



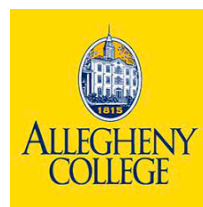
**In partnership with
Women's Services Inc.,
Meadville. PA.**

SPRING 2021
GLOBAL CITIZEN SCHOLARS
COHORT IV
**INTDS 190 : Introduction to
Global Citizen Scholars Seminar**

Exploring Community E-Collaboration



Switching Gears during the Pandemic



With new restrictions in place — hybrid classrooms, masking, and social distancing — we had to re-invent what community partnership projects would look like

The goal of the spring 2021 semester was to have students from the Global Citizen Scholars (GCS) participate in a local community project to teach them how to work on projects that can serve a vulnerable population — in this case, the families served by the Women's Services Inc. in Meadville, PA. We were fortunate to have extremely generous and dedicated community partners who worked with us to find ways in which we could still proceed with the plan. Our special thanks to Bruce Harlan, Rose Hilliard, Maria-Rosado Husband, Julie Hunter, Mady Kahler, and Kate Miller-Deross, from Women's Services, for being exceptional community partners. We are indebted as well to Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell, and Prof. James Lombardi, from Allegheny College, for their investment and guidance on the faith-based project.



Nicolle Long



Precious Taylor Forde

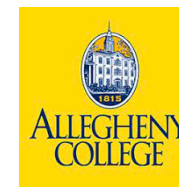


Maryan Osman



Balnur Yerezhep

Our Incredible Teaching Assistants



The troop leaders who worked closely with each team; served as liaisons between the community partners, client families of the Women's Services Inc. and students; and helped translate ideas to action. Our Teaching Assistants are our super-heroes.

At Allegheny College, **peer mentoring** is an important facet of students' professional development.

As they approach their Senior Year, students who have proved themselves through their work ethic volunteer as peer leaders for courses such as ours.

They get to practice important skills in managing teams, overcoming interpersonal obstacles while working with different personalities, strengthening their communication skills, showing their ability to organize efforts, and above all, motivate their team members to focus on the task and give it their very best.

We could not have asked for better champions!

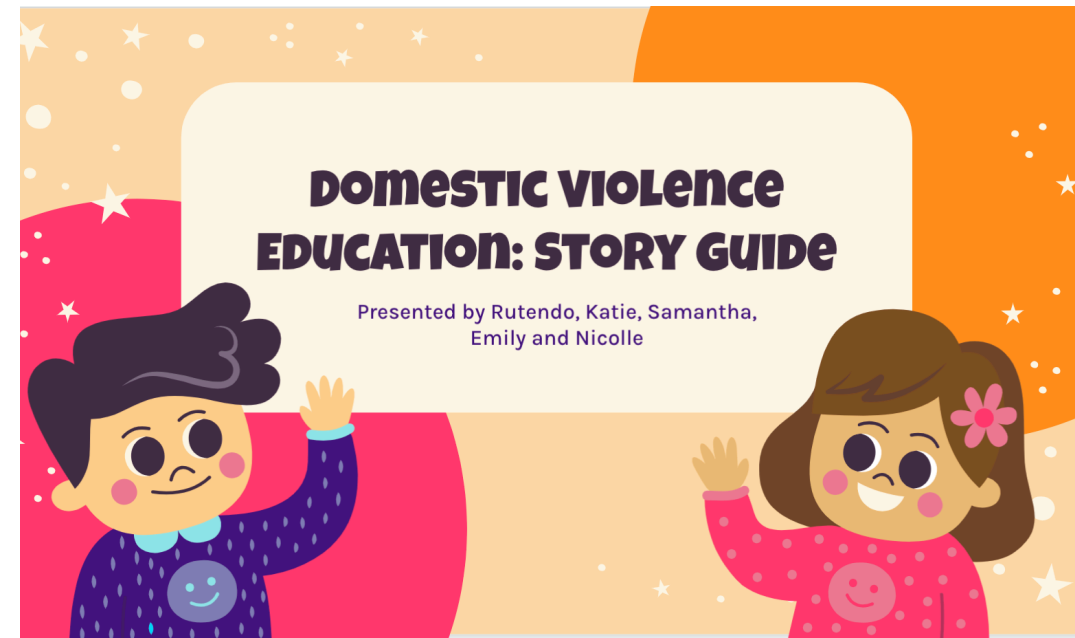
The Project Briefs

Four teams worked on four incredible ideas



PROJECT 1: CHILDREN'S BOOK (Supervisors: Mady Kahler & Prof. Sinha Roy). TA. Nicolle Long

Design the content for a children's book that uses storytelling to capture the Women's Services Inc. clients' voices and experiences. The Allegheny College team used Zoom focus groups to gather information and advice that helped them craft stories to educate children on how to cope and act in domestic abuse environments. We hope to organize a story reading session with the Women's Services counselors present, in the Meadville Public Library, when it is safe to have patrons return physically to that venue. And, in the long-term, we hope to publish the book as a resource for school educators and counselors.



PROJECT 2: VISUAL WEB SCHEMATIC (Supervisors: Julie Hunter & Prof. Waggett). T.A. Precious Taylor Forde

Develop a visual web-based schematic that shows the process that clients and children would go through if they contact the Women's Services — from the time of contacting the organization to the point of their exit. Also provide easy infographics or other graphic aids to make the website resources more accessible for different visitors to the site who have varied needs. This team is working on organizing needs in 'clusters' and organizing the clusters to provide a click-through discovery process of available community-based resources and organizations related to each area.

The Project Briefs



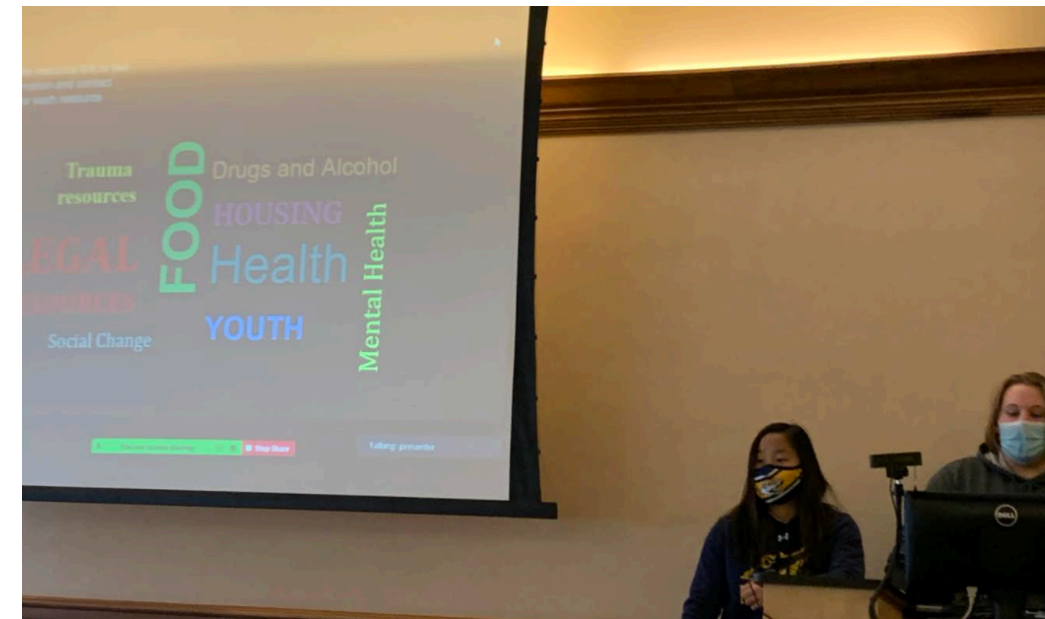
Women's Services



PROJECT 3: FAITH-BASED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (Supervisors: Chaplain Jane Ellen Nickel + Maria Rosado-Husband. Faculty point-person: Prof. Sinha Roy).

T.A.s: Nicole Long and Balnur Yerezhep

This initiative is being led by Dr. Jane Ellen Nickel (Chaplain at Allegheny College) as a strategic interfaith education piece. The faculty supervisor is Prof. Sinha Roy. The team used stories of women, from the Christian and Jewish scriptures, who stood up to injustice. By linking the scriptural stories to contemporary case studies, the short videos are designed to start faith-based conversations about scripturally sanctioned violence, while advocating for personal and social justice, compassion, and healing. Bookmarks with the contact information of relief agencies and shelters will also be distributed at these gatherings.



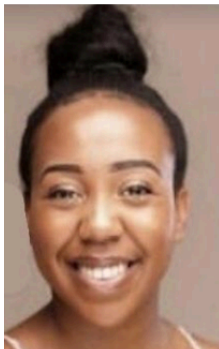
The Web schematic team makes a class presentation of their ideas

PROJECT 4: VIDEO CAREER PREP RESOURCES (Supervisors: Kate Miller-Deross & Prof. Waggett).

T.A. Maryan Osman

Group four is developing short video tutorials on career workshops, covering topics like developing professional resumes for women with little or no work experience, tips on how to write a cover letter, prepare for a job interview, etc. The videos will also identify what community resources are available to help women during this process [e.g. sites where clients can use free computers, get drafting and editing help, access a directory of possible local employers, etc.]

Students on the Project Teams



BOOK PROJECT
Rutendo Mavunga
Samantha Minor
Emily Mullen
Katie Perez



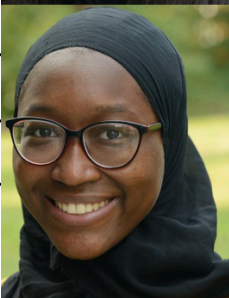
WEB SCHEMATIC PROJECT
Maya Francesco
Erik Jonsson
Joel Pszczolkowski
Sasha Whittaker

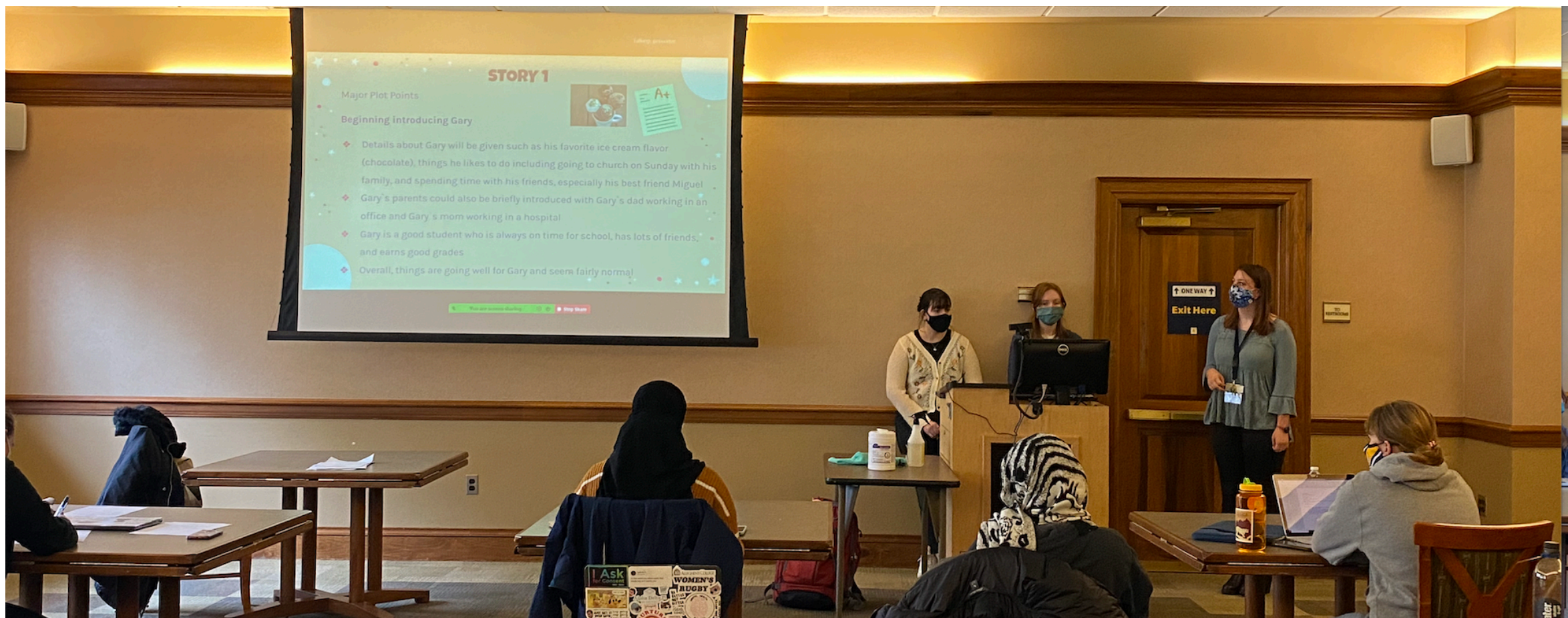


FAITH-BASED PROJECT
Lucia Jueguen
Lindsey Klingsberg
Cassandra Skweres
Julia Sonen
Irina Yeltsova



CAREER REOURCES PROJECT
Hema Baniya
Manasvi Bantawa
Bintou Fofana
Alex Henne



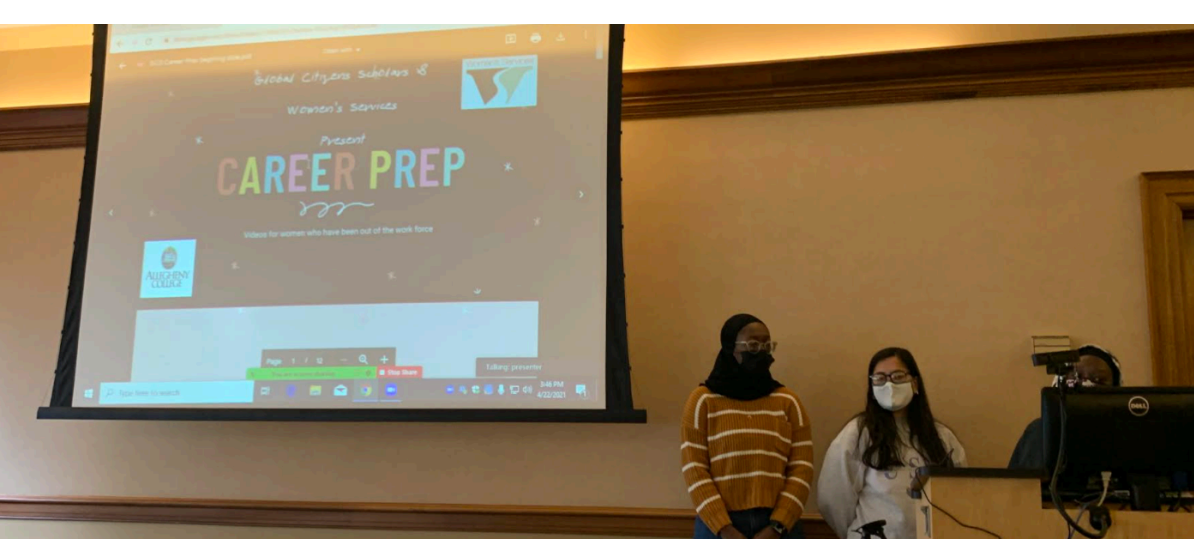


Putting the We Before Me

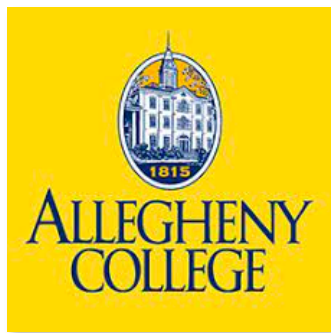


It was a challenging semester. We had students who were working remotely from halfway across the world and negotiating different time zones. Furthermore, because of health and safety protocols, students could not arrange in-person meetings with the community partners, or clients' families. Having to meet and collaborate online via Zoom was certainly a whole new experience. The students worked diligently, despite their seesawing emotions from a first-year college experience where nothing has been 'normal'. We were all put to the test as moods sometimes took precedence over motivation.

Overall, from building the resilience to do their best work on the projects, to coordinating multiple time zones, handling Zoom fatigue, balancing work-life schedules, and most importantly, not letting their community partners down, the GCS Cohort IV students did a stellar job in putting the We before Me.



Moving Forward



In fall 2021, we will put the finishing touches to the four projects and turn them over to the Women's Services Inc. in Meadville. The greatest satisfaction is knowing that the products from each team effort will be used by the community partner and other advocates against domestic violence, and will empower women and children to fight back against such abuse.

At the end of the spring 2021 semester, teams presented their work to the community partners and solicited feedback. There was overwhelming praise from the community partners they had worked with — both for the work the students showcased, and for the professionalism they had displayed in their interactions with the community mentors and the Women's Services' client families that had volunteered to be interviewed.

As difficult as it has been to do community e-collaborative work, it has been doubly rewarding for these first-year Global Citizen Scholars to have such outstanding experiences and innovative projects to showcase as part of their e-portfolios in a pandemic year.

The Faculty Perspective



Learning outside the lines means being prepared to take on the unexpected, learning from adversity, and making the best of any situation.

Our Global Citizen Scholars' cohort IV theme is "Empowering Women Worldwide." But more than anything, this semester has been about motivating students to empower themselves through their active learning, and by practicing empathy in putting others first. Empowerment is a word with many connotations. In its best iteration it is helping oneself by helping others. Not an easy lesson for first year students tested to breaking point by the pandemic. But the teamwork and perseverance have paid off and as they reflect back on this semester, we hope our students remember the three Cs: Community, Collaboration, and Compassion that helped them learn outside the lines, and against all odds.



Dr. Ishita Sinha Roy
Professor, Media & Cultural Studies



Dr. Caryl Waggett
Professor, Global Health



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