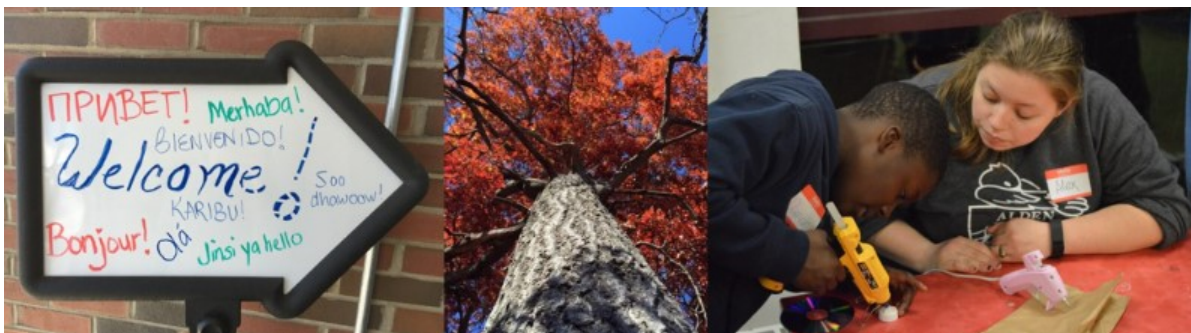


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# WPI

## Worcester Community Project Center



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### BY THE NUMBERS

10 Sponsors  
13 Projects  
52 Students  
18,200 Research Hours

### NEWS BYTES

[Help in sight for gas spill homeowners](#)

[Victims of 2000 gallon Marlborough gasoline spill plead for help](#)

### QUICK LINKS

[Become a Sponsor](#)

## [re]connect: WCPC in Action

WPI students working with the Worcester Community Project Center completed 13 projects during the 2015 - 2016 academic year working with 10 sponsors and involving hundreds of local community organizations and leaders in their research efforts.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Legislative Action

Working with Senator James Eldridge students researched [underground storage tank and gasoline spill policies](#) in states around the country to determine best practices for spill clean up and supporting abutting homeowners whose property has been damaged. The Senator used this research to propose additional legislation that will improve clean up laws in Massachusetts and ease the financial burden that neighboring property owners face when a spill effects their land. The MetroWest Daily News mentioned the student's work and the pending legislation on [November 2015](#) and [February 2016](#).

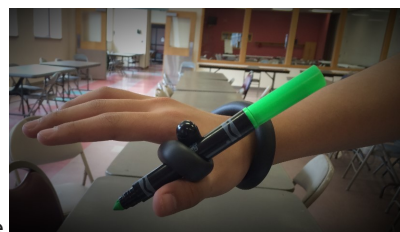
#### Expanding Access to Affordable Local Healthy Food

A team of students collaborated with the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Environmental Council of Central Massachusetts to [analyze the profitability of a commercial kitchen](#) located in Worcester. Establishing a commercial kitchen, which can be rented to entrepreneurs as well as culinary training programs, is a initial step of the overarching project to create the Worcester Regional Food Hub. The ultimate goal is for the Food Hub to expand access to affordable local healthy food in the Worcester community.

#### Improving Quality of Life through Assistive Technology

### [Make a Gift](#)

Students partnered with the Seven Hills Foundation on two assistive technology (AT) projects this year. The first project developed a process to effectively introduce high tech assistive technology solutions to people with disabilities living in community homes. The project culminated in a [pilot smart home](#) for individuals with disabilities. A second team of students worked to [increase the accessibility of assistive technology](#) at the organization. The team developed a searchable AT database that will serve as an information resource allowing the staff at Seven Hills to identify different AT solutions that will improve the quality of life for their participants.



## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

Abby's House: Produced a film celebrating the history of Abby's House and their work in the community

Boys & Girls Club of Worcester: Developed a STEM curriculum

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission: Provided a recommended framework for a full-scale community indicators project in Central Massachusetts

Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary: Proposed a trail connecting the existing trail network to the future site of the Blackstone Visitor Center



Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester ReStore: Established a system for marketing and recruitment of college student volunteers

Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester: Identified information management systems that would more efficiently track volunteer hours and communicate build site timelines

Worcester Art Museum: Researched avenues for making WAM more accessible for families with small children



Worcester Art Museum: Researched techniques for engaging museum visitors through digital technology

YMCA of Central Massachusetts: Created an action plan for an annual event at the Y to engage Worcester's newcomer populations

## A LOOK AHEAD

Next year we are excited to welcome many new sponsors to the program and also to have many excellent organizations returning to sponsor projects.

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