March Topic: Assessing the Community Partner in Academic Service-Learning: A Strategy for Capacity-Building

Presented By
DR. JOANNA CEMORE BRIGDEN—ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND FAMILY STUDIES (MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY)
& DR. SUSAN WATERS—ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM (AUBURN UNIVERSITY)

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.

Join Us on March 26, 2014
11:45 AM to 12:45 PM—Presentation
1:15 PM to 3:15 PM—Hands-On Workshop
PSU 313—Traywick Parliamentary Room (Bring Your Own Lunch)
Session Open to Faculty, Staff, Students & Administrators

This workshop is sponsored in part by the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL), the Office of Student Development and Public Affairs (SDPA), the Office of Public Affairs Support, the College of Education, the Department of Communications, and the College of Arts and Letters.

About our Presenters:

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 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.

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