

FOR THE GREATER GOOD...

Title: **Assessing the Community Partner in Academic Service-Learning: A Strategy for Capacity-Building**

Location: **MSU Parliamentary Traywick Room – PSU 313**

Date: **Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

Time: **Brown-bag Luncheon 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM; Hands-on Workshop 1:15 PM to 3:00 PM**

Registration: **Open till event begins; Cost: Free**

Information about the event:

The CASL Office is pleased to invite you to join **Dr. Joanna Cemore-Brigden, Missouri State University Associate Professor of Childhood Education and Family Studies**, and **Dr. Susan Waters, Assistant Professor at Auburn University in the Communication and Journalism department**, as they share their results and findings based on the critical analysis of current community partner assessment practices in academic service-learning and provide innovative and creative strategies for capacity-building.

Based on their recently published work, ***Assessing the Community Partner in Academic Service-Learning: A Strategy for Capacity-Building*** (2013), Dr.'s Cemore-Brigden and Waters will engage faculty in a dialogue regarding academic service-learning and capacity-building with community partners followed by hands-on workshop.

Service-learning is an instructional method used by an ever increasing number of schools in the academic community. Their paper describes surveys of community partners found on the websites of Campus Compact members and analyzes the content of these surveys. Eight themes emerged that embody the online community partner assessment surveys for service-learning courses: Agency Voice, Agency Resources, Students' Work Skills, Students' Service Skills, Agency Benefit, Communication and Coordination with University Service-Learning, Sustainability of Partnership, and Satisfaction with the Service-Learning Experience. The theme of Community-University Partnership established in extant literature was absent from the online surveys, so this theme was added to the survey themes. In addition, a critical analysis of current community partner assessment practices is offered with suggestions for improvement.

This event is part of the Brown Bag Service-Learning Dialogue Series "For the Greater Good" presented by Missouri State University's Office of Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL). The "Brown Bag" Service-Learning Dialogue Series, "For the Greater Good", focuses on Engaged Scholarship, Research, Assessment, and Programing. This event is co-sponsored in collaboration with the Office of Student Development and Public Affairs (SDPA), the Office of Public Affairs Support, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) and the College of Education (COE).



Dr. Joanna Cemore Brigden is an Associate Professor of Childhood Education and Family Studies at Missouri State University. She earned a B.S. in Family and Child Sciences from Florida State University, a M.S. in Early Childhood Education: Theory and Practice from Florida State University, a M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University. Her research includes the study of children's make-believe play, creativity, emotional intelligence, service-learning, and teacher perceptions. At Missouri State University she served as a CASL fellow, on the CASL Board for 8 years, on the CASL Assessment Committee, and as the liaison for CASL to the University Civic Footprint Committee. Additionally, she developed and teaches a graduate level course on Community Engagement that will be offered online this summer.



Susan Waters (Ph.D., University of Kansas) is an assistant professor in the School of Communication & Journalism at Auburn University. Waters' research and teaching interests focus on service-learning, social media, and ethics. She earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Missouri Southern State University and a master's degree in mass communication with an emphasis on public relations at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. Waters received the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts Teaching Excellence Award for 2013. She also established the first International Study Abroad program for the School last May 2013 in London. Students in Waters' public relations classes engage with local organizations (community partners) to create media kits, strategic campaigns and conduct research.