

**Sakhnin College for teacher education- SAKH**  
**Center of Social and Civic Involvement- C-SACI**

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**Steering committee:**

Dr. Yaser Awad – Vice President

Dr. Lina Boulos – Head of Excellence's Program

Dr. Manal Yazbar-Abu Ahmad - Lecturer and member of the international team

**Rationale and Goals**

In the academic year 2018 the Center of Social and Civic Involvement was founded in the framework of CURE project.

The Center Social and Civic Involvement operates various programs to help socioeconomically disadvantaged segments of society, with the goal of reducing inequities in the educational, economic and social spheres. Students in general and students with leadership qualities are invited to take part in discussing, planning and acting to achieve greater social equality based on the ideals of social justice and rights. The Center aspires to leverage the institute's unique resources: knowledge, reputation and, especially, human capital.

Achieving the goals of the Center is based on the following processes:

1. Local initiatives- coming from students or staff. Part of academic course or scholarship /volunteering based.
2. Cooperation - with student union, NGO or local school or community center- describe responsibilities.
3. Placemaking (Would Café program) based on Storytelling - a project gathering the local institute story on a board and a meeting point on campus with students and faculty staff. The board will show history, current demography and map, and future – wishes and dreams.

In 2017, the Ministry of Education began with the "Challenges- Itgarem" program, which is essentially the awarding of a scholarship to students who are willing to contribute to the community for a specified number of hours during the academic year. So the establishment of the center, as part of the CURE project, was a turning point for the success of the Ministry of Education's program, because the center with its resources (skilled personnel, knowledge and training) was an ideal incubator for institutionalizing and promoting "Challenges" program.

Therefore, the C-SACI promoted the Community Making Place program- World Café, which came to tell the story of the college and the community. A group of students trained to drive a process in the entire college, which culminated in an intervention on the college grounds - creating a place that everyone is proud of.

The World café Program has become a tradition on the Sakhnin College campus, and is held every year starting in 2018, at each stage the students develop a topics on the agenda of the college or the community, giving it meaning and instinct around it to strengthen student engagement on the topics for improvement.

The Objectives of world café program:

1. Promoting student engagement to strengthen their responsibility for shared space
2. Empowering a student leadership core with a connection to the strengths of place and community.
3. Practice and Implement Place Making-based community.

The Goals:

1. Expanding student engagement circles in social work within the college
2. Motivate a public discourse event (world cafe) and local intervention in the neighborhood
3. Pass it on - Providing tools for students to exercise in classrooms.

Initiation of processes at the C-SACI was by contacting familiar organizations and students were also given the chance to individually get involved with an organization in their villages and towns; to some of whom this was their first exposure to such organizations. Students volunteered in several social and educational initiatives: schools, kindergartens, social advocacy organizations, youth clubs, elders' clubs, and women's centers.

In the academic year 2019/2020, the main theme of C-SACI is 'violence in society' which was presented as a serious issue which must be addressed. Our college has allocated 80 scholarships (With the support of the Ministry of Education, through the "Challenges" program), where students need to volunteer once a week for a full year - a total of 90 hours.

Students from all years and programs can take part in this, while we do give preference to those in financial need. Many applications are submitted every year for this scholarship and this year the C-SACI allocated scholarships to students who applied to the Dean's office after consulting with the student advisor. Every student submitted income proof which determined their eligibility.

### **Workshops and Team Meetings**

In addition to volunteering, students participated in two-hour workshops bimonthly, where every session analyzed the processes they've experienced while doing their volunteer work with that specific demographic. Students also met with representatives from different organizations such as Ashwaq al Rabee' which works to support families of children with cancer, the Animals organization which advocates for animal rights, the Alsiwar organization, and Sha'ar Shivion which uses sports to advocate for tolerance and social engagement. Furthermore, we plan to meet with social activist Rula Daod who is

going to talk about the importance of social engagement and who also presents a personal model for women contributing to change in society.

### **Specialized courses for social leadership in C-SACI**

date	semester	department	participated
2017/18	B	Excellence program & Second year students from the Department of Science	28
2018/19	B	Excellence program	25
2019/20	B	Excellence program	24
total			77

### **Selected activities at the C-SACI**

Date of Activity	Type of Activity	How many participated in the activity	What was the results	Any other comments
14.3.2019	Meeting with students from Gordon College within the framework of the Israeli Hope Project	50	Strengthening the academic and social bond between Sakhnin and Gordon	Recommendation for more meetings between the groups
4.5.2019	Meeting with Ms. Hanaa Shala'ta who is a blind community activist and a role model for believing in oneself and social responsibility	60	The lecturer gave the students a sense of community activism and responsibility while dealing with disability and challenges	An intriguing meeting that encouraged the involvement of students in social responsibility
18.5.2019	Meeting with Julian Ibrahim from the Animals organization	52	Raised awareness regarding animal rights and maintaining a sustainable and healthy lifestyle	Currently working on setting more meetings of this sort
15.6.2019	End-of-year volunteering activity	80	The students were exposed to various	We reflected onto this experience and used it to plan

			projects and organizations that work in the Arab community and learned about social responsibility.	future engagements
21.10.2019	A lecture given to tenth graders at the Almal school in Sakhnin about violence in the Arab society	100	Raised awareness about the violence problem and the need for tolerance and dialogue in relations	This was the first-time students were given a lecture regarding this issue
13.11.2019	Commencement ceremony for the social involvement project	75	We planned our expectations for the year and scheduled events for it	This allowed us to meet the new social involvement unit, who are first-year students at the college and who received an explanation regarding the project, met the people involved in the project and were assigned to different activism initiatives
30.11.2019	A meeting with the president of the Ashwaq al Rabee' organization for families with children sick with cancer	60	We focused on building empathy and awareness regarding those families	Working with a Jewish organization whose goal is to advocate for tolerance and a commitment to building an enlightened society
14.12.2019	Meeting with Julian Ibrahim from the Animals organization	58	Raised awareness regarding animal rights and maintaining a sustainable and	Currently working on setting more meetings of this sort

			healthy lifestyle	
25.1.2020	A meeting with the supervisor of the emergency phone line at the organization 'Women Against Violence'	40	Raised awareness regarding this issue amongst the unit and had people sign up to volunteer at the organization's emergency phone line	This year we decided to focus on the issue of violence in the Arab society and meetings like this one urged people to further get involved in volunteering
15.2.2020	A meeting with the supervisor of the emergency phone line at the organization 'Women Against Violence' - fourth-year students in the early-education program	38	Raised awareness regarding this issue amongst the unit and had people sign up to volunteer at the organization's emergency phone line - Raised awareness regarding social issues	We focused on the problematic nuances of this issue, and the role of people in the field of education in this session
Total		613		



### **Additional Initiatives by Sakhnin College**

1. The Honors Program: according to the Ministry of Education, those are students who volunteer at different organizations and who also participate in the Ph.D. dissertation of Hiba Zeidan from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as interviewers. They have all gone through a workshop which focuses on learning outside of the classroom and location-based learning.
  
2. The "Remembering Life" project: this project takes place in two high schools where 20 students volunteer in raising awareness among primary school students in Tamra and Sakhnin - we are currently planning an end-of-year ceremony.



3. Campaign for bone marrow donation: The C-SACI's group of students created this campaign with support of "Itgarim". Students were approached and introduced to the issue by the organization 'Fight for Life' by Ali Alqubi who has passed away due to cancer. The organization works with the medical center at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where students donated samples for the bone marrow donation database.

4. International initiatives: The C-SACI took part in various international projects and initiatives, as well as hosted experts in community-based learning from the Johannes Kepler University Linz in Austria in the academic year 2018/2019. Community-based learning is important in this context because it's a methodology that connects higher education with community which is central to our mission.





5. World Cafe: This initiative is the product of an educational approach called ‘participatory leadership’ where students are urged to lead an activity from start to finish, this activity is similar to a workshop where students sit in a circle and use emotions and feelings to create something together. This initiative is an example for participation-based discussions for larger groups and it offers a model for future initiatives. During the first-year students and lecturers worked around the college and developed the spatial identity and the meaning of community on campus by using a method called ‘place-making’ which encourages entrepreneurship.



World Cafe created a poster that includes the story of the development of Sakhnin College, the expectations of the students, the academic, social and communal infrastructure that exists and the students’ vision for the future of the college. In the second year of this initiative students approached the student body and the lecturers on campus in order to better understand how the Honors program could improve. This initiative will continue next year as well where our plan is to adopt what we’ve learned in space-making and in World Cafe and to eventually use those methods in the framework of the internship of education students (as a pilot) and also in the Honors program as well.





6. Encouraging Arab Women's Education: this program advocates for the inclusion of women from the Arab society who are excelling in their studies in high-demand subjects. This program is funded by the Authority for Economic Development in the Arab Society through the Ministry of Social Equity. This program helps gifted young women in applying for high-demand subjects with career potential.

The program's goals are:

1. To academically support and prepare women for the acceptance exams in higher education institutions.
2. To give guidance to women in choosing the subject they apply to by considering career goals and the Israeli job market.

The program started in the academic year 2012/2013 and is still continuing today. As of 2018, the project has been operated by the C-SACI, more than 1000 gifted women from the Arab society have received their higher education, from Rahat in the south to Majdal Shams in the north of Israel.