



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

KRISTY HOWELL & ERICA WRENCHER | UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

FINDING OUR WHY AMONG... EVERYTHING ELSE: EXPLORING WHAT KEEPS COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARS OF COLOR INSPIRED TO DO THEIR WORK

ABSTRACT:

In this workshop, participants will learn from the stories of multiple community-engaged scholars of color what keeps them inspired to do the work. Through the application of methods from Participatory Action and Arts-Based Research, participants will leave the session with viable, scalable tools to improve their own research, pedagogy, and institutional service.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY

BIO(S):

KRISTY HOWELL

Kristy Wittman Howell received an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from Northern Illinois University and an MA in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities from Western Kentucky University. Before joining UNCG in 2024, she was Education & Engagement Coordinator in the Center for Sustainability at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Dr. Howell co-coordinated JCCC and the University of Kansas' first Center for Sustainability Across the Curriculum, an interdisciplinary workshop supporting faculty teaching social and environmental justice. Her research interests include SOTL in honors education and the history of higher education integration in the American South and Midwest.

ERICA WRENCHER

Erica Wrencher is a Black Mama-Scholar working with young folx, churches, and neighborhoods to build beloved communities through creating pockets of joy. Her teaching

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and faith-rooted community leadership spans rural and urban contexts in North Carolina and Illinois. Erica holds a Bachelor of Arts in History, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies and Cultural Foundations. She considers herself a human connection educator and primarily engages in arts-based research to understand the connections between joy, freedom dreaming, and education for young Black people.