

Service Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education

## AIYANNA EGINS, JOSH PODVIN, HAMILTON MASON, CECILIA VU, HERMELA SILESHI, LEXIANA POE, KYLIE BUDGE & SIERA ADAMS | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXPERIENCE UGA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERS THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING

### ABSTRACT:

This workshop will introduce an innovative, university-wide campus/community engagement program called Experience UGA. The unique field trip program brings over 7,000 students from the local school district to campus each year for a hands-on, curricular-based experiences. Participants in this session can expect to get a deeper understanding of the overall field trip program, and gain insight into the challenges and opportunities of a large-scale K-12 collaboration. Participants will also learn about our ambassador program and the innovative curriculum that prepares college students to serve and support these experiential learning opportunities local school children.

# THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | SURPRISING COLLABORATIONS

## BIO(S):

#### AIYANNA EGINS

Aiyana Egins serves as the program coordinator for Experience UGA where she oversees the programs' outreach efforts and facilitation of educational field trips for over 12,000+ students in the Clarke County School District on UGA's campus. She holds a B.A from Wesleyan College in Music and is currently pursuing a master's and certification in Music Therapy at UGA. Prior to this role, Aiyana has worked for two non-profits in Georgia focused on providing housing and employment for youth. While also serving as a volunteer for Girls Inc, the American Cancer Society, and National Diabetes Association. Aiyana started her own organization, You Go Girl Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025

Enterprises in 2017, to cultivate confidence in young women through social media, events, and seminars. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and taking part in events centered around instilling confidence in youth.

#### JOSH PODVIN

Assistant Director of Community Partnerships at University of Georgia

HAMILTON MASON Experience UGA Graduate Assistant

**CECILIA VU** Experience UGA Graduate Assistant

HERMELA SILESHI Experience UGA Ambassador

LEXIANA POE Experience UGA Ambassador

**KYLIE BUDGE** Experience UGA Ambassador

SIERA ADAMS Experience UGA Ambassador