

# ACTIVE CITIZENS CONFERENCE



THE DAILY WORK OF JUSTICE

February 18, 2017

The College of William & Mary

***Educating, Uniting, and Inspiring  
Active Citizens***

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## 2017 William & Mary Active Citizens Conference

**EDUCATING, UNITING, AND INSPIRING ACTIVE CITIZENS**

**Saturday, February 18**

9:00a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In and Breakfast <i>Matoaka Woods</i>
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Conference Welcome and Keynote Address <i>Matoaka Woods</i>
10:25 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Workshop Session #1 – see program for a list of sessions and locations
11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Workshop Session #2
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch <i>Matoaka Woods</i>
1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session #3
2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Workshop Session #4
3:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Refreshments and Closing Session <i>Matoaka Woods</i>

**Hosted by The William & Mary Office of Community Engagement**

*Cultivating active citizenship within our communities*

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## 2017 Workshop Guide

### Session One: 10:25 AM – 11:15 AM

#### **Service in a Busy Season**

*Presenters:* Erika R. Francis, Megan Freismidl, Kaitlyn Garnett | Shenandoah University

*Dogwood*

Do you find yourself wanting to make a difference in your community, but aren't sure how or where to start? Let's work together to identify your passions and talents, and how to address justice and service to others in your daily life. Session will include interactive brainstorming, online audience polling, and social media integration.

#### **Oregon Voter Trail**

*Presenter:* Mike Burns | Campus Vote Project

*Room 2000*

Come try the Oregon (Voter) Trail and learn the differences between registering and voting as a citizen in Oregon and Virginia. We will also discuss serving as an election official in Virginia. Time is also reserved at the end for Q&A with the facilitator who is an attorney focusing on youth voting rights issues and is prepared to discuss topics such as bills coming out of the 2017 VA legislative session regarding voting, issues of gerrymandering and reform efforts in VA, and the national landscape of youth voting rights.

#### **Jeree Thomas Q&A**

*Holly B*

Jeree serves as the Policy Director for The Campaign for Youth Justice, a national initiative focused on ending the practice of prosecuting, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system. She previously served the Skadden Fellow at the Legal Aid Justice Center, representing incarcerated youth. Jeree received a B.A. in Social Justice & Community Advocacy at William & Mary before earning her law degree from The University of Virginia. Join Jeree after her keynote speech for more lessons learned.

#### **Disability as an Intersectional Identity: Promoting Equity in Social Justice**

*Presenter:* Katie Conely (they/them) | William & Mary

*Holly A*

What does accessibility really mean? How can I be a better ally to the disabled community? This workshop will introduce participants to the social model of disability and will help focus disability and accessibility as intersectional issues. Participants will critically evaluate the history of justice work and will brainstorm ways to create accessibility and equity for people with disabilities in social justice.

## **Sustaining Partnerships Across Miles and Over Decades**

*Presenter:* Susan Virginia Mead | Diversity Serves

*Room 1056*

This workshop will explore collaborative community/college/non-profit partnerships that have been sustained over two decades in two very different settings: central Appalachia and South Sudan. Participants will consider the timeline and strategies that defined these partnerships' ability to meet their needs, adapt to changing circumstances, and be mutually supportive over time. Finally, participants will work in small groups to apply these strategies to potential partnerships they hope to create and sustain in the future.

## **Session Two: 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM**

### **Learn to Lobby Your Representatives**

*Presenter:* Aliza Bridge | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Room 1056*

You have the power to influence your representatives! In addition to letters and phone calls, in-person lobby visits with your representatives can be very effective. In this workshop, you will learn how to conduct a successful lobby visit. You will learn what methods to implement when meeting with a member of Congress or Senator, as well as get a chance to practice these methods in a group.

### **Reconsidering Frames of Reference to Develop Empathy in Communities**

*Presenter:* Nisha Kavalam | Break Away

*Dogwood*

Zadie Smith said, “your version of the world is your version. It’s restricted to your area, and people live and experience things quite differently in different places.” With increased divisiveness in our country, we’re likely to build empathy walls stemming from political, geographical, and ideological polarization. It’s essential we meet this with unlearning strategies to become a more inclusive society. Join Break Away in our efforts to coalesce values of community and justice as active citizens.

### **Multiracial Medicine: Addressing Healthcare Disparities**

*Presenter:* Stephanie Turner | VCU ASPiRE

*Holly A*

Health disparities affect 43.1 million people in the United States; mainly African Americans and Hispanics. Those affected have greater risks of infection, injury, and death due to lack of access and decreased quality of care. This session encourages critical thinking on the causes of health disparities and how everyday individuals can make a difference through small group discussion.

## **Embracing the Contrast between the Expected and the Real: Navigating the Paradoxes of Authentic Civic Action**

*Presenter:* Steve Grande | James Madison University

*Holly B*

What happens when our expectations for civic action do not align with our actual experience? Service-learning courses and alternative break programs empower students to build relationships with communities to address locally identified priorities. However, unmet expectations can lead to a sense of disappointment from not attaining an “authentic” experience. Participants in this session will examine authenticity-seeking among students and how facilitating the recognition of multiple, and potentially contradicting, authenticities will foster more effective civic engagement.

## **Active Citizenship in Academia: Amplifying Unheard Voices in the Philosophical Tradition**

*Presenters:* Allison Heisel and Ellen Yates | UNC-Greensboro and William & Mary

*Room 2000*

Collective action can be used to affect change in a variety of spheres-- learn more about how a group of students applied activism principles to advance a greater sense of justice within the Philosophy Department. We will discuss the conception, development, and continued growth of Diverse Philosophies, a group that elevates underrepresented voices and diverse dialogue in the philosophical tradition. Hear our story and brainstorm new ways to engage in your own academic environments.

## **Session Three: 1:40 PM – 2:30 PM**

### **Sharing Active Citizenship: How to Publish in the VA Engage Journal**

*Presenter:* Sylvia Gale | Virginia Commonwealth University

*Holly A*

Has engagement in your community changed your life? Do you want to expand on your experience and contribute to the broader community, but you don't know how? The VA Engage Journal offers a unique opportunity to continue your involvement in issues you are passionate about: through writing. Join Dr. Sylvia Gale, Editor-In-Chief of the VA Engage Journal, to learn about the work of the journal as a forum of discussion and reflection and the publication process for student authors. Discover a new way to be an active citizen by joining a wider conversation about the social issues affecting our communities today and our search for solutions.

### **The Community Love Playbook**

*Presenter:* Jonathan L. Butler | George Washington University

*Holly B*

Since the beginning of this nation, social movements have held an intimate foothold in this fabric of our history. On their journey towards justice, each social movement has advanced different approaches to practicing solidarity across lines of identity and background. In this presentation, I argue that we explore the intersection of community building and revolutionary love in order to construct authentic solidarity between communities in the midst of shifting social, cultural, and political landscapes.

### **Enhancing the First Year Experience: From Service to Service-Learning**

*Presenters:* Amanda Shoenfelt, Danielle Satterfield | Elon University

*Dogwood*

This interactive session will focus on exploring different methods of engaging first year students in service and creating a more in-depth experience. Participants will engage in discussions about opportunities provided at other universities and how they can help students to go from volunteers to active citizens. This will give everyone a chance to examine different ways to facilitate experiences that prompt students to think about social justice in the world.

### **Connected: Social Media as an Activist Tool**

*Presenters:* Brittney Maddox, Aila Shai Castane | VCU ASPiRE

*Room 1056*

What are some ways to make activism more intersectional? How can social media be used as a tool to spark dialogue both online and offline? In this session, we explore how the power of mass communication can revitalize communities, empower its citizens, and foster positive social change.

### **Bringing Out the Best: A Values Reflection**

*Presenter:* Elizabeth Miller | William & Mary

*Room 2000*

When communities are at their best, what does that look like? What does it look like when you're at your best? This reflection-based session will focus on considering what values guide you and how that shapes your role in community. We'll walk through creating a values-based personal mission statement for our active citizenship and get creative with our visions for community.

## **Session Four: 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM**

### **Good Relationships at the Core**

*Presenters:* Brad Brewer and Abbey Yoder | Christopher Newport University

*Dogwood*

You're passionate about your cause(s) and you want to make a positive impact. If only people would stop getting in the way! Service projects, advocacy, and policy research are clearly important, but is anyone helping you to be good at relationships? What if emotional intelligence and healthy relationships are the determining factors in our long-term success? Come learn about the centrality of good relationships and how they can breathe new life into your community work.

### **Election Update - The Modern Era of Politics**

*Presenter:* Mousa Martin | George Mason University

*Holly A*

There is a partisan divide among the contemporary electorate. A desire for, or a fear of, change drew an unprecedented response to carry an unexpected candidate into the office of United States President. This session will examine the needs of a divided people, the constant conflict between values and interests, the challenges of overcoming longstanding injustices, and will further impart actionable tactics for political advocacy, generated from firsthand experience, to be used in the day-to-day.

### **Teach It Forward!: Boosting Reciprocity Between Campus and Community**

*Presenter:* Rachel Covington | Averett University

*Holly B*

Sometimes you just need to get back to basics. Come hear Averett University's story of how the Center for Community Engagement & Career Competitiveness is working to create a culture of engagement on campus! This interactive session will discuss a specific initiative that addresses an ongoing need in the community, while meeting students' interests related to community engagement. Participants will be encouraged to think creatively about how they can address an ongoing need in their communities.

### **But Where Are You REALLY From?**

*Presenters:* Gopika Hari, Divya Krishna, Neha Potdar | VCU ASPiRE

*Room 2000*

Microaggressions – we've likely all faced them in our lives, but rarely do we think about their impacts on society. This session is designed to teach others about microaggressions- the small, harmful words or actions that negatively stereotype a person. Participants will learn how they exist in social and workplace environments, and how they affect an individual's unconscious biases. Students will see the impact of microaggressions in their daily lives, through interactive activities and small discussions.

### **Building Partnerships and Bridging the Gap: Community Partnership and Student Engagement**

*Presenter:* Jenny Fukunaga | Elon University

*Room 1056*

As out-of-state student enrollment at colleges and universities is on the rise, how can we play our part in increasing student engagement within the communities surrounding our campuses? We will discuss why this matters and how we can encourage effective practices. This will be a space for all attendees to share success stories and further build their resources in developing strong community partnerships and increasing student engagement.

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

