



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

## **JENNIFER BAUMGARTNER, JENNIFER CRAMER & ERIN SEGURA | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **BRIDGING CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITIES ORAL HISTORY IN ACTION**

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

Oral history offers unique opportunities in service-learning courses. In this presentation, three instructors representing different disciplines share their experiences with using oral history to facilitate engagement and deepening learning. While documenting community members' stories, students develop a deeper understanding of the strengths, needs, hopes and fears of others and a greater sense of civic responsibility and diverse perspectives. We will show how using Oral history projects in coursework benefits both student learning and the community.

#### **THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | LISTENING CLOSELY**

#### **BIO(S):**

##### **JENNIFER BAUMGARTNER**

Professor at Louisiana State University

##### **JENNIFER CRAMER**

Jen Cramer is the Director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History and has overseen all oral history projects for the LSU Libraries and manages an oral history collection of over 6,000 interviews with topics on Louisiana politics, culture, military, the environmental movement, civil rights, women's history, and coastal changes. Partnering with researchers, faculty, staff, and community groups, Cramer helps facilitate new and ongoing projects each year throughout the state. Cramer's particular research interests include veterans' history, the dynamics of community collaboration, and the intersection of trauma and oral history. For the LSU Ogden Honors College, Cramer teaches a seminar on Oral History and the Louisiana Veterans Experience. She served as the Media Review Editor for The Oral History Review from 2010-2018,

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and as a council member for OHA from 2016-2020, where she has been a member since 2000. She serves on several university and community committees.

**ERIN SEGURA**

Director of Louisiana French Studies at Louisiana State University