The Regional Council for Community Engagement

ENGAGE FOR CHANGE 2019

Mobilizing Campuses and Communities

May 23rd, 2019
Siena College
Loudonville, NY

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Honored Faculty Breakfast Paul Thurston Ph.D.
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Concurrent Session 1
10:00 am - 10:45 am	Concurrent Session 2
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Concurrent Session 3
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Honored Faculty Lunch Stacy Pettigrew Ph.D.
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Wicked Problem Discussions
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Funding Opportunities

Keynote Speakers

Paul Thurston is an associate professor in the Department of Management at Siena College and teaches community engaged courses in management, strategy, research methods and leading change. As the Director of Academic Integration at ACE, Paul helps academic departments and centers across the campus develop their own strategies to increase and deepen collaborative learning, research, and consulting opportunities that serve local and global communities. Paul earned his PhD in organizational studies from The University at Albany, State University of New York, MS in systems management from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and BS in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is a retired Air Force officer and has extensive consulting experience. His research interests include organizational engagement and effectiveness, mentoring, business strategy, organizational justice and organizational policies.

Stacy Pettigrew is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center and an assistant professor in the Population Health Sciences Department at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned her MS in Epidemiology and PhD in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Albany's School of Public Health. Her dissertation research examined nutrition transition and toxic trace element exposures in the Peruvian Amazon, an area undergoing rapid changes brought by road development, deforestation, and illegal gold mining. In the Summer 2018, Stacy joined the Population Health Sciences Department at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her focus is on Environmental Health Science and Health Disparities. Stacy is also the faculty member serving at the Collaboratory, ACPHS's new public health laboratory in Albany Housing Authority's Lincoln Towers in the South End of Albany.

Concurrent Session 1

Social and Emotional Learning in Higher Education

Jami Cotler & Beth DeAngelis | Siena College

In a culture where students are reporting feeling increased levels of stress, anxiety, and isolation, we are called more than ever to provide them with the skills to develop themselves in new ways. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is focused upon the development of skills that help students navigate school and life. In this session, we will explore the following: What is SEL? What are the benefits to students and communities? How does one begin to practice and teach the skill? We will answer these questions within an experimental framework, beginning with the practice of self-awareness and delving into the latest social and emotional learning research. Through personal practice and group interaction, we will explore ways SEL skills are embodied and taught. Lastly, we will share anecdotes from students who have benefited from these skills.

Working with Faith Communities

Diane Cameron | Unity House

In community development and human services work we intersect with many faith communities . We have many hopes and expectations for what faith communities should do, can do, and might do. But we do not know how to "meet" them and how to speak their language. Diane Cameron has a long history as a director in community organizations and in faith communities. She will guide us through the intricacies and etiquette of engaging, developing, and working closely with a variety of faith communities.

Building Better Teachers Through Community Engaged Learning

Kerri Mulqueen & Kathleen Von Euw | Manhattan College

Field placement is a mandatory part of the New York State Teaching Certification process but too often, fieldwork becomes just another box to check off rather than being exploited for its rich learning opportunities. Infusing best practices of community based learning into the expectations and planning for field placement is a primary goal of the Manhattan College Teaching Education program. In this workshop, we will discuss how the Undergraduate Education Office of Clinical Placement has worked closely with the Office of Community Engagement to develop partnerships within the local public education community. Through these partnerships the human resources of the education major can be developed to address the real needs specified by the partner and better support burgeoning educators by providing opportunities for the development of content delivery skills, capacity for perspective change, and the evolution of their teaching dispositions. We will share their timeline for community partner engagement, planning, training, rollouts, student oversight and assessment while also reflecting upon lessons learned with regard to foresight and conflict resolution during the process.

Concurrent Session 1

The Winding Path to Developing an Engaged Research Institute: Marist's Center for Social Justice

Carol Rinke, Martha Garcia, Thomas Killian, Frank Merenda, Mary Stone & Karmen Smallwood

Marist College & Dutchess County Probation Department

This workshop will chronicle the development of a scholarly program of engaged research. In a panel discussion format, academic members of the Marist Center for Social Justice Research (MCSJR) will share their personal experience, drawn from the first two years of the center's development. The workshop will begin with a brief overview of the start-up process and current research efforts. Then panel members will respond to questions that address critical tensions inherent in engaged scholarship. These ongoing dilemmas include defining a social justice mission, identifying and fostering key community partners, navigating complex aims, mentoring undergraduate students in the research process, cultivating a scholarly network, and weighing ethical concerns. Lessons learned will be identified and best practices distributed. This workshop will also include an interactive question and answer session aimed at collaborative knowledge sharing.

Using Listening Circles to Build Community, Connection, and Consensus

Pamela Skripak & Craig Cullaine | University at Albany

There is an old adage: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. The same could be said for leading teams and mobilizing student and community groups. The most effective groups start by first building trust, connection, and community and then building consensus. Effective teams incorporate a diversity of experiences, skills, and ideas; raise up the voices of all participants equally; and recognize the intrinsic value of each person at the table. Listening circles, or "council circles" as they are sometimes called, have the capacity to build trust, connection, and consensus and create a safe and compassionate space for all ideas to be heard and considered. In this workshop, participants will experience a listening circle and learn more about the power of "council" as a philosophy, a tool, and a practice for building client connections, teams, boards, and communities.

Wicked Problems One Year Out: Food Security on our Campuses

Moderator: Renee Adamany

This panel serves as follow-up to last year's 'Wicked Problem' session on Food Insecurity. Panelists will discuss local developments addressing the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food. Topics may include recently opened on-campus food pantries, the Food Pantries for the Capital District's "healthy food pantry" initiative, community gardens, new campus/community partnerships, and the cultural appropriateness of local food.

Concurrent Session 2

Teaching for a Change: Creating a Campus Movement for Criminal Justice Reform

Annie Rody-Wright & Lily Killar | Siena College

Our presentation will begin with offering students, faculty and the wider community a variety of methods we have used to build a movement on Siena's college campus around the need for CJ reform. We will discuss deep connections forged between Siena students and Greene Correctional Facility students, and between our campus and those reentering society post-incarceration, including those who were wrongfully convicted. Understanding the "other" and the inequities suffered by "the other" is the first crucial step towards making change happen. Beyond that, we will pose the salient question: How do we keep the community engaged in discussing these issues and motivate them to work for change? In other words: How do we move from "Woke" to Action?

It's Happening in Saratoga: Undergraduate Consultants make an Impact!

Colleen Burke | Skidmore College

The goal of this workshop is to share best practices and lessons learned from the Skidmore-Saratoga Consulting Partnership (SSCP). SSCP is a for-credit, advanced seminar and practicum affording an intense, hands-on consulting experience for Skidmore undergraduates. The mission of SSCP is to create strategic partnerships between our campus and our community by offering pro bono consulting services to assist Saratoga's for-profit and not-for-profit enterprises in realizing their potential and achieving their goals. The intended outcome of the workshop is to excite faculty, community leaders and students about the possibility of starting and sustaining such programs. Workshop attendees will receive a copy of SSCP's student-created, 20-page, photo-filled brochure detailing the impact of SSCP on both students and clients. The workshop will include two brief student-created videos presenting testimonials of both SSCP clients and students. The workshop will share the challenges and the rewards of Skidmore's consulting program. Topics to be discussed include the selection of student participants, the vetting of clients, and the engagement of both the Skidmore and the Saratoga communities. In addition to sharing stories about SSCP's successes, the workshop will expose the challenges and risks of such programs which often take "control" of the curriculum outside the classroom into the unstructured unknowns of the real world.

We don't know Everything! Engaging the Campus Community in Inclusive Pedagogical Practices

Jennifer Marlow, Liz Richards & Mark Congdon Jr. | The College of St. Rose

In response to national events like Charlottesville, and localized, campus issues like the "it's okay to be white flyer" found on area campuses, we have spent the past two years narrowly focusing our faculty development series, Provisions, on themes and ideas related to improving campus climate. Inspired by the 2017 Engage for Change conference, we have made the theme for this year inclusive classrooms and cultural competence. Designed to be an exchange of ideas with constituencies from other campuses, we will share the work we have done over the past two years, describe the challenges we've faced in implementing them, and dream up some goals for the future. This last part, we will do in dialogue with audience participants. We also will provide a Resource Toolkit to audience participants of teaching activities and resources focused on inclusive pedagogical practices.

Corporate Partners: Why We Don't Fund You

Moderator: Mario Cometti | Tully Rinckey PLLC

You submit your funding request and you don't hear back or you don't get the support that you were hoping for? What happened? Where did you go wrong? Come to this discussion to hear from three different funders with their own sets of approval processes and criteria. You'll walk away with a better understanding of how to improve the success of your funding requests.

Concurrent Session 2

Embracing Healing-Centered Leadership

Anya Piotrowski | Bennington College

What does it mean to care for ourselves and one another as leaders in social justice-oriented and community-engaged work? Through the lens of both authentic and embodied leadership, this workshop will explore how our identities impact how we show up as leaders. Drawing on work from Cara Page, Jardana Peacock, Dr. Donna Ladkin, and more, this interactive workshop will create space for participants to connect their leadership to collective care practices. Participants will walk away with tools and resources to develop sustainable habits of care in their own communities for long-term social justice and community-engaged work.

Community Partnership in an Informal STEM Program

Michele McColgan & Robert Colesante | Siena College

The Siena College Informal STEM program serves 5th-8th grade students in a nearby urban school district. This talk will describe the relationship that we've developed with the district's science coordinator, 5th and 6th grade teachers, data services personnel, and grants staff. We will also discuss the partnership that we have with the Open Source Initiative for students to learn to rebuild computers, learn to use open source software, and bring the computers home. The talk will describe the strategy we used to select the nearby district and our motivation to provide long-term informal STEM experience for 5th-8th grade students. Finally, results of school outcomes data include ELA and math scores of students during their participation in the program compared to their school peers, graduation and advanced designation rates, advanced science and math courses taken, and regents pass rates and NYS regents scores of participants many years after participation compared with district peers.

Engaging MBA Students in Service Learning Projects: Matching Business with Benefits

Kevin A. Fletcher & Marissa Peck | The Sage Colleges & Capital Roots

Each Fall and Spring semester, teams of MBA students from The Sage Colleges School of Management are matched up with businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to help leaders in those organizations diagnose and solve critical problems, identify areas for improvement or opportunity, and foster sustainable competitive advantage. The goal is to highlight the lessons learned from this MBA Capstone class over the past five years, specifically with nonprofit or for-benefit companies. This session will include a discussion of the following considerations: The unique nature of MBA students when applied to real-world projects (sometimes with, sometimes without clear objectives or steps), Balancing course/program learning outcome goals, class deliverable goals, and client goals during the project, The challenge of finding organizational partners, The challenges of not to much but enough contact between clients and student teams, The questions of "hands off or hands on" instructing and mentoring-ensuring the project is the student teams and yet useful to the client, and managing team-based projects.

Concurrent Session 3

Empowering Communities through Youth Activism

Crystal Alesio & Kendall Williams | Community Miracles in Action

Did you know that teens who participate in social activism are more likely to successfully pursue training and education after High School graduation? Furthermore, activism and community engagement have a significant impact on the overall success and development of teens from underserved populations. This workshop focuses on how to engage teens in addressing issues that are meaningful to them in all aspects of life. Through the use of anecdotal accounts, relevant literature and small group activities, participants will have the opportunity to learn how to engage and empower youth at home, school and throughout their community. The success of any thriving community is dependant on engaged citizens and the power of our youth population is often overlooked. With the right level of investment young people are exceptional problem solvers. Join Cyrstal to look through the lens of today's youth activists; because young citizens are the future of our communities.

Hungering for Justice: Service-Learning Students Develop Food Security Model With Older Neighbors

Fred G. Boehrer, Angela Warner, Bala Tripura Sundari Padavala & Nichita Jamwale

The College of St. Rose & St. Vincent Food Pantry

Saint Rose students developed a process to deliver groceries from the St. Vincent Food Pantry to older residents of a non-profit apartment complex. Through an AARP Foundation grant and two semesters of a service-learning course, seventeen students investigated food security issues, developed intake forms, hosted a Bingo night, and Paint-and-Sip art event with older neighbors. Students learned how to initiate a multi-partner process and how to navigate the "moving parts" of such a collaboration (including delivering groceries during a snowstorm and how a federal government shutdown impacts SNAP/food stamp recipients, etc.) This process had spurred conversation among students to make available more groceries for food insecure students. Presenters will include Fred Boehrer, who taught the two-semester service-learning course, along with other participants in this collaboration (a student, a resident of the apartment complex, and food pantry staff.) This presentation will be a wonderful opportunity for community partners and college faculty/staff/students to explore the mechanics, the obstacles, and the successes of creating a sustainable partnership.

Promoting a Recovery Community on Campus

Julie Lindh, Ginger Cato & Sarah Kemper-Swain

Fulton Montgomery Community College & Rob Constantine Recovery Community and Outreach Center

This session will demonstrate the power of a solid community and campus collaboration across multiple classes, semesters, and projects. Both educators and community partners will be interested in learning the benefits and impact on student engagement, retention and learning outcomes. Participants will earn a motivation to establish partnerships in their community and campus environments which offer mutual benefits. The partnership between Ginger Cato, Director of the Rob Constantine Recovery Community and Outreach Center and Julie Lindh, Instructor at Fulton Montgomery Community College, will be highlighted as well as the work to establish a Recovery Community on the FMCC campus.

Concurrent Session 3

Healing Justice: Holistic Self-Care for Change Makers

Loretta Pyles | University at Albany

Participants in this workshop will engage with the healing justice model, which draws from the work of social movement actors and mind-body healers, to promote justice and healing for change makers. Participants will learn about self-care as a social justice issue and will be able to explain how the current environment contributes to the need for the development of real, usable skills for self-care, including mindfulness.

The Collaboratory: Integrating Public Health and Pharmacy in the South End

Wendy Parker & Sara Adams | Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences & Trinity Alliance, WALC

In the Fall of 2018, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences opened a brand new space called "The Collaboratory" located in a Section 8 housing high-rise in Albany's South End. The Collaboratory is a community education center committed to improving the health of our local communities through educating the next generation of health professionals and care providers to more effectively integrate medical and social services. Trinity Alliance's WALC program of community health worker program focused on the social determinants of health works alongside out Public Health Pharmacy Team to help community members navigate the healthcare system as well as meet their basic social needs.

Teammates, Not Tutors

Bryan Duff & Evalyn Brazeau | Cornell University & Boynton Middle School

Tutoring and mentoring K-12 students is a common form of community engagement for college students. How this engagement is framed can make all the difference in ensuring that all participants feel a sense of agency and impact. For example, the facilitators (one a middle school special-education teacher and the other a college professor) connect their students through shared projects. These projects are such that the college students are more teammates than tutors; yes, they contribute academic know-how that the younger students are still developing, but they truly need the middle school students for their creativity and deep understanding of the project's audience. While this workshop is especially relevant to those interested in college-K-12 partnerships, it may appeal generally to those concerned about power differentials when universities and communities collaborate. The two facilitators will use their voices, plus the work and voices of their students, to describe power-related challenge in their partnership and some of the steps they have taken to balance authority and agency. These examples will launch a semi-structured discussion, from which participants will emerge with new insights about kinds of, and solutions to, power dynamics that can undermine true partnership.

Students as Colleagues : Women in STEM

Moderator: Patty Sparrell | The Sage Colleges

Female Students in STEM fields will share their recent experience serving as leaders in community engaged work in various capacities. They will discuss challenges, benefits, and outcomes from their work beyond the traditional classroom. Possible topics for discussion include mentorship, professionalism, collaborative pedagogy, project-based learning, networking, and gender barriers.

Wicked Problems

There are no presentations in the wicked problem session. Instead, our facilitators engage participants in a systems thinking discussion on issues facing our region leading to an action plan to be completed over the next year with support from the Regional Council on Community Engagement

Housing as an Indicator of Health: Breaking the Cycle of Eviction

Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (TRIP) Inc.

The focus of this conversation is breaking the cycle of eviction in the capital district. Recognizing that this is a complex, systemic issue faced by many families in the region, we will attempt to identify the underlying challenges and options through the varied perspectives of multiple stakeholders. The goal of this discussion is to engage multiple viewpoints on why families fall into this cycle and to see ways to address the issue that empowers individuals, build community voice, and develops grassroots leadership

Educate, Empower, Vote: Racial Equality in our Voting System

Multiple Partners

What are the challenges of reaching traditionally marginalized voters in disenfranchised districts like the South End of Albany? The participants of this session will explore barriers to registration and voting, best practices in education and outreach, and strategies for engaging and empowering people through voting.

Making Creativity Work for Community Development

Electric City Barn

How is art used to develop communities? How can we develop art-based community development in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood of Schenectady? How do we do this in a way that empowers communities and develops a strong community voice? Let's create together!

Vibrant and Sustainable Communities: South End Food Plan

AVillage Inc.

While the focus of this conversation is on getting high quality food into the South End this is more than a grocery store! The goal is to do this in a way that anchors wealth, builds community voice, and helps to develop minority leadership. Community wealth building is a deliberate process of empowerment that leads to building new ways of thinking about community development.

Closing Discussion

The Regional Council on Community Engagement has been awarded one of AAC&U's Bringing Theory to Practice Grants. Bring the action items and ideas from your wicked problem discussion and learn how to access this funding in the 2019-2020 academic year. Learn about our new faculty fellow program as well!

May 23rd, 2019

8:00am - 9:00am | Honored Faculty Breakfast

Paul Thurston Ph.D., Siena College

9:00am - 9:45am | Concurrent Session 1

Working in Faith Communities: **Siena Hall 105**

Wicked Problems One Year Out: Food Security on our Campuses: **Siena Hall 119**

Social and Emotional Learning in Higher Education: **Siena Hall 120**

Building Better Teachers through Community Engaged Learning: **Siena Hall 121**

The Winding Path to Developing Engaged Research Institute: Marist's Center for Social Justice: **Siena Hall 123**

Using Listening Circles to Build Community, Connection, and Consensus: **Molinari Room-SSU**

10:00am - 10:45am | Concurrent Session 2

Teaching for a Change: Creating a Campus Movement for Criminal Justice Reform: **Siena Hall 105**

Corporate Partners: Why We Don't Fund You: **Siena Hall 119**

We Don't know Everything! Engaging the Campus Community in Inclusive Pedagogical Practices: **Siena Hall 120**

Engaging MBA Students in Service Learning Projects: Matching Business with Benefits: **Siena Hall 121**

It's happening in Saratoga: Undergraduate Consultants Make an Impact!: **Siena Hall 123**

Community Partnership with an informal STEM Program: **Siena Hall 125**

Embracing Healing-Centered Leadership: **Molinari Room-SSU**

11:00am - 11:45am | Concurrent Session 3

Empowering Communities through Youth Activism: **Siena Hall 105**

Students as Colleagues: Women in STEM: **Siena Hall 119**

Hunger for Justice: Service-Learning Students Develop Food Security Model With Older Neighbors: **Siena Hall 120**

Teammates, Not Tutors: **Siena Hall 121**

Promoting a Recovery Community on Campus: **Siena Hall 1203**

The Collaboratory: Integrating Public Health and Pharmacy in the South End: **Siena Hall 125**

Healing Justice: Holistic Self-Care for Change Makers: **Molinari Room-SSU**

12:00pm - 1:15pm | Lunch Keynote

Stacy Pettigrew Ph.D., Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Studies & Radix

1:30pm - 4:00pm | Wicked Problem Discussion

Housing as an Indicator of Health: Breaking the Cycle of Eviction: **Siena Hall 119**

Vibrant and Sustainable Communities: South End Food Plan: **Siena Hall 120**

Educate, Empower, Vote: Racial Equality in our Voting System: **Siena Hall 121**

Making Creativity for Community Development: **Siena Hall 123**

4:00pm - 4:30pm | Funding Opportunities

The Regional Council: **SSU**

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Leaving our heart print by supporting sustainable programs to impact education, the needs of veterans, and the rate of food insecurity and homelessness in our community.