

Faculty Development Day — Thursday, January 21, 2021

“Building a Better Community through Civic Engagement in the Age of COVID”

Co-sponsored by the Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement



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9:00 – 9:30 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Alberto Cardelle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

9:30 – 9:35 AM Overview of Agenda and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. David Weiss, Professor of Criminal Justice
Coordinator of the Crocker Center for Civic Engagement

**9:35 – 10:30 AM Sustaining Ourselves and Our Community Commitments
in Challenging Times**

Dr. Elaine Ward, Assistant Professor of Higher Education
School of Education and Social Policy, Merrimack College

10:30 – 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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**Diversifying the Faculty and the Use of Civic Engaged Scholarship:
Findings from the Higher Education Innovation Fund Grant**

Dr. Wafa Unus, Assistant Professor, English Studies

Mr. Asher Jackson, Reference, Archives, and Special Collections Librarian

This session will discuss the evolving Guide developed by the Fitchburg State HEIF Team entitled *Faculty and Inclusion for the Community Engaged Scholar* and the work that led up to the creation of the Guide.

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**Diversifying the Faculty, Creating a Center for Faculty/Staff Equity
and Inclusion: Findings from the Higher Ed. Innovation Fund Grant**

Dr. DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld, Associate Professor, English Studies

A brief discussion of discovering the need for a Center for Faculty/Staff Equity, a look at similar centers at other institutions, and a debut of the working proposal for a center at Fitchburg State. Finally, we'll share the future of the center and our short-term goals.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM LUNCH

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12:30 – 1:15 PMCivic Learning and Engagement in the New LA&S Curriculum

Dr. Jonathan Harvey, Assistant Professor, Humanities

Dr. Christa Marr, Assistant Professor, Economics, History, and Political Science

Dr. Zachary Miner, Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences

This session explores the “civic learning” and “civic engagement” elements of the new LA&S curriculum. We will differentiate the two concepts, provide examples of courses that do this work, and offer guidance for anyone thinking of applying for these designations for their classes.

1:15 – 1:30 PMBREAK

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1:30 – 2:15 PMCommunity Engagement in the Age of COVID: A Public Health Perspective

Dr. Deborah Stone, Associate Professor, Nursing

Ms. Melissa Dunn, M.S., R.N., Assistant Professor, Nursing

The fall 2020 semester was unlike any other. Engaging senior nursing students in their communities to broaden their perspective, so that the health of populations is included, was a challenge. Some of our planned clinical experiences were well executed, (The Community Outreach Harvest project, visiting our local Board of Health, and an exercise called “A day in the life”), while other plans were changed, even at the last minute, due to COVID-19. We will briefly discuss our trials and tribulations and the outcomes met and lessons learned.

**Resources, Links, and Opportunities
for Community Engagement in the Age of COVID**

Fitchburg State Falcon Bazaar: support.fitchburgstate.edu/makeagift

Growing Places: growingplaces.org

Our Father’s House, Inc.: ofhshelter.com

Crocker Center for Civic Engagement Advisory Board

Dr. David Weiss, Coordinator of the Crocker Center for Civic Engagement

Ms. Melisa Alves, Director of the Career Services and Advising Center

Dr. Deborah Benes, Associate Professor, Nursing

Dr. Karen DeAngelis, Assistant Professor, Education

Dr. Dara Drawbridge, Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Christa Marr, Assistant Professor, Economics, History, and Political Science

Dr. Lisa Moison, Associate Dean, Center for Professional Studies

Ms. Andrea Olmstead, Assistant Professor, Humanities