College Students Perception of Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Coursework
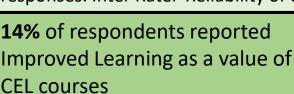
Community-engaged learning (CEL) is a pedagogy that uses experiential learning, reflection, and community involvement to improve student learning. The community benefits via completion of the project and accessing the resources of the university.

Do student perspectives of CEL change depending on upper vs. lower level courses?

Survey given to 448 students at NDSU in Spring 2020. 127 in PSYC 111, 18 in PSYC 352, 272 in MICR 202, 23 in MICR 351, 8 in a combination of both. Thematic coding analysis done on the responses. Inter Rater-Reliability of 0.8 was achieved.

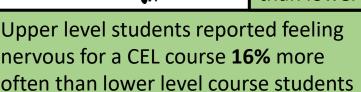**14%** of respondents reported Improved Learning as a value of CEL courses

Upper level course students thought of Community Service when hearing CEL **15%** more often than lower level course students
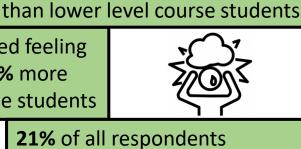
Upper level course students reported valuing connecting the classroom to the real world **16%** more often than lower level course students

Upper level course students reported feeling excited for a CEL course **31%** more often than lower level course students

Upper level students reported feeling nervous for a CEL course **16%** more often than lower level course students

21% of all respondents reported having logistical concerns with CEL courses

To optimize the implementation of CEL courses…
- Emphasize the value of CEL and get students excited for CEL more in lower level courses
- Discuss students' worries more in upper level courses
- Address logistical concerns at both levels

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