



**Center for Community
Engagement, Learning &
Leadership**

Opportunities for Remote and Face-to-Face (F2F) Service Supportive of Black Lives¹

GivePulse (e-service and F2F service)

Givepulse is dedicated to helping link faculty members and potential volunteers with organizations taking on face-to-face or virtual service volunteers. You can search their site by location at <https://www.givepulse.com> or can click on the list that comes up for Baton Rouge: <https://www.givepulse.com/search?SearchForm%5Blocation%5D=baton+rouge>. Current opportunities that could disproportionately benefit Black youth and adults include: STEMUPBR (which focuses on STEM initiatives in EBR Public Schools); CristoRey Franciscan High School, whose student population is disproportionately Black and Latinx; Gardere Community Christian School, whose student population is disproportionately Black and Latinx; Big Buddy; Louisiana Center for Health Equity, whose work addresses health inequities across demographic groups; and Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana.

Zooniverse (e-service)

Zooniverse is a research-based platform that links volunteers up with a variety of projects in many interest areas. You can go to <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects> to learn more about available projects. One of their projects involves helping the Boston Public Library turn their handwritten correspondence collection between 19th century anti-slavery activists into texts students, teachers, and historians can read and study (<https://www.antislaverymanuscripts.org>). Another (<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/alycialeonard/power-to-the-people>) involves helping identify homes in rural Africa to bring power to.

Black Lives Matter (e-service)

One specific way to support #BlackLivesMatter right now is explained on the following website: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/help-us-fight-disinformation/>. The campaign has been targeted by disinformation efforts on social media and elsewhere. Finding, documenting, and sending suspicious sites, stories, ads, accounts, and more that are out there to BLM on their website is a way to fight against the false accounts being spread about the many organizations that are a part of this broader moment/movement.

¹ Last updated August 5, 2020

You Will Rise Project (e-service)

This service facilitates volunteers creating art, writing, music performances, and more creative “deliverables” to be shared with patients fighting COVID-19. More information can be found at <https://youwillriseproject.com>. With COVID hitting Black communities, families, and persons harder than other populations, volunteering here will have disproportionate positive impact on Black life and health.

Do Something (e-service and F2F service)

This youth-led organization has long been connecting young people with opportunities to make a difference. Visit <https://www.dosomething.org/us> to learn more about their potential projects. Right now, they are highlighting support for Black Lives Matter. See their website at the following to find out more: <https://www.dosomething.org/us/statement-black-lives-june-2020>. One of their opportunities right now involves using their training materials to prepare yourself for (and then having) a 30-minute anti-racist conversation with someone in your community (or to practice self-care as a radical act of anti-racist action if you are Black). Information on this service opportunity is here: <https://www.dosomething.org/us/campaigns/anti-racist-conversations>. Participating enters you into a scholarship opportunity to earn a \$1,000 scholarship for yourself along with a \$1,000 donation to a Black-led organization on their approved list. They also have an extensive list of ways to do service for racial justice. You can find out more here: <https://www.dosomething.org/us/causes/racial-justice>.

Omprakash (e-service)

Omprakash provides a database of opportunities to be an online volunteer. You can narrow your search according to region of the organization (across the globe), organization’s focus (health and wellness; environment; education; economic development; construction/rebuilding; rights and advocacy; disabilities; refugees and migration); types of work (accounting, curriculum development, data analysis, grant research/writing, language teaching or tutoring, leadership and strategy, monitoring and evaluation, multimedia and design, research literature review, software training, storytelling and showing impact, translation, web development, web presence improvement), among other factors such as hours per week and language preference. You can find out more at <https://www.omprakash.org/search>. You can search their global database for opportunities related to supporting Black life, across a wide variety of skill sets and interest areas.

Catchafire (e-service)

This organization, like some of the others on this list, helps match people with topical area volunteer opportunities to do from home. Visit <https://www.catchafire.org> to learn more. Interest areas available include: animals, arts and culture, civil rights, community and economic development, disaster relief, disease and medical research, diversity and inclusion, education, employment services, environment, health and nutrition, housing and homelessness, human services, international affairs, justice and legal services, LGBTQ, maternal health, military and veterans affairs, philanthropy and capacity building, religion and spirituality, science and technology, violence prevention, women's issues, and youth development. You can search their database to find an opportunity to serve from home that fits your interest in supporting Black life across the globe and maybe also falls within your career area as well.

The Smithsonian (e-service)

The Smithsonian is looking for people to help with transcription, or Wikipedia entries relevant to a wide variety of topical areas. See more at <https://www.si.edu/volunteer/DigitalVolunteers>. Visit <https://transcription.si.edu> and click on the drop-down menu under "Browse Projects" to find some in your course/interest area. Those on the list of potential interest to BLM supporters include two museums and archives (Freedmen's Bureau, National Museum of African American History and Culture) and many "themes" (African American History, Freedmen's Bureau).

Project Gutenberg (e-service)

This organization helps create a larger volume of free e-books for public consumption. So far, they have amassed 59,000 since their founding in 1971. You can donate eligible materials, transcribe books to digital form, or proofread others' work. You can learn more at: https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:Volunteering_for_Project_Gutenberg. You could potentially work with them to make more books relevant to Black life or written by Black authors across the globe available to people for free.

Idealist.org (e-service and F2F service)

This website lets you search for service opportunities geographically. Go to <https://www.idealist.org/en/?remoteOk=YES&sort=relevance&type=VOLOP> and select "Volunteer" from their menu and then search by keyword, skill, or interest, and add your location if you want to search for something close by. You can search specific terms to find something in your area of personal or career interest that will help you cultivate skill while supporting Black life. You can click on the toggle button for "virtual/remote only" if you want to work from home.

VolunteerMatch

This organization helps link people up with local opportunities to volunteer. If you visit <https://www.volunteermatch.org> and click on “Virtual opportunities” at the top of their page, you will see there are almost 700,000 opportunities available in advocacy and human rights, animals, arts and culture, children and youth, community, computers and technology, education and literacy, health and medicine, seniors, board development, crisis support, disaster relief, emergency and safety, employment, environment, faith-based, homelessness and housing, hunger, immigrants and refugees, international, justice and legal, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, race and ethnicity, sports and recreation, veterans and military families, and women. Right now, there are 92 virtual opportunities to serve (from home) relevant to race and ethnicity. There are also plentiful opportunities to serve in the Baton Rouge area in ways that would disproportionately benefit local Black populations—you just have to search by geographical area and explore the available options.

Democracy @ Work LSU and LSU College Democrats

The week of June 15, 2020, these two student-run organizations put a proposal with widespread support before the LSU Board of Supervisors to change names of buildings named after individuals who owned slaves, fought to preserve slavery, committed genocide or lynching, advocated for segregation, disenfranchised Black voters, and/or supported racism. These two student organizations could use additional support in their ongoing efforts. They are building a coalition of students, faculty, staff, and workers for the name-changing project and other initiative, such as ending LSU’s use of prison labor and reallocating funds to underfunded departments at LSU. Reach out to leaders Sebastian M. Brumfield Meija (sbrumf9@lsu.edu), Bryan Parks (bparks4@lsu.edu), and/or Soheil Saneei (ssanee1@lsu.edu) to find out what opportunities they have available for volunteers working to support Black life.

Clarence L. Barney Jr. African American Cultural Center, LSU (F2F service)

LSU’s African American Cultural Center has two ways to get involved that support Black life on campus. You can apply to be an AACC Ambassador. These students help spread the word about educational, social, and cultural services the AACC and Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) provide. They help connect Baton Rouge communities and LSU in addition to helping with AACC events. In addition, the AACC has a Black History Month (BHM) Committee. Students who serve on the BHM Committee help organize events and programming to document and educate the achievements of Black people throughout the year and during Black History Month as well. Applications can be found at: <https://www.lsu.edu/diversity/aacc/student-organizations.php>

Black Student Union (F2F service)

Every year, the Black Student Union holds two events to help benefit local communities. They host a Back-to-School BBQ to collect canned goods for the LSU Food Pantry. They also serve on

MLK Day of Service in cooperation with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). You can see more about these days of service at <https://bsuatlsu.weebly.com/community-service.html>. To find out ways to serve, email them at sublackstudentunion@gmail.com.

Zeiter Literacy Center

The University of Nevada Las Vegas and Gayle Zeiter Literacy Center responded to stay-at-home orders and school closures in Spring 2020 by creating a YouTube channel and online repository of homemade “read-aloud” videos from people across the globe that are publicly shared with school-age children everywhere. LSU students in one summer 2020 service-learning class are adding to their collection by choosing children’s books that approach social issues related to race, ethnicity, and gender to create read-alouds for the Zeiter Center. The project continues to accept new read-alouds on an ongoing basis. You can choose a book related to Black history, confronting anti-Black racism, self-care for Black children, activism for racial justice, or other relevant topics and create a read-aloud for them to post to their collection. To learn more about this opportunity and how to participate, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtWAv4a1ZkajlKbCdXaauXQ> or email them at danica.hays@unlv.edu or kenneth.varner@unlv.edu.

National Society of Black Engineers at LSU (NSBE)

LSU’s chapter of the NSBE has five opportunities available for service. First is their “Raise Awareness Challenge: Removing discriminatory variables from scholarships and hiring processes.” This project involves working with companies to remove variables that are not solid measures of ability from their hiring screening processes. The School of Engineering has already had one of these successful partnerships and NSBE is looking to establish more. Second is their “Big Sibling Program.” This new program will pair incoming first year and/or transfer students with advanced students to help with their transition to college and their success here. NSBE is looking for volunteers who can serve as mentors (aka “big siblings”) to new students in this program who can serve as a vital link between the student and all the formal resources LSU offers. Third is the “Delete the Negative Challenge: Help defeat negative encounters and stereotypes.” In this program, the NSBE is working with faculty, staff, and industry representatives to create increased awareness of negative and damaging stereotypes in classroom and professional spaces. They are seeking volunteers to help with programming for the initiative. Fourth is their “Tutoring Networks” project. This endeavor will set up tutoring to help address the lack of representation of racial minorities in the field of engineering by helping more candidates successfully graduate and enter the profession. NSBE is seeking to increase Supplemental Instruction (synchronous and asynchronous) and stronger tutoring networks for engineering courses and are in need of funding and/or volunteers. The final initiative they are currently developing is “Black Girls in STEM.” This program will work to promote more Black women choosing and completing degrees in the field of engineering. They are seeking sponsors for events to raise awareness of Black women’s achievements in the field and to promote help with workshops, coaching, and mentoring programs. For more information, please contact Dr. Roberto Champney at rchampney1@lsu.edu.

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