direction of community engagement programming and initiatives on campus? The CCE is now accepting applications for a new Collaborative Student Advisory Board (CSAB) for the 2016-2017 academic year. Members of the Student Advisory Board help to carry out the mission of the CCE, serve as liaisons between students and staff, and act as ambassadors of the office. The Student Advisory Board gives student voice to the operation of the CCE. Members will work with CCE staff as collaborators and co-creators of programs, providing meaningful student input in issues of community engagement. For this first pilot year, the Board will be a blockly hour-long commitment. Incoming members will meet once during Block 8 of this year for a lunch and brief overview of the program.

The actual agenda to cover will change over time according to student interest and the programs of the CCE, but some examples of the types of topics the Student Advisory Board could discuss include:

- an Engaged Scholar program to be rolled out this fall
- educational/leadership development/skill development workshops
- how to motivate students to document their engaged work in a way that provides helpful information to students and the college
- technological advice in developing our Summit student platform.

April 28th: Applications Due (see below)

May 2nd: Successful applicants will be notified

May 3rd-May 6th: Initial meeting of the Board (organized around members' schedules)

To apply, please provide us your contact information and respond to the following open-ended questions. There is no minimum or maximum word limits - just use the space you need to share your thoughts! If the form is not displaying correctly in your email, you may fill the form out at: <http://goo.gl/forms/I5VOuBICUO>.

Questions? Email Jordan Radke at [jordan.radke@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:jordan.radke@coloradocollege.edu).

## A Note from the Editor

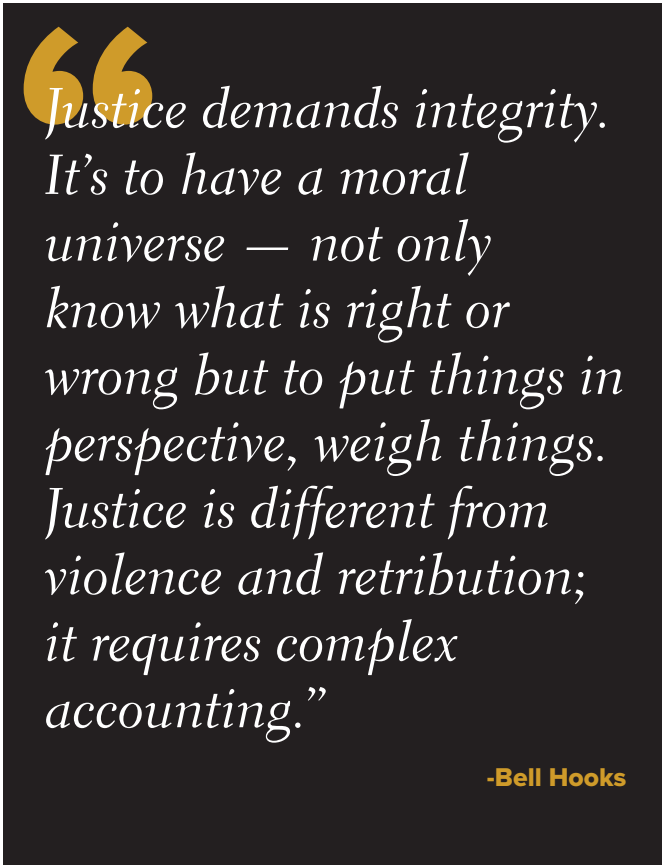
This is the final edition of The Difference for the 2015 - 2016 school year. In the issues we have published this semester we have hoped to spread awareness about the importance of community-based work grounded in compassion, collaboration, and sustainability. Thank you for reading The Difference, and may you walk away from this edition having learned something new, or inspired to do something new.

The Difference will continue in September when the 2016 - 2017 school year has begun. Keep an eye out for future editions and updates from the CCE!

For questions, concerns, or requests to include content or announcements, please contact me at salem.tewelde@coloradocollege.edu.

Sincerely,

**Salem Tewelde**



## A Note from the CCE

On behalf of the staff in the CCE, I would like to thank Salem for all of her hard work this semester to reintroduce this newsletter and provide interesting and timely content each block. I would also like to thank each of you for taking time to join us as we explore different topics relating to community engagement and service and highlight the efforts of our students and community partners.

Sincerely,

**Richard Bishop, Administrative Assistant**

### Contact Us:

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