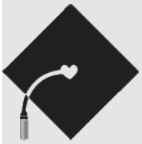


Civic Engagement Professional

Assistant Director of Community Service at
Northeastern University's Center of Community
Service



Tim Krumreig

Oberlin College, Class of 2012



Describe your current position.

I serve as the Assistant Director at Northeastern University's Center of Community Service, where I facilitate short-term co-curricular student leadership programs, such as Alternative Spring Break and the Husky Volunteer Team, which allows students and staff to volunteer in teams at nonprofits that need consistent weekly volunteers. I'll also be helping with communication and outreach, and I'll helping the Center to create a clearer pathway for co-curricular service work and to develop a stronger service leadership model for students across campus.

What does an average work day and year look like for you?

With engagement work, you're really responding to the needs of your stakeholders, who are students, faculty, staff, and community members. There may be days when you're sitting in the office doing evaluations, reviewing curriculum, and making phone calls. There are also days when you're out in the field, visiting partners to really get an understanding of the work that they're doing. In higher education, there's typically a flow to each school year that you settle into. For example, you know every year that May into August, you're winding down the school year and preparing for the next one. In September, you welcome students back to campus, recruit for your programs, and provide training to provide students to work at their community service placements.

What are the best and worst things about working in your current role or sector?

The best thing is the amount of different people I get to work with, particularly students. I have just as much to learn from them as they do from me. You challenge students and they challenge you. It's an exciting place to grow and learn. I also enjoy being able to work with other colleagues in community engagement who are asking questions like "how do universities function within their place?" or "how do universities influence—for better or for usually worse—the communities around us. What resources do we have at our disposal to help uplift the goals of our communities?" I'm excited to join Northeastern who employs a community-centric approach to community engagement to ensure the university is being responsible to community need and making community members the co-creators in what we are trying to achieve.

One of the most difficult things is that change within the structure of higher education takes a long time. Change doesn't happen instantaneously. I think this is one of the reasons why relationships with the community can be tense; people on the ground can promise change, but working on it can take a while, especially when working within the structures of a budget and other policy restrictions. All those factors make it a slow-moving process, and sometimes it can be frustrating.



What do you wish you knew as a recent Bonner graduate preparing for this field?

You don't have to know where you want to be in the end. You have to know where you want to be next. Clearly you want to have long-term goals, but you don't want them so structured that you miss out on opportunities that could be really rich and meaningful.

One of the best pieces of advice I received in college was from a professor. I majored in geology, but toward the end of college, I realized that my path was leading me to community engagement and college access work. This faculty member told me that, while I majored in geology, I chose to continue my education to learn how to understand the world, process information, and think critically. The fact that I majored in geology simply gives me a more analytical take on the work I do. I was taught how to pay attention to the big picture and the small picture to figure out how they impact one another. These skills have been transferable to my work in community engagement and have helped me succeed in opportunities that I didn't originally have planned for myself.

If you had to name one decision that has shaped your path, what would it be?

Choosing to do VISTA. Without Campus Compact, I would not be here, especially not the level I am, without having been placed on a college campus. VISTA projects, in a lot of cases, are trying to figure out the best way to do something and *you*, for a year or two, are the person that they rely on to do that. You get to do a lot deeper and a lot more engaging work than the typical entry-level position. Because of that, I was able to show my skills, experiences, and passions, and people saw that.

