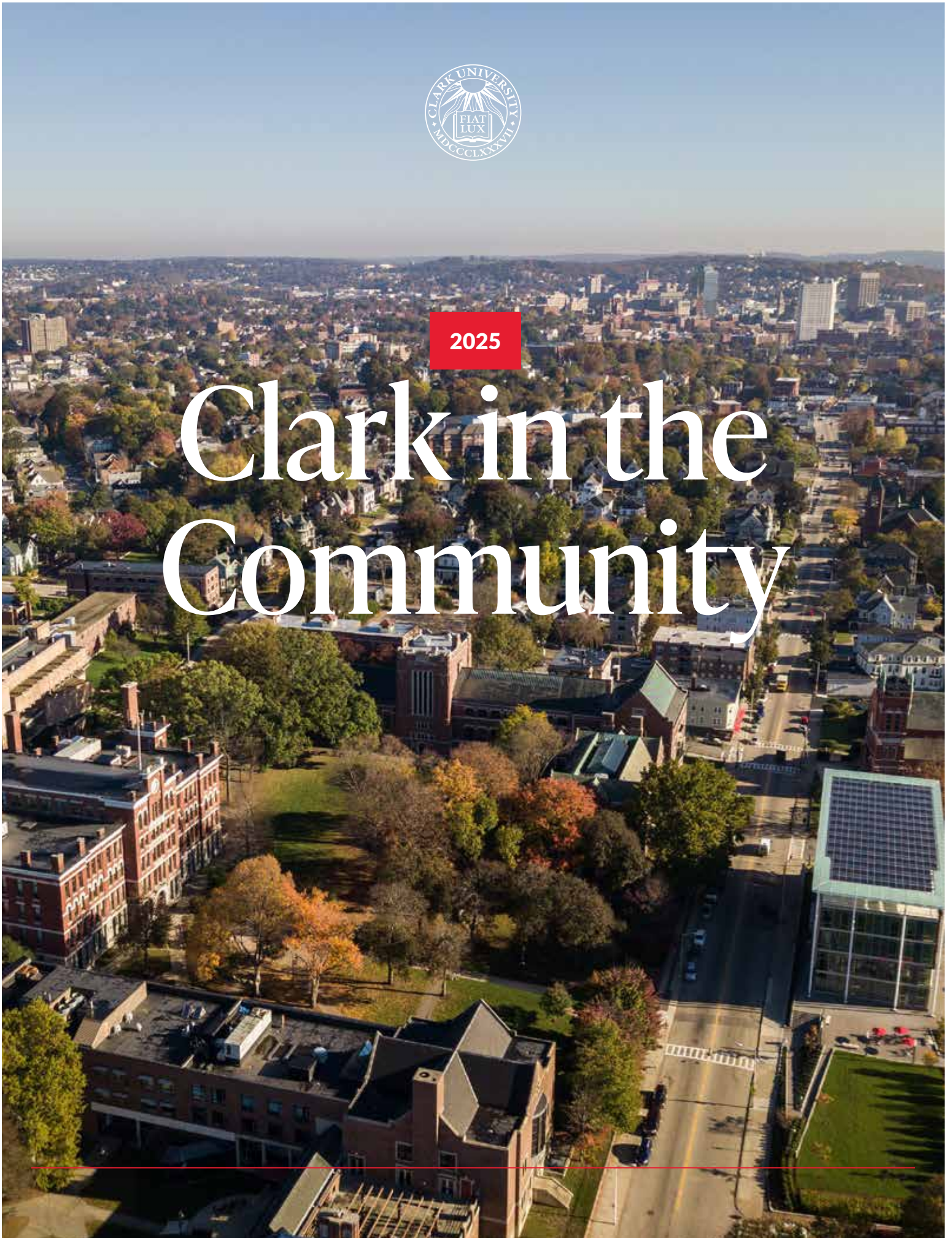




2025

Clark in the Community



Our Commitment

Clark University has a long history of institutional commitment to, and partnership with, the Worcester community, particularly the Main South neighborhood that has been our home since 1887. The exchange of knowledge and resources between Clark and the city continues to yield substantial and tangible benefits as, together, we shape a more vibrant Worcester in which to live, learn, work, and play.

There truly are no fences here, no barriers to collaboration, and no limits on transformation. In the following pages we share the ways in which Clark is an eager partner, intent on amplifying Worcester's strengths in public education, support for small businesses, and efforts to improve the socioeconomic and health outcomes of our residents.

Worcester is personal for us. A place of pride and belonging. A source of aspiration, ambition, and accomplishment. It's home.

When we invest in the city, we are investing in its people — through grant programs, by teaching and coaching in local schools, and in working with local organizations and agencies to bring positive and empowering change. We do so with a relentless spirit of optimism in Worcester's bright future and, always, as creative and willing contributors ... and good neighbors.

Joseph Corazzini
Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, Clark University

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These programs, projects, and partnerships help bring change



The Numbers

Clark's presence in, and partnership with, Worcester is reflected in its substantial investment in the city.

\$225M

Total economic impact in Worcester County in 2023

930

People employed by Clark

3,125

Clark alumni live in Worcester

\$3.9M

Paid to Worcester since 2010 as part of the PILOT agreement

\$412K

Clark's 2023 PILOT payment

\$6.7M

will be paid to the city over the course of the PILOT agreement

\$12.5M

Invested in UPP scholarships for Main South students since 2000

165+

Worcester students that have attended Clark tuition-free since 2000

200

Worcester Public School teachers are graduates of Clark's MAT program

\$50K

Invested to plant 75 trees to help shade Main South

26

Acres of recreation land in Clark's Hadwen Arboretum made available to the public

138

Number of years Clark has called Main South home

Learn more in the following pages



Economic Impact

Clark partners with Worcester in ways large and small to bring economic vitality to our thriving city, providing opportunities to grow small businesses, promote home ownership in Main South, and flex some entrepreneurial muscle. Worcester is having its moment, and we're excited to be part of it.



Impact Spotlights

Accelerating Worcester

1

Last September, the Clark University School of Business and the Small Business Development Center, with the assistance of the student-run Clark Consulting Group, opened the Small Business Accelerator at the Idea Lab on Franklin Street. Through the Accelerator program, prospective and current business owners can access industry expertise and innovative thinking as they plan, launch, and grow their enterprises in Worcester and beyond. With Clark’s encouragement and energy backing them, these entrepreneurs play a critical role in driving the economic engine of the city – and region.

Building life and career skills

2

Clark does essential work to help Worcester’s immigrant communities acclimate to their new city and establish sustainable livelihoods. In his classroom, Professor John Dobson and his students have led workshops in subjects like finance basics and marketing strategies for Haitian immigrants and refugees who are eager to start their own businesses, providing them access to the tools to help them support themselves and their families. Clark faculty members and students also partner with the African Community Education Center in Worcester, where they teach African and Haitian immigrants how to navigate economic and cultural challenges even as they preserve their most precious traditions.

Small businesses; big futures

3

The Main Street Small Business Development Fund will assist owners of businesses located on the streets and in the neighborhoods surrounding the Clark campus. Interns from Clark’s School of Business provide consulting services, and those businesses are eligible for mini-grants of up to \$3,000. The focus is on Main Street – to improve walkability and amenities for the community and students.

A place to call home

To promote community growth, the Clark Neighborhood Homeowners Buyer Program provides financial incentives to full-time faculty and staff to purchase a home in the Main South neighborhood. Stipulations in the purchase agreement help ensure continuity of residence in the neighborhood, maintenance of the property, and an invested interest in the health and vitality of the area. Since the inception of this important program, Clark has paid \$500,413 to employees to support homebuying in the neighborhood.

Clark’s PILOT Agreement with the City of Worcester

Clark takes seriously our partnership with Worcester, through programs, services, and direct financial contributions. Our voluntary PILOT agreement with the City of Worcester represents a sustained commitment to strengthening and supporting the area we call home.

\$3.9M

Since establishing a formal agreement with the City of Worcester in 2010, Clark University has paid \$3.9 million in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) as of June 2024.

\$412K

In 2023, Clark’s annual PILOT payment was \$412,000.

\$6.7M

Under the agreement, Clark’s annual payment increases by 2.5% yearly and is projected to generate over \$6.7 million in funding for the city over the course of the agreement.

\$110,786

In addition, Clark owns 11 properties in the city of Worcester on which taxes are paid at the full taxable rate, totaling an estimated \$110,786 in 2024.*

*A tenant of a Clark-owned property directly pays \$57,737.



1

Impact Spotlights

A second chance

1

For the past three years, Clark's Liberal Arts for Returning Citizens (LARC) program has empowered formerly incarcerated individuals to transform their lives, build livelihoods, and contribute to their communities by offering tuition-free college-level courses in areas like venture startup, financial literacy, and communication skills. One former student, Jordan Santiago, with skills he developed through LARC classes and inspired by his own entrepreneurial spirit, today owns and operates Tru Image Barbershop in downtown Worcester. The shop's chairs are filled with customers from all around who are welcomed inside for one of the best haircuts in the city.

Clarkies in the city

2

Over 3,100 Clark alumni live in Worcester. They work here, play here, and pay taxes here. They send their children to Worcester schools, eat in the amazing array of restaurants across the city, cheer at WooSox games, skate on the Worcester Common Oval, and enjoy the arts at the Hanover Theatre, Mechanics Hall, and Worcester Art Museum. They are here by choice, because they know Worcester is an ideal place to lay roots, shape a career, grow a family, start a business, be a contributing citizen, live a good life. Worcester is far more than the city where they attended college. It's home.



2

“/”

The Accelerator is a force multiplier for businesses that need extra assistance, technical consulting help, and research that is so vital not only to survive, but to grow and prosper.

Tim Murray
 President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Clark's Small Business Accelerator

Clark's Annual Economic Impact In Worcester County*

\$255M
 in 2023
 includes the following

\$189M
Operations

Generated through our capacity as an employer and purchaser of local goods and services.

\$19M
Capital

Generated through our spending on capital projects, such as new construction, renovations, maintenance, and other campus enhancements.

\$47M
Ancillary Spending

Generated through outside spending into the region by our students and their visitors, such as at stores and restaurants.

*Source: Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM) Economic Impact Report compiled by Econsult Solutions, Inc., 2023

930

Clark is proud to employ nearly 1,000 people, including 398 Worcester residents, who contribute to the economic vitality of our city.



Education

Worcester's public schools prepare their students to pursue lives and careers of consequence and to be a force for positive change in their communities — and we're proud to contribute to this vital effort. Through scholarship assistance that makes a Clark education accessible for eligible Main South students, and in our Master of Arts Teaching program that enriches Worcester's classrooms with talented and caring educators, we join with the city to make an enduring difference in young lives.



2



3



4

Professor Ousmane Power-Greene, shown here teaching a Clark history class, has taught Clemente courses in Worcester, Springfield, and Holyoke.

Impact Spotlights

Lifting Main South schools

1

University Park Campus School opened in 1997 as “The School With a Promise” to help lift children from the Main South neighborhood toward dreams and ambitions once deemed beyond their reach. Today, Clark partners with WPS to create a pathway for students in Main South schools toward a college education and meaningful careers. And Clark leads this effort in the most hands-on way: inside city classrooms. Close to 200 alumni from Clark’s Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program teach in Worcester Public Schools, many of them concentrated in the Main South neighborhoods. To date, 165 qualifying students from Main South have earned a tuition-free education at Clark, 58% of those from UPCS. The promise has been kept.

Expansion of the UPP zone

2

In 2023, Clark University took a dramatic step to make a free college education a reality for more Worcester residents. For the first time in a quarter century, the university expanded the University Park Partnership Scholarship Zone by 26 streets, enabling an additional 1,100 students to qualify for the UPP Scholarship. This award allows city residents who have lived in the University Park neighborhood for five years or more to qualify to attend Clark tuition-free.

A pipeline to STEM careers

3

Chemistry professor Don Spratt has made STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education and laboratory research accessible to hundreds of high school students from across the region. Spratt organizes tours of Clark laboratories that feature hands-on experiments and discussions about careers in research and college preparation, and spreads the message about STEM opportunities to Worcester Public School students, inspiring the next generation of scientists.

The Clemente Course

4

Clark faculty have long been leaders in bringing college-level learning into the Worcester community through the Clemente Course in the Humanities. Through this award-winning program, Clark professors make a significant difference in the lives of highly motivated low-income adults who otherwise would not have an opportunity to take courses that challenge them academically and inspire them creatively. Amy Richter, chair of the History Department at Clark, has served as local program director since 2021, and Clark professors regularly lead classes in Worcester.

Supporting City Students

165

From 2000 to 2022, Clark awarded 165 UPP scholarships to Worcester students.

~12.5M

Since the fall of 2000, Clark has invested \$12,665,424 in the UPP Scholarship Program.

58%

Approximately 58% of UPP scholars come from the University Park Campus School.

~1,100

The expansion of the UPP zone makes an additional 1,100 Worcester Public School students eligible for UPP scholarships.

~200

Current Worcester Public School teachers who have graduated from Clark’s Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program.

60

Graduates of Clark’s MAT program who are currently teaching in Main South schools.

A photograph of three women engaged in conversation outdoors. The woman on the left is partially visible, wearing a light blue shirt. The woman in the center is wearing a red top, glasses, and large hoop earrings, and is gesturing with her hand. The woman on the right is wearing a patterned top and has her hands clasped. In the background, a green building features large white text that reads 'CENTER FOR COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION' and 'SOUTH CDC'. A sign with the 'ENRS' logo is also visible on the right.

Engagement

Clark University is grateful to work alongside, the people of Worcester — as partners and as collaborators, as neighbors and friends. This is our home, our city, and it is as strong and vibrant as our collective efforts make it. For Clark, that means coming together with our fellow citizens to sustain and grow dynamic communities, especially in our Main South neighborhood, with a single shared goal: a better Worcester.



2



3



4

Impact Spotlights

A bulwark against youth violence

1

Professor Laurie Ross' expertise in the development and support of long-term community-university partnerships in the realm of youth work has been essential in helping Worcester address pressing issues like gang activity, substance use, and homelessness. In the area of youth violence, Ross, the director of the Department of Sustainability and Social Justice, who currently serves as interim dean of the college, was a key collaborator with the city in securing the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategies grant and the Department of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program grant. In the classroom, she is helping shape a new generation of leaders committed to the important work and thoughtful interventions that make a difference in young Worcester lives ... every day.

Art for all

2

In partnership with Art in the Park and the City of Worcester, Art in the Heart of Main South brings outdoor art exhibits to University Park and the Main South community. Now in its second year, the exhibition gives artists a friendly venue to display their original creations and provides the neighborhood with original works that enrich common spaces, build community, and add an element of aesthetic surprise to the landscape. Wherever you look, there is something to uplift, challenge, and inspire.

Bringing shade to a heating Worcester

3

For years, students in Clark's Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) Program have sought ways to keep the city cool by conducting street-level research into the impact of the Asian longhorned beetle on Worcester neighborhoods and recommending ways to mitigate "heat islands" in unshaded areas of Worcester. Last November, Clark invested \$50,000 and partnered with the city to facilitate the planting of 75 new trees in the Main South neighborhood as a way to contribute to a healthier, and cooler, environment for all residents.

Nourishing the neighborhood

4

For Worcester residents living in food deserts, healthy and nutritious meals can be rare. Clark students and faculty have long partnered with community members to change that circumstance. One of them is Amanda Dye, who for the past several years has worked with the local nonprofit Worcester Common Ground, which provides internship opportunities to many Clark students. She oversees the Jaques Ave. Community Bioshelter and surrounding vegetable beds, where Main South families cultivate and harvest fresh produce during the warmer months, filling their tables with healthy foods.

Jeremiah's Inn partnership

Clark University and Jeremiah's Inn last year entered into a unique partnership designed to help meet the pressing challenge of food insecurity on campus and in the broader Worcester community. The agreement offers a unique opportunity for Clark and Jeremiah's Inn to collaborate on a strategy that addresses the needs of students and Worcester residents who do not have access to a consistent source of food in their daily lives. With financial support from Clark, Jeremiah's Inn provides emergency food assistance to Clark students, while also creating a pipeline of employment opportunities for student workers who assist with the food pantry's operations.

For a stronger Worcester

Expanding educational opportunities for elementary and high-school students. Studying what makes downtowns thrive and applying that knowledge to Worcester. Helping local organizations improve housing and health care options for the city's underserved populations. These are just some of the issues Clark faculty are addressing thanks to the Urban Fellowship Grant program, an initiative of the Collaborative for Community Engagement. The Collaborative was formed to better coordinate efforts between Clark and the community with a clear and singular purpose: to better serve the residents of Worcester.

“ / ”

Clark is not a stranger to us, and we are not a stranger to Clark. It's all about helping people.

Kaska Yawo
Executive Director, African Community Education



Impact Spotlights

Heroes of the Hadwen

1

Clark students and faculty have devoted thousands of hours over the years to restoring and building trails through Clark's Hadwen Arboretum, 26 acres of woodland green space just off of Park Avenue. This urban gem is open to the public for hiking, nature study, and simply to decompress. The Worcester Tree Initiative, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture all donated their time and equipment to help the Clark teams remove downed branches and trees and aid the students' cleanup efforts as they've created a lush oasis in the middle of the city for all to use.

In service to Main South

3

The Day of Caring, which sends Clark students into the community to participate in cleanup and beautification projects, is one of many instances in which our students align their volunteer efforts with city priorities and initiatives. If you were to visit one of the Main South schools there is a strong likelihood you'd find Clark students assisting in the classrooms, organizing activities in the play areas, or coaching in the gym. They volunteer with local agencies and organizations and always are looking to contribute to the wonderful ongoing narrative that is Worcester. This legacy of local support and participation has long been baked into the experience at Clark, where our students choose to immerse themselves in the daily life of this city and its residents.

Watershed moments

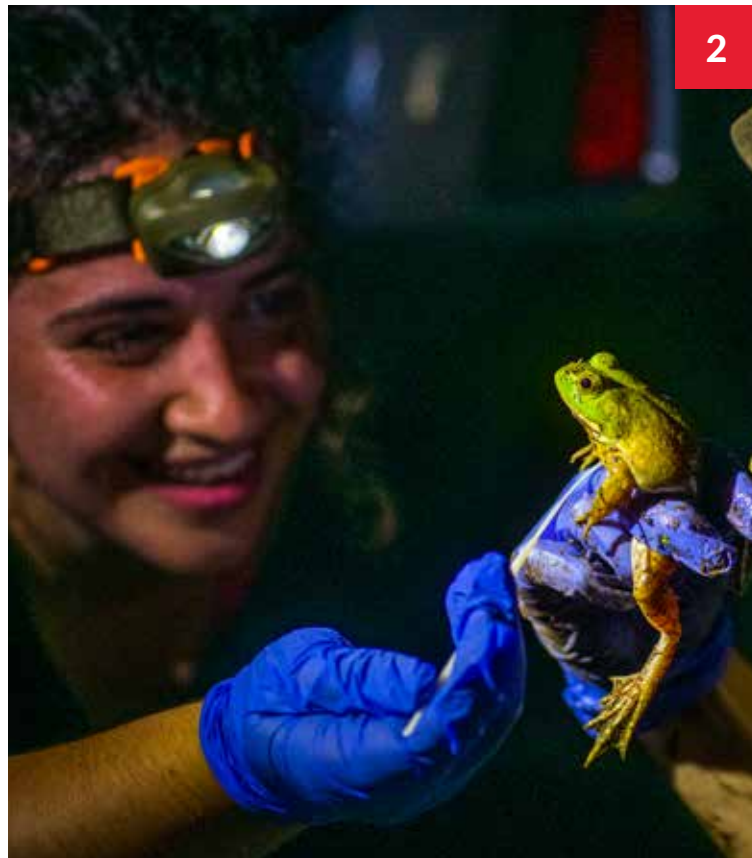
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Led by Clark biology professors, our students have partnered with Worcester to assess the health of the city's watershed as reflected in the condition of its humblest denizens — from microbes to frogs. As a result of this research, the Clark team has been able to supply important data to Worcester officials about the impact of urbanization on the city's most precious resource and recommend ways to protect a sensitive ecosystem.

From AmeriCorps to ALTAS

4

Clark continues to build and sustain partnerships that enhance and empower K-12 education, particularly in the Main South community. Among those recent efforts are the three-year, \$2 million grant from AmeriCorps to support the service of urban teachers-in-training in Main South schools. And in the past few summers, Clark has hosted the Audra Lorde Transformative Arts School (ALTAS), a program that challenges the standard approach to education. ALTAS organizers have sought to reimagine school as we know it and create a center of community revitalization, where the city becomes part of the classroom and youths focus on collaborative projects that benefit the public.



Partnerships, programs, projects ... for people



Many students participate in **Alternative Spring Break** by staying in Worcester to assist with community efforts, including preparing lunches at the SMOC shelter.

Alternative Spring Break immerses Clark students in the Worcester community as they learn about social determinants of health — the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Students meet with local grassroots leaders, government officials, nonprofit organizations, and community members to address topics like public health, youth development, queer health care, housing, and incarceration.

The **Humanities Scholars Collaborative** offers Central Massachusetts high school students an exciting opportunity to attend lectures and seminars that are presented by faculty at local colleges throughout the school year. The program's design encourages students to be knowledgeable citizens and consider their role in shaping the future of the United States.

The **Campus Ambassador** program sends Clark students into the neighborhood where they take part in daily street and park cleaning as well as other beautification projects. They also partner with local schools to provide support on projects and initiatives.

Through an **Urban Fellows Research Grant**, Professor Nathan Ahlgren supports science learning for fifth graders at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy. With several community partners, Ahlgren and student volunteers run an Aquatic Sciences Day event at Coe's Reservoir, where students learn about aquatic ecology, watershed stewardship, and the scientific process via several hands-on activities. The grant will also support a field trip to Save the Bay in Providence, R.I., for an exploration of marine ecosystems.

The **Community Advisory Committee** is a representative group of diverse stakeholders from Worcester and Main South. This group will meet regularly and oversee Clark's community engagement efforts and practices, and will operate as an advisory body to Clark's leadership for community relations.

Through **community grants and sponsorships**, Clark meets various funding requests from local organizations. Examples include the ALTAS Summer Program for secondary students; Simon Says to sponsor back-to-school supplies for UPCS students; the Belmont AME Food Pantry; St. Peter's Church to purchase supplies for their free medical clinic and to purchase milk for the food pantry; school supplies for the Back to School event in partnership with the Columbus Park neighborhood; and support to feed volunteers at the Castle Park Cleanup event.

The **Learning By Doing Course** is designed to help students understand the social and economic roles of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy and the process through which social change is funded and implemented. Students engage in grant writing and grant making along with community-based participatory research. Through this process, students analyze how social determinants affect health while identifying policies and interventions that reduce inequities in health. Led by students, local organizations are able to apply for up to \$5,000 to implement a project that addresses the inequities studied and prioritized by the course.

Clark provided financial assistance to support the **Mechanics Hall Portraits Project**, leading to the installation there of three portraits of prominent African Americans with historical significance for Worcester.



CLARKxCOLLAB is a partnership between a Worcester artist and Clark University whereby the artist designs a limited apparel series for Clark. As part of this partnership Clark loans \$5,000 to the artist to cover any upfront costs for the apparel. This is the third year of this well-received partnership, with Clark giving welcome exposure to local artists Joel Stanley Dunbar Jr., professionally known as MAYD in America, Kariuki, and Emmanuel "Q" Qlynton Carboo, known as Artist Q.

Worcester artist Kariuki created original apparel in partnership with Clark as part of the ClarkxCOLLAB program.

“/”

I'm tremendously proud, as an alum and as Clark's president, of the rich history of engagement between the University and the city, particularly with partners in the Main South neighborhood. And I believe it's important that we not just rest on the laurels of that rich history, but build on it to even greater strength and with even greater partnership.

David Fithian
President, Clark University

“/”

**We are not just located *in* Worcester,
we are *of* it — and proud to be so.**

David Fithian
President, Clark University



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