



CGI U 2018 UCF Commitments to Action

Commitment Name: Albanian Brain: Eagles fly high, but also return to serve!

Team Members: Frida Bahja

Focus Area: [Education](#)

In 2019, Jonilda and Frida, both PhD students in USA, seek to create a network-based online platform to connect Albanian scientists, academics, and students living abroad with academics and students in Albania. They will organize a series of lectures and workshops on research methods and statistical analysis by academics who live abroad. The goal is to improve research skills and foster research collaboration between parties. First, we will build the network-based platform, then reach out to Albanian associations to invite Albanian academics in different countries. Lastly, the group will work with the University of Tirana to invite three Albanian researchers from abroad to Tirana to provide the workshops. The group will have at least three collaboration projects started by 2019

Commitment Name: BYG Shift

Team Members: Milka Derisma, Kelly Merrill Jr., Cynthia Nnagboro

Focus Area: [Education](#)

In 2018, Milka Derisma, Kelly Merrill Jr., and Cynthia Nnagboro committed to continue our previous commitment from last year by continuing to complete transfer presentation. Additionally, we are committed to launching our online platform and implementing our high school program for students that are interested in attending college. Our work is aimed towards working to find a solution to decrease transfer student, minority student, and first-generation student dropout rates. We are currently working with the University of Central Florida and Black History Tours. We hope to expand and work with Valencia College and Seminole State College. In doing so, we hope to increase four-year graduation rates among minority and first-generation students.

Commitment Name: Centralized Knights: Helping Students Find Their Wings

Team Members: Yaser Ahmad, Shamara Wilburn

Focus Area: [Education](#)

In 2018, Yaser Ahmad and Shamara Wilburn came together to create a mobile application called Centralized Knights for first generation and foster care students attending UCF. As a group they developed a social media based application that allows students to build purposeful connections with peers and faculty to receive the additional support that encourages academic and social growth. Many first generation and foster care students have a difficult time developing the necessary support networks, which can lead to them struggling throughout college. They will partner with UCF Access and LINK Loot to reach students in need of academic support. They expect an increase each semester within the next year in first generation student's GPA, retention and involvement.



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Commitment Name: Hearts for the Homeless Brazil

Team Members: Kayla Ferro, Leticia Lenkiu, Theodoro Meza

Focus Area: Education

Leticia Lenkiu, Kayla Ferro, and Theodoro Meza committed to offer free preventive and health promotion services to the homeless population of Brazil. The team will conduct free blood pressure screenings once a week through partnerships with the non-profit, Toca de Assis. The homeless population is severely underserved in the country of Brazil with no representation in society. This initiative will give the opportunity for these individuals to become aware of their health status and ways they can better their well-being. Hypertension is a leading killer in the homeless population so the team strives to tackle this problem with awareness and education.

Commitment Name: Read, Reflect, Rotate Books

Team Members: Mais Al-Jabbawi, Nagham Majeed

Focus Area: Education

Mais Al-Jabbawi and Nagham Majeed committed to help Iraqi K-5 elementary school students master American English better by reading short American stories. The team will do book donation drive in the United States and then ship the donated books to Iraq to be distributed on some of the elementary schools in there. K-5 students need more than the educational textbooks assigned by the Iraqi Ministry of Education to develop their English language and cultural understanding on America, thus these short stories will help them with all of that. Community members, teachers, and schools in USA and Iraq will be involved throughout the process. The team is expecting Iraqi teachers use these books for teaching writing, listening, speaking, and reading skills.

Commitment Name: The Green Knights

Team Members: Michelle Verbitskaya

Focus Area: Environment and Climate Change

In 2018, Michelle Verbitskaya committed to create The Green Knights, a university-wide educational program on waste management, with the goal of increasing student involvement in sustainability initiatives and an to provide meaningful education that results in cultural and behavioral change inside and outside of the University of Central Florida. Michelle will partner with Sustainability Initiatives and Environmental Director of Volunteer UCF to create and implement the program that will reach the entire student body of the university. Although it is difficult to quantify this educational program in terms of its impact on University of Central Florida's Climate Action Plan, The Green Knights will initiate student positive behavioral changes in the area of waste management.



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Commitment Name: International Eagle to Eagle Scout

Team Members: Joe Ehrli

Focus Area: Poverty Alleviation

Joe Ehrli will join with 2 other Eagle Scouts in Orlando and partner with an existing Boy Scout Troop in Port au Prince Haiti to create community based projects that target community needs as they relate to disability awareness, literacy, advocacy and leadership. The Haitian boy Scouts meet at a local church in Sarthe, a neighborhood near the airport. Most activities will be brainstormed through the troop at the church and work with a children's home and inclusive school in the area.

Commitment Name: Green Greeks

Team Members: Madeline Mills

Focus Area: Public Health

Green Greeks is building gardens behind fraternity and sorority houses to eradicate food insecurity at the University of Central Florida and educate college students on gardening and healthy eating. Half of the produce will go to the fraternity or sorority house the garden is maintained at and the other half of the produce will be donated to Knights Pantry that helps students in financial need. We are partners with SGA, the Health and Wellness Center, and Knights Pantry. Green Greeks advisor is Dr. Adrienne Frame, Dean of Students. Our expected outcome is to produce enough fresh produce that no student is in need. Through planting more gardens and working with the community garden at the Arboretum, this is possible.