2016 Active Citizens Conference Workshop Guide

Session One: 10:20 AM – 11:10 AM

Teenage Mutant Civic Hurdles: What If We Rethink the Ways We Ask Millennials to Participate in Politics?
Presenter: Alex Schreiner| icitizen
Dogwood A
 "Do millennials even care?" This is the looming question around why America's youth aren't more civically engaged. We will explore both traditional and modern attempts by organizations to grow, energize and engage millennials. The session focuses on the role new technologies play to involve today's youth in the democratic process, replacing outdated outreach methods. It paints a vivid picture of how civic tech like icitizen provides campuses with unprecedented tools to strengthen curriculums, enhance civic engagement and connect with students.

Ruth Jones Nichols Q&A
Dogwood B
Ruth Jones Nichols is a powerful advocate for opportunities of empowerment in our communities with a particular focus on youth, women, and people of color. She served as director of resource development for D.C. Public Schools and Executive Director of YWCA South Hampton Roads. She is currently the CEO of The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore. Join Dr. Jones Nicholas after her keynote speech for more lessons learned.

What If We Weren't So Afraid of Business?
Presenter: Melissa Swope| APPLES Service-Learning Internship Program
Room 1056
What if we weren't so afraid of business? Of money? Of using different perspectives to tackle our communities' issues? After dispelling myths we hold about business, we can use its tools to transform problems into opportunities. As the co-chair of the APPLES Service-Learning Internship Program, Melissa has experience with considering stakeholders' concerns and applying business concepts to create value for an entire community. Be inspired to take a more entrepreneurial approach to the impossible!

How to Put the Residents First: Lessons from inside the Merrimac Detention Center
Presenters: Emily Lopynski, Margaret Olessen, and Sarah Perry | William & Mary
Room 2066
The goal of this session is to help participants attain better congruence with their different volunteering projects while developing an awareness of the population they are trying to serve. The first part of the session focuses on the needs of the population and how important it is to focus on how best to serve the community. The second part focuses on identifying and working through different perceptions and judgements surrounding the population we serve.

What If We Never Stopped Asking Questions? The Importance of Reflection in Service-learning and Civic Engagement
Presenters: Zach Fisher and Katie Mars | Elon University
Room 2060
Leveraging the knowledge of a panel of subject matter experts, small discussion groups and informational/personal networking, participants will explore how schools and individuals are building community with veterans in creative and personal ways. All veterans at the conference and conference participants/schools with experience in working with veterans are encouraged to attend, share their own experiences and learn from other participants.

Expand Your Horizons and Be an Engaged Citizen
Presenters: Grettie vonVorys-Norton, Kori Johnson, and Chris Vance | Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU ASPiRE
Room 2030
Learn about how creating sustainable partnerships, both domestic and abroad, can create lasting change and provide the best environment for both your group and the communities you are working with. We will discuss how to effectively hear the voice of community you are working with and also talk about the importance of critical reflection on service trips.

Session Two: 11:25 AM – 12:15 PM

The Art of Social Change
Presenters: Alia Castane and Brittney Maddox | VCU ASPiRE
Room 1056
Does lack of art equal lack of unity in communities? How can art be used as a tool to spark dialogue in disenfranchised neighborhoods? In this session, we explore how the power of creative expression can revitalize communities, empower its citizens, and foster positive social change. From brush strokes to poetic lyricism, art has the power to heal, build, and unite.

Students Reaching Students: How UVote Improves Campus Voter Registration
Presenters: Kendra Alexander and Cody Wiley | Northwestern University and Shenandoah University
Dogwood A
UVote is a student voter registration initiative that originated at Northwestern University in 2009 and has been implemented at universities across the nation. UVote provides a means for institutions to integrate voter registration into existing processes, with a primary focus on entry points that allow for the comprehensive engagement of incoming students. Presenters will describe the UVote model and its implementation at Shenandoah University. Participants will assess their own institutional environments as potential sites for implementation of the UVote model.

What if All Members Could Become Active Citzens?
Presenters: Schaefer Beardsley and Sam Shepherd| James Madison University
Room 2066
Are you getting discouraged with members and volunteers who don't seem to move towards becoming an Active Citizen? Are your motivation techniques feel like they are falling flat? Do you feel like you yourself may never achieve Active Citizenship? Our session will help provide techniques and strategies to help service-learners move through the continuum as well as debunk the myth of becoming an Active Citizen.

Collaborating to Create Healthy Beginnings for Pregnant Inmates
Presenters: Constance Hull, Yuning Chen, and Morgan Thompson| William & Mary
Room 2030
This session explores challenges facing pregnant women involved in the criminal justice system. We will provide attendees with a look at the William & Mary Healthy Beginnings Project and explore the goals and challenges of improving outcomes for pregnant-incarcerated women during pregnancy, delivery, and release. We will discuss the roles of community collaboration and citizenship in providing services to community members in need and promoting the awareness of health disparities for mothers and their newborns.

Serving the Nation: Working in and with the U.S. Government
Presenter: Brad Potter | Johns Hopkins University
Dogwood B
Dream of becoming Secretary of State? While your first job out of college will not be as America's top diplomat, many of the skills you develop serving in and around your campus community are exactly those needed to work with and in government. This session introduces students to the many different jobs in Washington that attract students dedicated to creating positive change and offers insights into translating undergraduate experiences into a first job.

Mindfulness in the Work for Justice
Presenter: Melody Porter | William & Mary
Room 2060
In our culture of work and accomplishment, it can be easy for activists and active citizens to value busyness and action over reflection and awareness. We will explore how practices of listening, meditation, and openness can make us more connected to the communities around us and the issues they experience. We will learn how mindfulness can make us better understand issues and people; push for, accept and respond quickly to change; and renew our own souls.

Session Three: 1:40 PM – 2:30 PM

What If I Could Volunteer as a Full-time Job?
Presenter: Kristina Rubio| James Madison University
Dogwood B
In this workshop we will use the lens of Skills Based Volunteering to identify skills you have gained in your major, student involvement experiences, and community engagement work to ease the transition in to post-grad life. This session will be a facilitated conversation so be ready to share!

Learning through Doing: Activities for Engaging with Social Justice
Presenter: Evan Small| Elon University
Room 1056
This highly interactive session will present a variety of activities designed to introduce and discuss various social justice topics. Participants will get an opportunity to experience the activity and reflect on how they might implement it with groups or organizations they are involved in. This session is ideal for peer facilitators, organization leaders, or those who are looking to strengthen their facilitation skills. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to address social justice in an experiential context.

Tech as a Tool: Actual Access for the Developing World
Presenter: Sora Edwards-Thro | William & Mary
Room 2066
"What if everyone in Haiti had a laptop and a 4G Internet connection?" It's tempting to assume that access to technology will automatically improve the lives of people in the developing world. In this session, we'll reflect on how to make sure that tech actually becomes a tool by examining motivations, discussing potential barriers, and working closely with communities to figure out what would actually be useful to them.

Rethinking Allyship through Critical Service-Learning
Presenter: Nico Climaco| Break Away
Room 2030
There has been much critique around allyship as a concept and an identity for those striving toward social justice. Direct service and social justice often exist in silos, and it's difficult to know how to connect our values and beliefs with meaningful direct action. Through critical service-learning theory, we hope to tackle the ally industrial complex and work toward a solidarity approach to service.

Peter Maybarduk Q&A
Room 2060
Peter Maybarduk is a human rights lawyer and a songwriter. He directs PUBLIC CITIZEN'S access to medicines and knowledge economy group, which helps partners around the world overcome high-price pharmaceutical monopolies, and is dedicated to supporting public sector development in one of the world's least developed countries. Join Peter after his lunch talk for more lessons learned from his experience and an open Q&A.

Session Four: 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM

What if We Didn't Have All the Answers? Navigating Community Interaction through Cultural Competency and Cultural Humility
Presenters: Lindsey Holbrook and Manish Sreevatsava| University North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Dogwood B
Understanding the differences between cultural humility and cultural competency are crucial to being an engaged, active citizen. In this session, attendees will explore how their unique backgrounds have shaped their practice of both ideas. Using resources from UNC's Philosophy of Service class, we will discuss the fluidity of cultural humility and competency. In doing so, this session highlights that effective community engagement is often difficult and that sometimes there is no clear answer in navigating between cultural humility and competency.

#ThinkBeforeYouPost: An Exploration of Ethical Social Media and Voluntourism
Presenters: Noah Sakin and Alli Weiler | Elon University
Room 1056
This workshop explores the implications involved when social media and service are combined. Using the practices of Elon University's Alternative Breaks Program as a platform, this session will actively engage participants in conversations and activities about voluntourism and ethical social media. We will provide participants with examples for discussion, as well as tips for using social media to bring about positive social change and awareness.

Student Voting: Rights and Barriers
Presenter: Michael Burns | Fair Election Legal Network's Campus Vote Project
Dogwood A
This session will be a discussion of student voting rights and barriers to student voting using Virginia's election administration system as an example. Participants will also discuss ways students, faculty, and administrators can collaborate on nonpartisan student electoral engagement programs on campus.

What If Our Service Were Relational and Not Transactional?
Presenters: Brian Jenkins, Megan Man, Jakob Deel, and Lydia Hurtado | William & Mary
Room 2060
Service should be centered on people, not items or events. Greater City is a Christian, student-led nonprofit at William and Mary that ministers to Williamsburg residents on the edge of homelessness. We hope to help active citizens in all types of ministry and service to transform their models into one that is relational, not transactional. By doing this, we believe service can be more effective, build community, and help form lasting, supportive friendships.

Engaging Aging
Presenters: Caitlin Lange, Maggie Sagan, and Elyssa Riggs| Virginia Commonwealth University
Room 2030
Have you ever noticed most interactions you have in a day are specially tailored towards youth? Media, public service, and other daily experiences are biased towards younger generations but what we forget during these interactions is we all age. We presently live in a society that lacks empathy for those who are of an older age that were once in the same place as we are now. What can you do to help?

Collegiate and High School Civic Engagement Collaboration: A Model for Positive Outcomes
Presenter: James Walters| The Walters Group
Room 2066
This workshop will present the structure and programs of the Collegiate and High School Civic Engagement Collaborative and the results of an evaluation of their programs. Students participating in the Collaborative program achieved significantly higher scores on state academic tests. Participants in this session will gain an understanding of the process and pedagogy which produced similar student learning outcomes over the six year program and apply those understandings to their work or work in which they may wish to engage.

3:40 Please return to Matoaka Woods for the closing session