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Critical Service-Learning Focus of Special Edition of Academic Journal

Special edition of the Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education will highlight research that explores the benefits of critical service-learning experiences for college students and the communities they work with

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – [Indiana Campus Compact](#) and the [Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education](#) (JCEHE) have joined forces to publish a special edition of the Journal dedicated to critical service-learning. This special edition will be guest edited by [Dr. Tania D. Mitchell](#), an engaged scholar who first coined the term in 2008 and a pioneer of the critical service-learning movement in higher education. Dr. Mitchell describes the pedagogy as, “A social change orientation that works to redistribute power and develop authentic relationships, often cited in the literature as points of departure from traditional service-learning.”

Scholars and practitioners of critical service-learning and social justice are invited to submit manuscripts no later than November 30, 2018. Authors Guidelines are available at <http://www.indstate.edu/publicservice/icehe/authGuide.aspx>

This special issue will focus on research that explores critical service-learning experiences, the relationship between service-learning and social justice, and reflective pieces that challenge higher education and the field of community engagement.

On editing this special edition of the journal, Dr. Mitchell said, “It is exciting to have an opportunity to reflect on the impact of a call for a more critical and social justice focused approach to service-learning pedagogy. I am eager to learn from the contributors about their scholarship and practice, hopeful for a thoughtful dialogue, and seeking to edit an issue of the Journal of Community Engagement in Higher Education that will challenge and encourage the field toward a more just community-engagement practice. I am so grateful to JCEHE and Indiana Campus Compact for this opportunity.”

Mark Latta, Director of the Writing Center, at Marian University, will serve as Special Assistant to Dr. Mitchell for this project. Latta currently serves as the Indiana Campus Compact Senior Faculty Fellow, guiding four other faculty in critical community engaged work. Reflecting on how this issue will contribute to the field, Latta said, "The special issue on critical service-learning comes at an important moment for social justice educators and community engaged scholars. In the 10 years since Dr. Mitchell introduced the concept of critical service-learning, there is still much work to do in combining critical pedagogies with service-learning and an urgent need exists to learn from those who are doing this work."

This special issue welcomes manuscripts that explore: 1) critical service-learning experiences or the relationship between service-learning and social justice, 2) case studies that emphasize critical service-learning experiences, detail efforts to employ a critical service-learning framework, or offer constructive critique that may move a community engagement project toward a more critical or social justice-focused practice, or 3) scholarly pieces reflecting on critical community-engaged practices that challenge higher education and/or the service-learning/community engagement field, and outline progressive models for community engaged work.

If you have questions about the special edition, please contact Dr. Tania D. Mitchell, Guest Editor, at tmitchel@umn.edu. If you have questions about the Journal, please contact Dr. Catherine Paterson, Editor, The Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education, at cat.paterson@indstate.edu

About Indiana Campus Compact

Indiana Campus Compact is a 501(c)(3) non-profit partnership of Indiana's public, private, and community college higher education institutions focused on advocating, implementing, and improving community engagement efforts so that students graduate as well-informed, engaged, and productive members of society who are fully enabled to provide leadership and service that advances the public good in their communities. Indiana Campus Compact is an affiliate of National Campus Compact, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

About The Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education

The Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education is an online, refereed journal concerned with exploring community engagement and community-based learning perspective, research, and practice. The journal publishes accounts of a range of research focusing on practical and theoretical insights and understanding, in higher education and across the disciplines and professions. There is a focus on case studies emphasizing community engagement and engaged learning practices, methodology, and pedagogy. The journal aims to establish and maintain a review of the literature of research and practice. It also provides a forum for dialogue on the methodological and epistemological issues, enabling different approaches to be subjected to critical reflection and analysis.