

## Civic Engagement Coordinators Community of Practice 2024 Achievements

### Al-Quds Bard College: Civic Engagement Highlights

Al-Quds Bard Civic Engagement Program won first place in the 2024 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, receiving \$10,000 for its outstanding student community initiatives.

#### Community Orientation Tours

At the start of the year, AQB faculty, staff, and students toured Abu Dis and al-Eizariyah, visiting key sites such as Jabal al-Baba, historical Eizariya, the Mithaq Archive, and Talleh Cultural Center. These tours provided insights into social, political, and historical contexts while fostering connections with local organizations.



#### Emergency Preparedness Training

Given ongoing regional challenges, AQB prioritized safety training, organizing sessions on fire safety with the Civil Defence Service (25 students) and first aid with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (18 students).

#### Student Network for Civic Engagement

The network remained active across seven regional groups, facilitating student-led initiatives, including:

- [Jerusalem Legal Aid Center \(JLAC\)](#) – In partnership with JLAC and [Community Action Center \(CAC\)](#), students learned about legal challenges in Jerusalem and explored volunteer opportunities. (6 students, 2 organizations)
- **Hebron "Training the Guide" Workshops** – AQB Master's students trained Bachelor's students in tour guiding, enhancing their knowledge of Hebron's historical and social landscape. 10 participants at [Cultural Symposium Club](#).

These initiatives continue to integrate civic engagement as a vital part of AQB's educational experience.



## **Bard College Annandale: Civic Engagement Highlights**

During Bard's 2024 Language and Thinking program, first-year students filled Sosnoff Theater for a panel on *The Fight for Democracy* as part of the first-ever Democracy Day. Over 300 students then volunteered at community sites like Red Hook Responds, Dutchess County SPCA, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, launching their civic engagement journey through VolunteerCorps and March Match.

**Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences** courses connect academics with community work, with 350 students each semester engaging in research, internships, and civic projects. In Fall 2024, Bard CCE offered 14 courses, including *Theater and Democracy*, *Argentine Tango I*, and *Advocacy Video Clemency*.

**Sister2Sister**, a mentorship program for women of color, has mentored over 450 young girls since 2018 and recently introduced a 23-week leadership curriculum. Major events include an annual conference, fundraising, and campus outreach.

The **Bard Debate Union** has quadrupled in size, hosting events like a Public Debate, Politics Roundtable, and a victorious match against the U.S. Air Force Academy at Eastern Correctional Facility.

The **Community Action Award (CAA)** program funds unpaid internships at nonprofits worldwide. In Summer 2024, 21 students interned at organizations such as PEN America, Dutchess Pride Center, and Neighbors Link Community Law Practice. Greliza Taveras Perez, a CAA recipient, credited her immigration law internship with deepening her passion for advocacy and public service.

## Parami University

Project Luminary (Online) – Launched by four Parami University students in December 2023, this initiative empowers underserved youth in Burma by improving access to higher education and fostering social responsibility. Amid political upheaval, it bridges educational gaps by equipping marginalized students with essential skills. *Impact: 60 people.*

Future Plans: The *Lumina Academic Research Consortium (LARC)* is underway, providing research training and funding for independent projects, along with planned post-program internships. All programs are free of charge.

White Tales (Hybrid) – This storytelling initiative promotes literacy among Myanmar's children, launching *Myat Shu* for ages 7–14 in Insein Township. It addresses the lack of affordable books through interactive storytelling and advocacy. *Impact: 40 people.*

Future Plans: Expanding activities with role-playing, puppetry, reflective discussions, and creative workshops. Age-appropriate books will be distributed, and partnerships with schools and libraries will support long-term literacy growth. The program will conclude with storytelling and drawing competitions.

Please see the attached photos [HERE](#).



## **Bard College Berlin:**

### **Info Session on German Election**

In the light of the German federal elections scheduled for February 23, 2025, Bard

College Berlin's Civic Engagement Office organized an informational session in order to assist students and the BCB faculty to understand the German election process, its implications and the role of civil society in democratic participation. We hosted Reinhard Fischer from Berliner Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Berlin Centre for Civic Education) to share some insights with us on campus about Germany, its electoral system, the structure of democracy and the broader political and societal context. We explored the relationship between state and civil society and focused on the role of civic engagement in democratic outcomes. His insights helped set the stage for the current political climate and challenged students to think about the importance of political participation, whether or not one has the right to vote in Germany.



## **EJAAD Berlin: A female empowerment initiative in Afghanistan**

Now operating for several years, EJAAD is a female empowerment initiative in Afghanistan. The organization aims to empower women through traditional embroidery work and stable income, as well as improve the recently established learning and health center as well. EJAAD Berlin began in 2024, in an attempt to raise more awareness of the issue of women's rights in Afghanistan, ensure that accurate information is being circulated, and of course to fundraise for the women, the health center and the learning center.

See our 2024 Annual Report Here: [PDF EJAAD Berlin 2024.pdf](#)

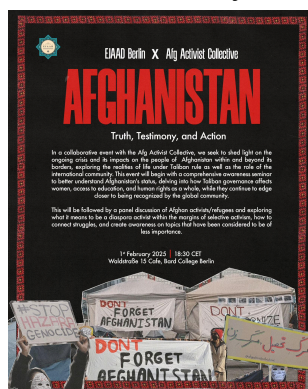
## Online Event with Pashtana Durrani, founder of LEARN Afghan

Pashtana Durrani, founder of LEARN Afghan and recipient of the honour of BBC and Time's 100 most influential women list, joined us for a presentation on her experiences, and a panel Q&A by our participants. It was a powerful event, leaving many participants in tears but everyone undoubtedly empowered and filled with an even stronger drive to continue the fight against oppression.



## Collaborative Event with the Afghanistan Activist Collective

In this much awaited event, the Afghanistan Activist Collective visited Bard College Berlin and told stories from their own lived experiences in Afghanistan and answered questions regarding the current state of women's rights in the country. With the highest turnout we had ever had for an event, this truly was a rare opportunity where we were able to look beyond the information that the media produces, and hear directly from those affected by the regime.



## Warwick Economics Summit 2025 Participation



For the first time ever, BCB students received an invitation from the University of Warwick to attend the Warwick Economics Summit, a student-run conference which brings together some of the most influential people in the world. With opportunities to directly meet the speakers and learn from them, BCB students were able to delve into topics such as Prejudice Politics, Irregular Migration, Economic Development in the Global South and the strategy behind low-cost and sustainable businesses to name a few. The participation in the summit expanded the network of students, enabling them to bring more people into their various on or off campus initiatives and was an incredible opportunity to represent the value of a liberal arts education on a global stage.

## BRAC University: Social Impact Lab (SIL) Initiatives

The **Social Impact Lab (SIL)** at BRAC University fosters social impact, sustainability, and internationalism. One of its most engaging initiatives is a Harry Potter-inspired student organizing team, which creatively integrates pop culture with social responsibility, building a dynamic campus community.

Recently, the team partnered with **Project Anirban**, a student-led initiative supporting individuals in need. Together, they launched a sustainable donation campaign, raising **BDT 267,985 (\$2,197)** for an alumna battling a terminal illness. This effort reinforced empathy, solidarity, and collective action across students, faculty, and alumni.

The success of this campaign highlights SIL's role in driving **long-term, student-led social change**. By combining creativity with real-world impact, BRAC University students continue to lead meaningful initiatives that inspire lasting community engagement.

**Number of Participants: 2,335 students**

Photos can be found [here](#)

## Impact Space for Millennium Fellows at BRAC University

Since Fall 2021, BRAC University has hosted an annual cohort of **Millennium Fellows**, offering students the opportunity to lead projects aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. As part of the **Millennium Fellowship**, participants receive training and mentorship from the **Millennium Campus Network (MCN)** and **UN Academic Impact (UNAI)** to develop practical skills in **project management, community engagement, and social innovation**.

Fellows engage in **workshops, lectures, and collaborative initiatives**, gaining insights into global challenges while leveraging peer networks to amplify their impact. The program prioritizes **measurable, need-based solutions**, empowering students to translate ideas into meaningful, **sustainable social change**.

*Number of Fellows: 44*

Photos can be found [here](#)

## Extensive Cause-Driven Research Training Program

This **two-month training program** equips participants with **qualitative and quantitative research skills** to address community challenges through **primary research**. By fostering **civic engagement**, the initiative empowers students to analyze real-world issues and implement **practical, sustainable solutions**.

A key outcome was **EcoFlow Revive**, a project focused on **sustainable water conservation** and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) education. Accepted for the **Get Engaged Conference 2024**, the initiative continues to promote **efficient water management** and tackle local **water scarcity** through **cost-effective solutions**. This program highlights the **transformative power of research** in driving **lasting social change**.

## BRAC University Climate Conference 2024

Organized by the **Social Impact Lab (SIL)**, the **BRAC University Climate Conference 2024** brought together **students, experts, and policymakers** to discuss **community-driven climate solutions** aligned with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The conference sparked a **heightened climate consciousness**, leading to the launch of the **Net-Zero Initiative**, an ambitious project to **reduce the university's carbon footprint** through **energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transport**.



In collaboration with university stakeholders and **BRAC's NGO network**, six student groups presented climate projects, with three winning **\$400 grants**. The success of the event inspired **national climate action** and strengthened **academic-NGO-policy collaborations**. The conference concluded with the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between **BRAC University and the Bangladesh Sustainability Alliance**, reinforcing the university's **commitment to sustainability**

Photos can be found [here](#)

### **Social Impact Lab: Key Successes**

- **EcoFlow Revive**: Focused on **WASH education and water conservation**, this initiative raised **\$4,000** through seed funding and donations, impacting **1,000+ individuals**. Supported by **National Geographic Society** and **The Nature Conservancy**.
- **RindCo**: Developed **fruit-peel-based leather**, winning an **OSUN collaborative pitch competition** with **\$1,500** in funding and later securing **\$8,500** to launch their venture.
- **C13**: A **carbon footprint reduction project** (2023-24), engaging **10 student volunteers** in **upcycling and sustainability advocacy**.
- **TERRA**: A **habit-tracking app** that helps users lower their carbon footprint through **CO2 reduction tracking**, engagement streaks, and a **global leaderboard**. In testing, **TERRA cut 400 kg of CO2**.
- **Global Wall of Goodwill**: A **mental health and well-being initiative**, spreading **supportive messages** globally across universities and high schools. It later evolved into the **SIL Wellness Station**, fostering **empathy and mental health awareness**.