EDUCATING, UNITING, & INSPIRING ACTIVE CITIZENS

Feb. 15 & 16, 2013

Session Themes

You Say You Want a Revolution: Thinking about Power, Privilege, Oppression and Change

Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Understanding and Impacting Communities

This Is How We Do It: Practical Knowledge and Skills for the Active Citizen

Friday, February 15, 2013

Session One 7:35-8:30pm

The Nuts & Bolts of Community Partnership to Promote Electoral Activity

Presenters: Mary Slade
Room 1077

Virginia is unique in its annual occurrence of local, state, or national elections. As national trends demonstrate a slacker tendency among various groups of voters, we have a responsibility to educate and support citizens in the process of casting their votes. In particular, higher education must help first-time voters understand their civic duty and support their voter registration, preparation, and casting of their votes. This presentation focuses on recent efforts to unite first-time voters from VCU and the surrounding community in this process.

Clown Revolution: The Power of Laughter in Crisis Zones

Presenters: Tim Cunningham
Room 1027

This program will look at psychosocial relief through the lens of Clowns Without Borders USA, an international non-profit that aspires to bring smiles and laughter to all places in the world where children and families suffer. This interactive session will look at the work of CWB in relation to other humanitarian aid programs and examine the impacts (positive and negative) resource rich nations bring to zones of crisis. Take homes: Alternative ideas about international aid, ways to find the “funny” in yourself, and ideas on how to incorporate humanitarian aid with the performing arts.
Relationships and Partnerships with Community Partners: Creating Mutually-Beneficial Partnerships
Presenter: Madeline Yates and Shane Bryan
Room 1069
Participants will learn various methods and best-practices to consider when working with communities, focusing on different models and structures for university and colleges administrators, faculty, and student leaders to consider in the process of building community partnerships. Participants will discuss differences between relationships and partnerships. Participants will take away active knowledge of the importance of building relationships as a means of creating mutually-beneficial partnerships through interactive group work and case studies. Various worksheets and rubrics that are used when creating community partnerships will be explained and shared with workshop participants.

Watch Yo’ Mouth! The Role of Language in Cultivating Cultural Sensitivity
Presenters: Katherine Milberger, Jessica Meeks, Rebecca Lee and Heather Smith
Room 1078
In today’s global community, every individual must navigate through many culturally diverse situations. Language is an important marker of cultural difference, whether it is through dialect, surname, accent, language of origin, or labeling. During this interactive presentation, the Virginia Commonwealth University AmeriCorps Team Leaders offer personal experiences in the field of education as testaments to effective and culturally sensitive communication within the workplace.

Cultural Contextualization and Collaboration: Keys to Developing and Implementing a Successful NGO
Presenter: Ben Boone
Room 1082
Using VISEDAL as an example, participants will walk through the process of starting an NGO in a developing country. This session will focus on three main aspects of program development: 1) Problem Identification: How would a new NGO approach a community with so many dilemmas and decide which issues to tackle? 2) Cultural Contextualization and Collaboration: We must contextualize our work within the cultural frameworks of the environments in which we operate. 3) Program Implementation: There are bound to be a plethora of obstacles that could impede a newborn NGO’s progress and success.

What is at Stake: An Assessment of Stakeholders in the Education System
Panelists: Katie Plum, Paul Manna, Caily Bridgeland
Room 1088
With the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001, closing the achievement gap among student subgroups became a central focus of K-12 public education. Schools and districts were required to disaggregate student test scores by student characteristics to enable better comparisons between groups. This created a greater awareness of achievement disparities among subgroups. The attention prompted more targeted interventions for different groups of students, but the achievement gap persists a decade after the law was passed. Panelists include a public policy professor, a public school teacher and a graduate student. Each brings a different perspective on the persistence of the achievement gap.
Saturday, February 16, 2013

Session 2 10:00-10:55am

Tossing the To-Do List: How to Fit Hard Thinking Into a Busy Schedule and Get Creative Stuff Done
Presenter: Judd Kennedy
Room 1013

No one has time for everything. The pace, scope, and complexity of work in the digital age prevent most of us from fitting everything in. People who juggle creative work (like designing strategies) with logistical work (like responding to emails) can become victims of never ending “to-do” lists. As a result, creative thinking is squeezed into distracted, deadline driven-bursts, and produces only mediocre outcomes. This session will provide participants with techniques to integrate innovation into their weekly routine, strategically invest time, and “hack” bad habits to get creative stuff done. Participants will be invited to apply the techniques to their personal or professional schedules and engage in collective brainstorming and small group discussions.

Power to the People: How to Create a Campus Community Asset
Presenter: Ally Snell
Room 1027

Asset mapping is a powerful tool for initiating sustainable community projects using an “asset-based” (elevating the gifts, skills and capacities of a community) as opposed to a “deficit-based” (ruminating on the issues and problems of a community) approach to development. In this session, you will learn how to apply the principles of asset mapping to your own community or campus environment and how this diagnostic tool can better frame the objectives and goals of your own community development project.

“What’s Your Problem?” Interactive Solutions Workshop
Presenters: Rebecca Horton, Catherine Woodiwiss
Room 1068

Calling all active citizens: has your student group hit a wall? Are your creative ideas stuck in a rut? Are you frustrated with seemingly-insolvable challenges in your organization or field of interest? You’re not alone - and chances are, more people at this conference share your challenges than you’d think. "What’s Your Problem?" is a highly interactive session centered around identifying problems in our work, and using collective creativity to find solutions. This session involves hands-on mapping, visualization, discussion, and collaboration with a variety of fellow activists. Bring your thinking caps, and get ready to get creative.

From Purple to Blue: How young Virginian voices impacted the 2012 election
Presenter: Jonathan Romm and Theresa Cusimano
Room: 1078

National non-partisan organizers, Jonathan Romm and Theresa Cusimano, J.D., will share the impact youth voices had in the 2012 presidential election. Come to this session if you, your club, or your campus want to get involved in the 2013 election in VA, where many believe important funding decisions for higher education will be impacted, as well as voting rights legislation. Also attend this session if you want to become an on-line organizer for your local community, since the Campus Election Engagement Project will be launching their national social media campaign.
Four Ways to Avoid #millennial Pitfalls, and Become an Effective Social Entrepreneur.  
Presenter: Jesse Grainger  
Room 1082  
The rise of the Millennial is a fascinating phenomenon in today's post 2008 society. More generally, the term "Millennial" is used to describe a segment of the population born between 1980 and 2000 (approximately). They are often characterized as well-intentioned do-gooders who believe in saving the world over making a profit, but is that truly the best approach? Are Millenials good or bad for society? Are they making America (and the world, for that matter) stronger or weaker? How can YOU be an effective Millennial? Here are four tips and tricks to being the best 20-something you can possibly be.

Defining the Outcomes: How Learning-Focused Service Enhances Active Citizenship  
Presenter: Morgan Eary, Katie Gordon, Lisa Hill  
Room 1088  
This workshop addresses the benefit of focusing service trips on predetermined learning outcomes. Attendees will learn how defining these outcomes helps to create a culture of engagement where they are authoring their own trips by determining what it is they wish to get out of the experience and then executing a plan that realizes the full potential of their team through learning and service. Participants will be able to create and share their own outcomes.

Detour Ahead: Finding an Alternate Route for Overcoming Project Obstacles Through Community Dialogue, Transparent Goals, and Flexibility  
Presenter: Erica Stratton, Carly Jones, and Natalie Roper  
Room 1090  
UVA students will share their approach to collaborative problem solving through their partnership with the Charlottesville City Market and its surrounding community. Using techniques of community dialogue and relationship building, the team facilitated community driven change. This workshop will simulate the roadblocks we faced and allow participants to be a part of developing solutions. Techniques that will be discussed include how to lead listening sessions and how to develop a community network around an issue.

Session 3  11:15-12:10pm  
*Flipped Session*  
Come with the questions and we’ll find the answers together. This session is dedicated to facilitated dialogue among presenters and participants about some of the major issues and challenges in the work of active citizens.

Dialogue with Tim McCarthy  
Room 1078  
Join Keynote Speaker Tim McCarthy in a dialogue about domestic and global protest movements. How do we address issues of diversity and equality in our work as active citizens? What is the role of protest movements in this work? This is also the opportunity to ask questions from his keynote presentation.
**Dialogue with Mike Curtin**  
Room 1027  
Join Keynote Speaker Mike Curtin in a dialogue about The D.C. Central Kitchen and innovative local and sustainable food programs. How do social enterprises like D.C. Central Kitchen play a role in active citizenship? This is also the opportunity to ask questions from his keynote presentation.

**A Focus on Justice**  
Room 1069  
Join Melody Porter and Allison Anoll for a dialogue about building justice-oriented programs and movements. How do we determine the values guiding our work as active citizens and evaluate if our work fulfills our vision? How we define and work toward a social justice society? Bring your questions, challenges, and ideas for values based community engagement.

**Building a Movement**  
Room 1013  
Join Jill Piacitelli and other Break Away staff members in a dialogue about how to build a movement of active citizens. Learn about the challenges and success of the alternative breaks movement and how you can apply their experience to yours. Bring your questions, challenges, and ideas for building an active citizens movement.

**Campus-Based Programming**  
Room 1032  
Join student and staff representatives from Campus Kitchen and Lafayette Kids in a dialogue about creating and sustaining campus-based and student-led community programs. How can we best utilize the resources of our campuses to impact the community? How can we avoid roadblocks to our work in developing strong community relationships? Come prepared to discuss ideas and best practices from your work as well as challenges and barriers that we can collectively brainstorm on.

**NGO How-To**  
Room 1090  
Join Ben Boone and Tim Cunningham in a dialogue about creating effective and sustainable NGOs. What does it take to start your own? How can you ensure that your organization is working for community driven social change? What are obstacles your NGO might face and what resources will you need to overcome them? Bring your questions, challenges, and ideas for starting an NGO.

**Session 4 1:20-2:15pm**

**The Forgotten Resource: Engaging Alumni**  
*Presenters: Van Black*  
Room 1090  
A brief overview of Staying Connected: Together Serving Others’ approach to engaging alumni with students in service and career networking. Then, breakout groups where participants will be given assignments to apply the key learning points in potential applications they have at their universities or organizations. Finally, a sharing of sample applications from the group.
How Does Social Change Happen? An Exploration of Theories for the Every-Day Activist and Educator

*Presenters: Allison Anoll*

Room 1013

What does it take to create social change in a community? A nation? Economists, social psychologists, historians and political scientists have all worked to answer these questions, developing (sometimes competing) theories to explain social movements and collective action in societies. What can we learn from their insights? Together, we will take a brief tour of these theories and consider the ways we might apply them to our own work in social justice. Specifically we will focus on how to get people involved and invested in social justice work and the crucial role of social norms for social change.

Creating the Best Classroom on Campus—In the Kitchen: Innovations in Fighting Hunger Through the Campus Kitchens Project

*Presenters: Matt Scharr*

Room 1027

This session will provide attendees with an in depth look at The Campus Kitchens Project (CKP) and will empower them to go back to their school and get a Campus Kitchen started. On campuses across the country, CKP students are already transforming unused food from dining halls, grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers’ markets into meals that are delivered to local agencies serving those in need. The session will highlight what Campus Kitchens do, how they get it done, and most importantly, why they do it. The entire affiliation process, as well as the value of CKP will be presented and attendees will leave this session with the knowledge and tools to go back to their college or university and start a Campus Kitchen of their own.

Let’s Do This! Instructions on How to Start a 501(c)(3) in Less Than an Hour

*Presenters: Doug Bunch*

Room 1069

Come find out how to start your own nonprofit organization. Learn all about forming a board, writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, incorporating, obtaining 501(c)(3) status, reporting to the IRS, articulating your mission/vision, and raising money to support your cause.

The EVMS HOPES Free Clinic Continuity Coordinators: Meeting Community Health Needs through Creativity, Collaboration, and Flexibility

*Presenter: Jennifer Gerstenfeld*

Room 1078

Come and work the Continuity Coordinators at the Eastern Virginia Medical School HOPES Free Clinic! Together we will discuss the importance of meeting community healthcare needs through continuity of care for patients. We will use creativity, collaboration, and flexibility to work through real patient scenarios that we see in our clinic and meet the healthcare needs of our community and beyond!

Connecting Individuals through Story

*Presenter: Analise Adams*

Room 1032

Story is said to be the shortest distance between two people. This session will encourage attendees to see storytelling in a new way, and share short personal narratives about their experience with “power” and “privilege.” By sharing stories and listening to one another, these concepts take new shape, leading participants to further consider and broaden their perspective on how these concepts are woven through personal experience.
Be Ye Transformed: Unlikely Leaders & Allies of the Civil Rights Movement
Presenter: Justin Reid
Room 1088
Was the U.S. Civil Rights Movement really whites versus blacks, or was it something more? Was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. even the leader, or was he actually a late follower? Join Moton School Civil Rights Learning Center associate director, Justin Reid, as he challenges our understanding of U.S. civil rights history and offers a better, more inspiring and inclusive way to educate and prepare the next generation of young, active citizens.

Session 5 2:35-3:30pm

From Empathy to Action: A Look at the Brain's Pathways of Altruistic Behavior
Presenter: Chris Adkins
Room 1027
Empathy is often seen as a first step in leadership and social entrepreneurship. This workshop takes participants inside the empathy circuits of the brain, to better understand how empathy works and how it can lead to altruistic action. This session also will offer practical techniques for developing empathy in communities and organizations.

Exploring Post-Graduation Pathways: In Your Shoes Alumni Panel
Panelists: Katherine Eklund, Shay Jannat, Justin Reid, Judd Kennedy, Elizabeth Miller (Moderator)
Room 1013
You want to continue the journey of active citizenship after you graduate, but what is the best path for you? How can you make it happen? Join this conversation with alumni who have taken paths in civic education, non-profit leadership, international development, research, and public policy. Hear how they chose their path and made it happen. Ask questions and spark conversations that are relevant to you. Listen to their practical advice about navigating the process. Gather resources that will help you explore your skills and brainstorm creative next steps.

From Alphabet Soup to the Genderbread Person
Presenters: Shannon Schmutz
Room 1069
Run, run, as fast as you can! Come and learn about the Genderbread person! Terminology regarding sexuality can be confusing. It doesn't have to be! Come for good discussion, meaningful activities, and a better understanding of those around you. Discuss how privilege and oppression affects those who deviate from familiar genders and sexualities and how to make an environment more accepting and inclusive.

The 2012 Presidential Election: Including Civic Engagement in the Classroom
Presenter: Jacquelyn Smith-Mason, Jeffrey South, Marcus Mesner
Room 1078
In this session, a presentation on Virginia Commonwealth University Honors College course, Social Media and the Presidential Race, will be given to demonstrate how students learned about how social media are used in campaigns, while also actively engaging in online and offline strategies to promote civic engagement on campus. An open discussion about course assignments, logistics and technology will follow the presentation. This session will be beneficial for both faculty and students.
Big Data, Big Difference: How W&M Students Promote Smarter Global Development with AidData

Presenter: Brian O’Donnell
Room 1082

Information about global development projects was once locked away and restricted to insiders, but transparency reforms are sweeping across donor agencies and democratizing access to development information and knowledge. Yet so much data is coming online that trying to absorb it quickly is like drinking from a fire hydrant. This session will explore how inquisitive students researchers have fueled the collaborative data initiative called AidData, a world leader in development finance information started right here in Williamsburg. We will also discuss the broader "Open Data/ Open Government" movements, and learn how anyone—yes, anyone—can effectively use data to hold their leaders accountable, promote democratic discourse, and reduce global poverty.

Social Media for Social Good

Presenter: Troy Heffron
Room 1088

"Add me on Facebook." "Follow us on twitter!" We have all heard these statements before, whether or not we use social media. We'll explore how these social media giants can effectively make an impact on an individual, organization, or community - and how you can make it happen. Tweet at @troy_tweets with questions before, during, or after the session!

Saving Starfish or Destroying the Ecosystem

Presenter: Julie Owen, Kristan Skendall
Room 1090

The narrative often associated with service learning and community engagement stems from a "do good" approach to fixing perceived problems in our world. The most famous story used as inspiration to serve tells the tale of the man saving starfish—but what if the excess starfish are changing the way the ecosystem functions? This session will trouble historical approaches to community service and community engagement by providing counter-narratives and engaged discussion.
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