



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

LANE MCLELLAND & NEWLIN HUMPHREY | UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

CIVIC LEADERSHIP DIALOGUES & TEACHING SKILLS FOR CIVIC DISCOURSE

ABSTRACT:

In a world where calls for civic action threaten to devolve into political violence, citizens must find a renewed sense of trust in one another and in their institutions. If we are to foster a thriving democracy, the civic mission of higher education will have to include teaching skills for productive and respectful civic discourse. This session will share how the Civic Leadership Dialogues course is doing this work at The University of Alabama.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | DISSONANCE & RESILIENCE

BIO(S):

LANE MCLELLAND

As the executive director of the Crossroads Civic Engagement Center in the Division of Community Affairs at The University of Alabama (UA), Lane McLelland has worked for over 30 years, both inside and outside of higher education, to foster and develop individual and community capacity for working across social, religious, and political differences. She directs initiatives on campus and in the broader community to advance skills for civic dialogue and to enhance voter education and participation. Previously, McLelland served as the assistant director in UA's New College, where she designed its community-based research internship program in rural Walker County, Alabama.

NEWLIN HUMPHREY

Program Coordinator of the Crossroads Civic Engagement Center at the University of Alabama

Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025