

Proposed title – Engaging across disciplines – Transformative education in the human services

Format type: Speed presentation

Brief description (250 words maximum):

Education that prepares students to work ethically in the margins with vulnerable and diverse populations demands deep learning and exploration of self to challenge biases and develop new ways of understanding complex social issues. Human service work is about societal transformation as well as individual transformation. Human service learning itself can be difficult and transformational. We do not seek to develop static knowledge about theory. We aim to empower students to develop critical and compassionate thinking so that they may be empowered to create social change. To accomplish this deep learning, we must transcend the interdisciplinary knowledge base at the foundation of human services. This sort of teaching demands that we do more than collaborate across ideology. It demands that we transcend boundaries to prevent unwitting adherence to disciplinary dogma to create new knowledge bases inspiring students to develop innovative ways of re-envisioning our social worlds. Blending perspectives from child and youth care and social work, we have not only enriched our own teaching, but have also uncovered novel approaches to enhance curricula and expand the threshold of possibility for each student. This process of connecting and exploring beyond our own disciplinary knowledge bases has not always been easy and it has required trust in the process and in the relationship between colleagues. In our speed presentation we will share why we engage in transdisciplinary work and how it has resulted in growth in our own teaching practices. **(238 words)**

Theme addressed (50 words maximum):

In this speed presentation we will discuss how transdisciplinary relationships can forge connections among colleagues, engage students and enrich curriculum and teaching practices. We believe that this approach is vital for the future of teaching and that it fits nicely with the Teaching Practice Colloquium theme “Connection, engagement, and exploration”. **(50 words)**