



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

## **HOLLIE COST | AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

### **ESTABLISHING RESILIENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH A PROCESS-DRIVEN APPROACH**

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

Travel the journey of building trust-based relationships between universities and communities before launching collaborative initiatives. This presentation, featuring the Auburn University Rural Health Initiative (RHI) as a case study, outlines a versatile, phased process model. While focused on rural health, this model can be applied to various community priorities. Attendees will gain insights into effective engagement strategies and receive conversation guides and assessment instruments to enhance their own community partnerships and create impactful, sustainable collaborations.

#### **THEMATIC FOCUS: RESONANCE | LISTENING CLOSELY**

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

##### **HOLLIE COST**

Hollie Cost is the Assistant Vice President for University Outreach & Public Service at Auburn University. Her civic priorities include inclusivity, sustainability, health, wellness, and educational access. She was a special education professor at the University of Montevallo (2000-2020) and mayor of Montevallo (2012-2020). Hollie is a Leadership Alabama graduate, serves on several national boards, and co-founded Keys to the City Community Coaching. She holds a Ph.D. and master's in special education from Auburn University and was named one of 25 Women who Shape the State by This is Alabama.