



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than 90 students participated in **Earth Day of Service** on April 23, 2022. This year, we partnered with **Rock Hollow Environmental Learning Center**, the **Berks County Parks Department** to perform beautification projects at the **Berks County Heritage Center**, participated in a community clean up within the **Upland Community** and even helped the **City of Reading** set up for the big **Earth Day of Service at City Park!**

The Holleran Center is also happy to confer service and engagement awards during the month of April to all of our students, alumni, and faculty who have made an impact through their dedication to service!



Franciscann Servant Leader Commissioning

SUSTAINABILITY

With funding from the **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture** and in partnership with the **Holleran Center for Community and Global Engagement's EcoHouse** and the **Rodale Institute**, **Coexist Build** unveiled "**The Traveler**," a hemp-based regenerative building material structure that will serve as a produce stand for the university's **Bog Turtle Creek Farm**. **Coexist Build** and **Alvernia** students will conduct a life cycle assessment of industrial hemp by collecting data to help quantify the effectiveness of hemp as a building material in a structure's performance, energy efficiency, and indoor air quality over the next two years. The assessment is made possible by a two-year, \$70,000 **Specialty Crop Block Grant** awarded in 2021. **Alvernia** environmental science students **Ethan LaVerdure** and **Alex Kabrich** will participate in the hemp growing cycle with **Rodale Institute** and facilitate educational programs around hemp as a viable building material. They will report on the building's performance in 2023. **Coexist** entrepreneurs **Ana Konopitskaya** and **Drew Oberholtzer** have also been supported by **Alvernia's O'Pake Institute Spark Business Incubator** for marketing and other business services. The **EcoHouse** is an experiential learning hub where students are actively engaged in sustainability, regenerative agriculture, and outdoor leadership.



Pennsylvania's Specialty Crop Block Grant funds regenerative building material study

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Career Development enjoyed a busy month while unveiling a new event format: more intimate **Employer Meet & Greets** for targeted groups of students and employers. On April 6, nine local employers gathered at **CollegeTowne** to offer jobs and internships for students in business and communications. Thanks to supportive faculty, four classes stopped by and an additional 20+ students stopped by independently to network and learn about opportunities. On April 28, the **Bernardine Hall** lobby was busy with nine employers and just under 20 students discussing opportunities related to the humanities, education, social sciences, and human services. Employers provided positive feedback and noted that they enjoyed the more intimate setting for both Employer Meet & Greet events.



April 6 Meet & Greet



April 28 Meet & Greet

READING YOUTH INITIATIVE

RYI employees and volunteers welcomed over 100 4th grade students to campus from **Millmont Elementary School**. **Alvernia's** newest college students for the day joined RYI employees and volunteers on a tour of the campus, talked about majors, classes, and favorite places on campus. Librarians **Christine Steffy** and **Jasmine Smith** welcomed the 4th graders with a tour and fun game of facts. Navigators **LeeAnn Bieber**, **Ashley Brown**, **Mikaleigh Baker**, and **Tyler Kearney-Good** impressed the students with their TikTok skills and did a great job connecting it to college life.

Occupational Therapy students **Lindsay Eberly**, **Nicole Acosta**, **Jessica Tuttle**, and **Karina Desai** shared information about Occupational Therapy and some of the tricks they use to help their clients, like making bracelets to help with hand control. The 4th grade students really enjoyed being on campus, even though they were tired from walking so much!



HOLLERAN CENTER SERVICE AWARDS

During our Franciscan Servant Leader Commissioning Event, 29 students were certified as **Franciscan Servant Leaders**. In order to achieve this, students had to perform a minimum of 100 hours of service to the community through varying areas: vulnerable populations, sustainability, education, mission-centric trip, service-learning course, and finally events coordinated by the Holleran Center that have a reflection piece embedded into the opportunity.



The **Annual Award of Service Excellence** was presented to eight students who served at least 100 hours or more throughout the 2021-2022 year.

The **Graduation Award for Excellence in Service** was presented to six students who served at least 300 hours before graduation.

Caleigh Van Der Veer served over 500 hours before graduation and earned the **Holleran Center Community Engagement Award** and **The Holleran Center Outstanding Service Award**.



The **Boscov's Reading Collegiate Scholar Award** was presented to **Kayleen Torres**.

The **Newman Civic Fellowship** was presented to **Max Horn**. This award recognizes and supports community-committed students who are changemakers and public problem-solvers.



The **Alumni Service Award** was presented to two high performing alumni who have gone above and beyond to serve our local, regional, and global communities. The recipients demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service that we aim to embed in all of our students before they leave Alvernia.

Dr. Ana Ruiz received the **Faculty Award for Exemplary Real-World Learning**; **Dr. Anthony Driggers** received the **Adjunct Professor Award for Exemplary Real-World Learning**; **Dr. Jodi Radosh** received the **University-Wide Award for Exemplary Real-World Learning**.

