



ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND HIGHLIGHTS: PAST TWO SEMESTERS

POLIS DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FACULTY EXCELLENCE | STUDENT SUCCESS | GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT | PUBLIC IMPACT

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

100

**STUDENTS WELCOMED
ACROSS BEIRUT AND
BYBLOS CAMPUSES**

8

**DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKERS FOR
SUMMER CAMP 2026**

2

**SEMESTERS OF
TRANSFORMATIVE
ACADEMIC MILESTONES**

THIS SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE KEY ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND MILESTONES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OVER THE PAST TWO SEMESTERS. IT HIGHLIGHTS FACULTY EXCELLENCE, STUDENT SUCCESS, ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL VISIBILITY, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S GROWING IMPACT



LAU DELEGATION AT HARVARD WORLD MUN



**POLIS STUDENT ROY ABI RAAD WINNER OF THE
HARVARD WORLD MUN DIPLOMACY AWARD IN LIMA**

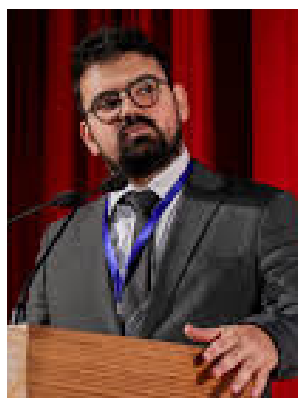
FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, PUBLICATIONS, GLOBAL RECOGNITION, AND ACADEMIC IMPACT



DR. LEILA DAGHER

RECOGNIZED AMONG THE TOP 2%
OF SCIENTISTS WORLDWIDE AND
SELECTED AS A 2026-2027 WILSON
CENTER RESEARCH FELLOW



DR. FADI HACHEM

PUBLISHED FREEDOM OF
RELIGION OR BELIEF IN
REGIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS
AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE
COUNCIL OF EXPERTS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM OR BELIEF ALLIANCE



DR. LATIFA REDA

PUBLISHED SENSING PALESTINE:
GLOBAL DECOLONIAL AESTHETICS
IN LATIN AMERICAN-PALESTINIAN
MUSICAL COLLABORATIONS,
EXPANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY
SCHOLARSHIP



DR. JEFFREY KARAM

PUBLISHED KNOWING
WITHOUT SEEING,
CONTRIBUTING TO
CONTEMPORARY DEBATES IN
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND
THE OCTOBER 7 STRATEGIC
SURPRISE



DR. SONIA NAKAD

COMPLETED HER PHD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN WITH
HIGH DISTINCTION (MAGNA CUM
LAUDE)



DR. JOSEPH EL HELOU

PUBLISHED A BOOK CHAPTER
WITH MS. AYA FARHAT ON STATE
GOVERNANCE, FINANCIAL
TECHNOLOGY, AND POLITICAL
ECONOMY IN THE UAE.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, PUBLICATIONS, GLOBAL RECOGNITION, AND ACADEMIC IMPACT



**DR RAMZI ABOU
SMAIL
PUBLISHED
CONCEPTUALIZING
AND MEASURING
SUPPORT FOR
COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE
IN AGGRESSIVE
BEHAVIOR**

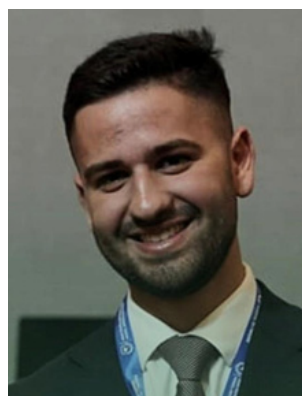
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRADUATE ADMISSIONS, MEDIA RESEARCH, AND ALUMNI DISTINCTION



ROY ABI RAAD

WINNER OF THE HARVARD WORLD MUN DIPLOMACY AWARD IN LIMA; ALSO ENGAGED IN POLICY ACTIVITIES AT THE NASW BOISE CAPITOL AND COP30 SIMULATIONS



SERGE NOHRA

RECEIVED THE BEST DELEGATE AWARD AT THE ASIA YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MUN 2025 IN KUALA LUMPUR



GHASSOUB JARRAH

EARNED AN HONORABLE MENTION AT THE ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



LYNN AL HADI

AWARDED A FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP TO BEGIN HER MS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



SOPHIA HADDAD

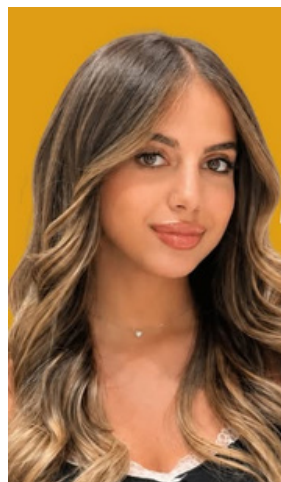
REPRESENTED LEBANON WITH DISTINCTION AT HARVARD WORLD MUN IN PERU



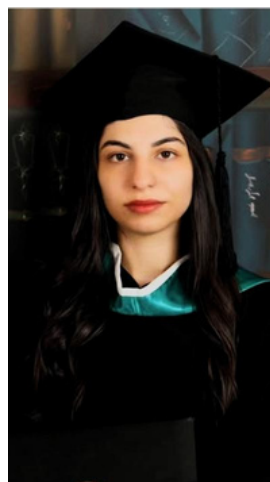
CHRISTELLE BARAKAT

SELECTED AS A SCHWARZMAN SCHOLAR FOR THE 2026-2027 COHORT.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



NOURA ABOU HAMZE
DISTINGUISHED HERSELF THROUGH
MIGRATION POLICY RESEARCH,
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY,
JOURNALISM, AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



AIDA JABER
RECEIVED THE OUTSTANDING
RESEARCH AWARD IN SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT.



MICHELLE ESHAK
ADMITTED TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM
AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

A STRONG CULTURE OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE

These achievements reflect the global competitiveness and leadership of POLIS students and alumni across diplomacy, research, graduate study, fellowships, media, and advocacy

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



**NADIA AHMAD
AWARDED THE
YOUNG RESEARCHER
FELLOWSHIP AT AN-
NAHAR NEWSPAPER**



**KARIM SALAHEDDINE
HONORED WITH THE
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH
AWARD IN THE FIELD OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES &
MANAGEMENT**



**CEDRIC KEYROUZ
ACCEPTED INTO THE
YOUNG MEDIA
RESEARCHER
PROGRAM**



**JOELLE EL KAASAMANI
AWARDED THE NADIM
SAID KHALAF
ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



**RAFI DAOU
RECEIVED THE
TORCH AWARD**



**SOPHIA HADDAD
RECEIVED THE RHODA
ORME AWARD**

A STRONG CULTURE OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



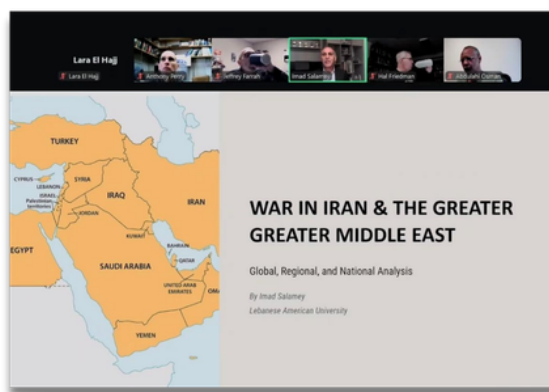
POLICY DIALOGUE

WELCOMED H.E. DR. NASSIF HITTI, FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
FOR A LECTURE ON LEBANESE POLITICS AMID REGIONAL TENSIONS



NATIONAL SECURITY

STRATEGIC GUEST LECTURES WERE DELIVERED BY GENERAL ZIAD RIZKALLAH AND
MAJOR GENERAL FADI MAKHOUL



REGIONAL ANALYSIS

DR. IMAD SALAMEY LED AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "THE WAR IN IRAN AND THE
GREATER MIDDLE EAST

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR NAYLA TABBARA

**“WHAT DOES IT MEAN
TO LIVE IN AN
INCLUSIVE SOCIETY?”**



**DR NAYLA TABBARA
FEATURING REV. LINDA
MAKTABI AND SHAYKH
RABIH KOBEISSY.
“ROLE OF RELIGIOUS
LEADERS DURING THE
WAR: THE CASE OF
LEBANON”**



**DR IMAD SALAMEY
“LEBANON’S
POLITICAL ORDER
AND THE REGIONAL
CONTEXT” AT FREI
UNIVERSITY OF
BERLIN.**



**DR ASSEM DANDASHLY
“RETHINKING EU
DEMOCRACY PROMOTION:
LOCAL
ACTORS, REGIME SURVIVAL
AND NORM
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE
ARAB MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES.”**



**DR MICHAEL
THEODOSIADIS “THE
TRAGEDY OF MIGHT:
SIMONE WEIL AND
ETHICAL
LEADERSHIP IN
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS.”**



**DR HICHAM ABOU
NASSIF “U.S FOREIGN
POLICY AND THE
LEBANESE CIVIL WAR
(1981-1984)”**

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR JULIEN BEAUJOUAN
**“FROM LIBERAL PEACE TO
POWER
PEACE: RETHINKING
CONFLICT
RESOLUTION IN THE 21ST
CENTURY”**



DR NICOLA NONES
**“MILITARY BUILD
UP UNDER
HEGEMONIC
SHADOW”**



DR ZIAD ABDEL SAMAD
**“WHAT HAPPENS IF
EVERYONE IS A PASSIVE
CITIZEN?”**



**DR KINDA MAJARY “WHAT
IS A GENDER-INCLUSIVE
CITIZENSHIP”**



DR ELIE ABOU AOUN
**“WHY ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS IMPORTANT
FOR CITIZENS?”**



ESQ. VERENA EL AMIL
**“SHOULD CITIZENS
ENGAGE IN POLITICS AT
A YOUNG AGE?”**

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR ABBAS RAMMAL
“ENHANCING RESEARCH
METHODOLOGY WITH
QUANTITATIVE DATA AND
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:
INFERENTIAL METHODS AND
TOOLS”



**MISS LISBETH
PILEGAARD**
“DEMOCRATIZATION
& THE MENA
REGION”



DR JOSEPH FARCHAKH
“HOW CAN NEWS OUTLETS
AND ANCHORS BECOME A
VOICE FOR CITIZENS IN
THE COUNTRY?”



H.E ANDREW BARNES
“AUSTRALIA’S DEMOCRATIC
JOURNEY: ACHIEVEMENTS AND
EMERGING CHALLENGES”



H.E FRANK MOLLEN
“DUTCH FOREIGN
RELATIONS &
DIPLOMACY IN A
COMPLEX REGION”



**H.E MOHAMMAD AL-
ASSAAD “من الفكرة إلى
الثورة إلى الدولة”**

STUDENT & INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- GRADE 11 STUDENTS FROM FRÈRES MARISTES CHAMPVILLE SCHOOL VISITED LAU BYBLOS.
- “COFFEE WITH POLIS” SESSIONS WERE ORGANIZED TO FOSTER DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT.
- OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MASTER’S PROGRAM IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, MARKING A SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE INSTITUTION.
- THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CLUB WAS FEATURED IN L’ORIENT-LE JOUR, HIGHLIGHTING ITS ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ON A NATIONAL PLATFORM.
- LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSTED A CONCERT IN COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO, PROMOTING CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE FALL-2025

SARA HEMADNEH

ELISSA TAOUKJIAN

REINA SINNO

JOMANA EL KHAZMI

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

JUDY VIRGINIA ABOU AYACHE

YARA ABDALLAH

LEA FARHAT

RAFI DAOU

ANGELICA SAHLI MONZER

ROMY LABBAN

RACHEL SHALHOUB

THEA MARIA SARKIS

FRANCESCA BOURI

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

ROY ABI RAAD

TALEEN ABDEL KHALEK

YASMINA EL AMIN

MICHELLE ESHAK

ALIZA KHAZZAKA

SOPHIA HADDAD

TIA ABDUL BAKI

YORGO BOU ASSI

MABEL KARKAR

DONA MARIA MATTA

NOUR NAJJAD

CHRISTIAN DACCACHE

ELIE SAWAYA

LENA MAKHOUL

SELENA HARFOUCH

LEYA SINNO

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

SALINA MARIA ABOU JAOUDE

FATIMA RAMADAN

MARWAN MOUKARY

PETRA ABOU KASM

ADELE BOU RAAD

GRADUATE SUMMER-2025

RITA THERESIA MAKHLOUF

GRADUATE FALL-2025

AMAL ZAIDAN

MAROUN AL IRANI

OMAR BAZ RADWAN

MOHAMMAD ABED AL RAZAK GHALAYINI

MARIA AKIKI

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

GRADUATE SPRING-2026

HAYTHAM AL TABESH

MARIA CHRISTINA SAAD

SUHA ABOU RIALY

REEM HAIDAR

YARA HALABI

MAHMOUD KOBROSLY

MIA AZZI

SADEEL ISMAIL

SERGE HAMPARSOUMIAN

POLIS STUDENT MOBILITY: EXPANDING GLOBAL HORIZONS IN 2025-2026

THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR STUDENT MOBILITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (POLIS) AT THE LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

A TOTAL OF 15 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, SUMMER SCHOOLS, AND STUDY-ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS EUROPE, REFLECTING POLIS'S GROWING COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.

STUDENTS PURSUED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES IN EIGHT COUNTRIES—FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, SLOVENIA, FINLAND, AUSTRIA, ITALY, ESTONIA, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—THROUGH A RANGE OF PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING SCIENCES PO PARIS, SCIENCES PO LYON, THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, THE UNIVERSITY OF TORINO, TALLINN UNIVERSITY, EMUNI UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ PEACE SUMMER SCHOOL.

FRANCE EMERGED AS THE LEADING DESTINATION, HOSTING FIVE POLIS STUDENTS, FOLLOWED BY ITALY, SLOVENIA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES WERE SUPPORTED THROUGH SEVERAL COMPETITIVE FUNDING SCHEMES, INCLUDING ERASMUS+, MARE SCHOLARSHIPS, ISP MOBILITY SUPPORT FUNDS, AND SPECIALIZED PROJECT-BASED GRANTS.

THE MOBILITY COHORT INCLUDED BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE BEIRUT AND BYBLOS CAMPUSES, WITH FEMALE STUDENTS REPRESENTING NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF PARTICIPANTS. THESE EXPERIENCES ENABLED STUDENTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ACADEMIC EXPERTISE, DEVELOP INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES, EXPAND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, AND ENGAGE WITH DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING, AND PUBLIC POLICY. THROUGH THESE INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, POLIS CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS MISSION OF PREPARING GLOBALLY MINDED GRADUATES EQUIPPED TO NAVIGATE AND LEAD IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED WORLD.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNDERGRADUATES & GRADUATES

ERASMUS +:

MOUNYA EL SAID- SPRING 2026

JOELLE AL KAASAMANI- SPRING 2026

MICHELLE ESHAK- FALL 2025

SERGE TACHDJIAN- SPRING 2026

KYLE TYAN- SPRING 2026

ERASMUS- SEA SAVE PROJECT:

TONIA ASSAL- FALL 2025

MARE SCHOLARSHIP:

MARIA CHRISTINA SAID- FALL 2025

ANHAL KOZHAYA- FALL 2025

EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNDERGRADUATES & GRADUATES

JUDY VIRGINIA ABOU AYACHE- FALL 2025

YAZAN ABOU EL EZZ- SUMMER 2026

AYA AL MAWLA- SUMMER 2026

FRANCESCA BOURI- FALL 2025

CHRISTIAN EL DACCACHE- FALL 2025

LAYA SNIH- SUMMER 2026

CLARA TAWK- SPRING 2026

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

BEIRUT CAMPUS MUN POLIS SUMMER CAMP

Frank Mollen Dutch Ambassador Monday July 6, 2026	Paula Yacoubian Lebanese journalist and Member of Parliament Thursday July 9, 2026
Mahasen Rahhal United Nations professional in development and humanitarian affairs Tuesday July 7, 2026	Nayla Tabbara Co-founder of Adyan Foundation Wednesday July 8, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
<https://soas.lau.edu.lb/camps/mun-diplomacy-summer-camp-2026.php>

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS. SHAPING A BETTER WORLD.

**BEIRUT CAMPUS MUN POLIS
SUMMER CAMP SPEAKERS 2026**

MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

BYBLOS CAMPUS MUN POLIS SUMMER CAMP

Tom Wilson Australian Ambassador Tuesday July 7, 2026	Michel Douaihy Member of Parliament, Lebanon Member of Foreign Affairs & Human Rights committees Thursday July 9, 2026
Nada Koussa Miss Lebanon 2024 and Clinical Psychologist Monday July 6, 2026	Fadi Hachem International Human Rights Lawyer and University Lecturer Wednesday July 8, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
<https://soas.lau.edu.lb/camps/mun-diplomacy-summer-camp-2026.php>

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS. SHAPING A BETTER WORLD.

**BYBLOS CAMPUS MUN POLIS
SUMMER CAMP SPEAKERS 2026**

APPLIED TRAINING

STUDENTS COMPLETED THE PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ACTION PROGRAM WITH LEGAL ACTION WORLDWIDE AND PARTICIPATED IN FIELD VISITS TO THE BASIL FULEIHAN INSTITUTE OF FINANCE

SUMMER CAMP 2026

THE DEPARTMENT WILL FEATURE A DISTINGUISHED LINEUP OF SPEAKERS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR FRANK MOLLEN, MP PAULA YACOUBIAN, MP MICHEL DOUAIHY, AND OTHER LEADING PROFESSIONALS

IMPACT THE 2025

SUMMER CAMP WELCOMED 100 STUDENTS ACROSS BEIRUT AND BYBLOS, FOSTERING INTEREST IN DIPLOMACY, NEGOTIATION, AND GLOBAL DECISION-MAKING AMONG HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS

VISIBILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY THROUGH MEDIA, ALUMNI, AND INSTITUTIONAL STORIES



**PRESIDENT JOSEPH AOUN - POLIS
ALUMNUS FEATURED ON THE LAU
ALUMNI PODCAST 100/100**



**PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY
FEATURE: LIFE DURING WARTIME**



**LAU FEATURE HIGHLIGHTING
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**



**POLIS STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE
Y-IMPACT PROJECT**

A large, multi-story building made of light-colored stone with many arched windows, surrounded by palm trees and a green hedge. The building is the main focus of the image, with the text overlaid on it.

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. IMPACT.

LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY | POLIS

Over the past two semesters, the POLIS Department has demonstrated that its foundation is built on excellence, resilience, and impact. The department remains committed to being a leading center for political science and international affairs education, advancing scholarship, student success, experiential learning, and meaningful public engagement.