



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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HARMONIZING FUTURES: EMPOWERING LIFELONG LEARNERS FROM FOSTER CARE TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ABSTRACT:

This panel session will showcase Embark Georgia, a comprehensive statewide initiative focused on enhancing the higher educational experiences of students who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness. Since its inception in 2012, Embark Georgia has mobilized public two- and four-year higher education institutions alongside child welfare and K-12 professionals to increase institutional capacity and create a robust support network. Led by a panel composed of Embark program planners, faculty researchers, and student mentors, this session will provide attendees with insights into our successful strategies for statewide engagement. The panelists will share their diverse perspectives on one of Embark's main initiatives, our pre-college summer programs for youth with experiences in foster care.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS

BIO(S):

KATHERINE ADAMS

Katherine is the Program Coordinator for and Associate Professor in the Higher Education Leadership and Practice doctoral program at the University of North Georgia, and a member of the Embark Research Consortium at the University of Georgia. Her research interests are in the areas of boundary spanning, higher education leadership, university-community partnerships, hidden student populations, and student research communication. Katherine is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship. As a person with lived experience, Katherine is active in her community to combat systemic homelessness.

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LORI TILLER

Dr. Lori Tiller is a senior public service faculty member at the University of Georgia's J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development and co-network director of Embark Georgia/ University of Georgia.

DAVID MEYER

David Meyers is a senior public service associate at the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia and co-network director of Embark Georgia/ University of Georgia.

ARDEN BAKARICH

ETV Program Operations Coordinator

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