

# ACTIVE CITIZENS CONFERENCE



THE SKILLS OF FREEDOM

February 17, 2018

The College of William & Mary

***Educating, Uniting, and Inspiring***

***Active Citizens***

# ACTIVE CITIZENS CONFERENCE



## 2018 William & Mary Active Citizens Conference

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

**Saturday, February 17**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 9:00a.m. – 9:30 a.m.    | Check-In and Breakfast<br><i>Matoaka Woods</i>                         |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  | Conference Welcome and Opening Keynote Address<br><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<br><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<br><i>Matoaka Woods</i>               |

**Hosted by The William and Mary Office of Community Engagement**  
*Cultivating active citizenship within our communities*

# ACTIVE CITIZENS CONFERENCE



## 2018 Workshop Guide

### Session One: 10:25 AM – 11:15 AM

#### **Keynote Q&A: Justin G. Reid**

*Dogwood*

Join Justin Reid after his keynote speech for more lessons learned.

Justin Reid is a cultural preservationist and public historian of Virginia civil rights and education history. As director of African American programs at Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, he develops and supports community programs and cultural initiatives across the state. He also leads the General Assembly's African American history task force. Justin previously worked for the Moton Museum & National Historic Landmark. A native of Farmville, Virginia, Justin was a co-founder of the College of William & Mary's Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation.

#### **Active Citizenship 101**

*Presenters:* Laura Parker and Quincy Goodine | Longwood University

*Holly*

Found yourself at The Active Citizens Conference but not really sure what active citizenship means? Using the Active Citizen Continuum from Break Away, students in this session will become more aware of the ways they are already engaging in active citizenship and construct strategies on how to continue developing far beyond their years at college.

#### **The Institutionalization of Service-Learning and the Role of Student Organizations**

*Presenters:* Ami Patel and Ryan Nilsen | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Boardroom*

Participants will explore the role that student organizations and student leaders play in creating a balance of innovation and consistency in service-learning programs using the history of APPLES at UNC-CH as a case study. Participants will locate their campus's service-learning offerings on a spectrum of institutionalization and be guided through activities to consider how it might take action to move the programming toward greater institutionalization or more freedom to innovate.

#### **Raise Your Voice and Be Heard: How to be Effective Advocates for Policy Change | Part 1**

*Presenters:* Nancy Morgan and Ann Beltran | Results

*Room 1056*

Results, a non-profit with 35 years of experience in advocacy, has been using a toolkit of techniques for decades with the objective of reducing poverty in the U.S. and around the globe. This two-hour training will share these techniques through hands-on advocacy exercises and will equip participants to influence decision making on poverty issues and other public policies of interest. **Please note that this is a two-part program and attendees should plan on staying for both sessions.**

## **The Dangers of Empathy**

*Presenters:* Patty Mathison, Shauna Rigaud, Rebecca Durant, and Denny Villatoro | George Mason University

*Room 2000*

“Most of the evil in this world is done by people with good intentions.” T.S. Eliot

From a young age, many of us are taught to help others, to lead with compassion, and to be kind.

While these are good practices, without knowledge or understanding it can be quite dangerous. This workshop will explore and identify some of the downsides to empathy and the good intentions of others. We will explore how best to work with community and share best practices for positive social change.

## **Using Data and Partnerships to Improve Student Voter Engagement**

*Presenter:* Rachel Clay | Campus Vote Project

*Room 2066*

Campus Vote Project and Piedmont Virginia Community College will present on the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and the Voter Friendly Campus (VFC) designation process. Participants will learn strategies for evaluating student voter registration and turnout data, crafting a democratic engagement plan, and effective partnerships between faculty, administrators, and student to carry out politically neutral engagement of students as voters.

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

### **The Cliff-Pit: Preventing the Post-Graduation Drop-Off in Civic Engagement**

*Presenter:* Meghan Foley | Break Away

*Dogwood*

While students have countless mechanisms for involvement on campus, even the most active leaders experience a period of isolation and disengagement upon graduation - no matter where they relocate to. It's time we met this challenge with tools to prevent the drop-off and support recent graduates in continued service, advocacy and activism, and philanthropy. Come learn about efforts to engage alumni and a model for understanding our role as citizens and organizers.

### **The Confederate Flag Through Time: How to Lead Democratic Dialogues**

*Presenters:* Brigid Belko Gorton and April Love-Loveless | Averett University

*Holly*

Is everyone around you quarreling about an issue? Do you want to learn more about those issues instead of arguing? This is your opportunity to learn how to host and lead a democratic dialogue surrounding a controversial topic. Averett will share how they did just that with the Confederate flag using the American Democracy Project's Campus Conversation Toolkit.

### **Reflection: A Tool to Critically Engage in Service**

*Presenters:* Emily Haston and Adrienne Bonar | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Boardroom*

Last year, UNC students developed a tool to help alternative break leader incorporate critical service learning concepts and activities into their trips. Through this workshop, participants will learn about the APPLES program and the essential role that reflection plays in service-learning at UNC.

Participants will discuss the reflection tools available to them and learn how they might develop a resource to pair with their own service-learning programs.

## **Raise Your Voice and Be Heard: How to be Effective Advocates for Policy Change | Part 2**

*Presenters:* Nancy Morgan and Ann Beltran | Results

*Room 1056*

Results, a non-profit with 35 years of experience in advocacy, has been using a toolkit of techniques for decades with the objective of reducing poverty in the U.S. and around the globe. The second part of this two-hour training will continue to share these techniques through hands-on advocacy exercises and will equip participants to influence decision making on poverty issues and other public policies of interest. **Please note that this is a two-part program and attendees should attend both sessions.**

## **Exploring Meaning as an Active Citizen**

*Presenter:* Drew Stelljes | William & Mary

*Room 2000*

Do you find yourself craving answers to life's big questions and wondering how you will make a difference? Living in congruence with our values, developing skills from our strengths, and seeking to chip away at challenges seems to be part of the answer to the question we're so often asked: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" This workshop will focus on how we consider and develop meaning as active and engaged citizens.

## **The Aftermath of Mass Incarceration and the Path to Freedom**

*Presenter:* Sravya Dhavala and Daniel Ruiz | Virginia Commonwealth University ASPIRE

*Room 2066*

Mass incarceration is an issue that seeps and interlocks within components of society and strips inmates of their rights and freedom. In this workshop we will discuss the factors that lead up to this issue and the unexpected consequences seen in life outside of prison. Attendees will learn about how to get involved, exploring possible solutions and discussing the future that lies ahead.

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

### **Painting Pause**

*Matoaka Woods*

Need a post-lunch pause in attending workshops to gather your thoughts and express yourself? Come choose your paint colors and have fun expressing through art what your talent looks like and how that talent can be utilized. Relax, paint, and have some fun with others and the painted talents! No painting experience necessary. All supplies will be ready for you.

### **Close Encounters with White Supremacy: Lessons from a Fall Leadership Retreat and Proactive Steps**

*Presenters:* Monica Fikes and Catherine L. Cotrupi | Virginia Tech

*Dogwood*

At VT Engage's annual retreat, 42 freshmen, 34 student leaders, and 7 employees experienced a display of Confederate Pride and racism. During this conference session, this scenario will be workshopped through facilitated dialogue with the intent to challenge and expand participants' situational awareness for leading and/or participating in service immersion trips. Attendees will leave with a greater awareness of the different impacts one event can have on individuals of varying experience levels and identities.

### **Don't Keep Scrolling: Social Media Echo Chambers**

*Presenters:* Lauren Dickerson and Seema Sethi | William & Mary

*Holly*

2016-2017 brought to light more than a deep-seated division in American politics. It brought a reflection of changing conversations. Social media and the twenty-four hour news cycle ensure that people are inundated with a perpetual stream of information, but does that information actually inform people, or does it trap them in echo chambers? How can we use these new technologies to be effective allies and develop positive sustainable change?

### **An Introduction to Youth Liberation**

*Presenter:* Brian Conner | George Mason University

*Boardroom*

While most common oppressions, such as racism, sexism and classism, are widely acknowledged and fought, one oppression remains nearly untouched. This is the oppression of young people- all young people. Children and teenagers are viewed as inferior to adults and denied basic liberties under the law. In this workshop, I will explain how this oppression came about, why youth deserve equal rights to adults, how being oppressed from an early age has affected all of us, and the Youth Rights movement that is beginning.

### **Engaging Voters in our Home Communities: New Strategies for Civic and Voter Education**

*Presenters:* Jeremy Wattles, Rotimi Adeoye, and Maeve Kline | Hobart and William Smith Colleges

*Room 1056*

The Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning at Hobart and William Smith Colleges will be leading a session about civic and voter education. This program will help you make a civic engagement action plan you can use in your community.

### **Navigating Organizational Change and Power Differentials as a Student Leader**

*Presenters:* Hiwot Ekuban and John Paul Zalaquett | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Room 2000*

In this session participants will engage the nuances of managing relationships within the University setting by fostering discussion and employing interactive activities to provide tangible approaches to effective interpersonal communication.

### **Courageous Conversations**

*Presenter:* April Urbanowski | William & Mary

*Room 2066*

Do you often shy away from difficult conversations? Is this stopping you from digging deeper and finding connections with people? Engaging in courageous conversations can help you discover new thoughts and ideas while helping improve your personal and professional relationships. It is also a critical skill of building engaged and diverse communities. This session will help you identify the techniques on how to hold a courageous conversation and provide tips on to create authentic and healthy dialogue.

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

### **Empowering Others with Authentic Leadership**

*Presenter:* Gabrielle M. Blackman | Kaplan University

*Dogwood*

This session will focus on ways authentic leaders can empower others. Empowering others ensures that all members of a team, organization, or system reach shared goals and sustainable progress. The session will be interactive in nature and will include guided discussions, self-assessment, and a group exercise. Participants will learn strategies for using their leadership opportunities to empower others.

### **The Word Workshop: Exploring the Words We Use When Talking about the Work We Do**

*Presenter:* Caroline Ouwerkerk | Johns Hopkins University

*Holly*

Do you do service in *\*the\** community, or in *\*your\** community? Do you talk about wanting to help people, or serve them? What are the words we use saying about our attitudes toward the people and places with which we work, and which terms most closely resonate with our personal perspective and philosophies? In this interactive workshop, we will use a series of small-group and individual activities to take a closer look at the language of service, social justice, and civic engagement, and we will consider how words shape the way we think about the work we are doing and affect how we interact with the people we serve.

### **How (and why) to Publish Your Engaged Scholarship**

*Presenter:* Sylvia Gale | University of Richmond

*Boardroom*

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, and published student authors, to learn about the work of the journal as a forum of discussion and reflection and the publication process for authors. Discover how you can join a wider conversation about the social issues affecting our communities today and our search for solutions.

### **From Allyship to Accompliceship**

*Presenter:* Kit Conely, they/them | Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

*Room 1056*

So you've read 'the right books', taken 'the right classes', and even cried as you placed the "'Love is Love'" sticker on your laptop ... but what more can you do? In this session we'll explore the complexities of allyship, from performative to responsible. We'll explore how to identify our privilege and how it impacts our social justice work. We'll talk about how to engage with the concept of allyship and move towards accompliceship. Participants will leave this session with a better understanding of their role in justice work and tangible steps for moving forward.

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

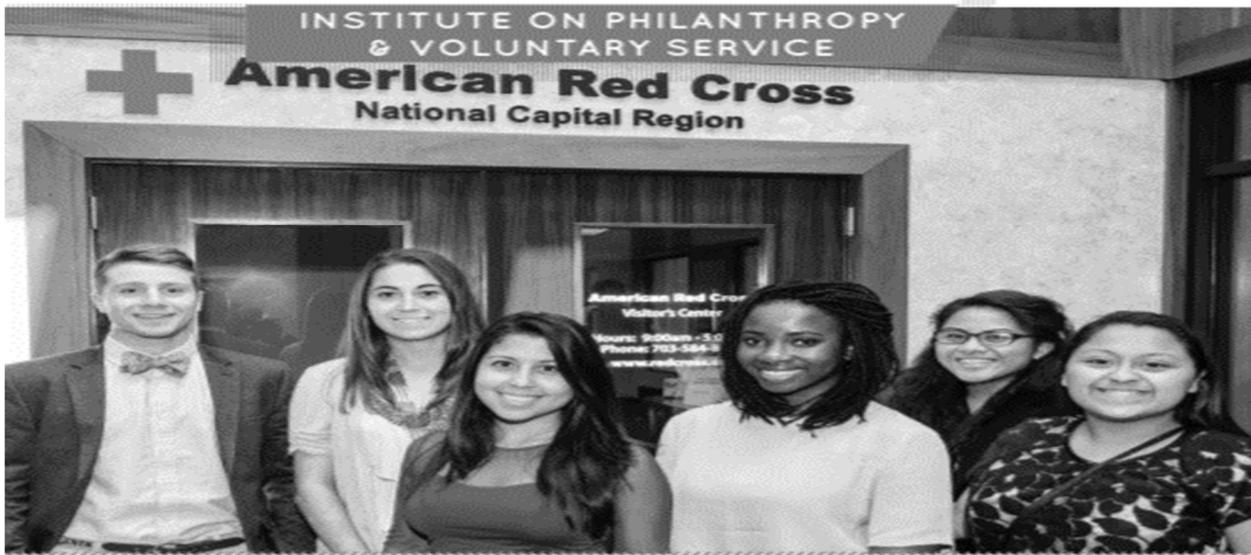
Conference Notes

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