



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

CATHY ESCHETE, ANNIE INSANA, RACHAEL FLYNN & HALLIE CADDY | BELMONT UNIVERSITY

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS: POLICY-DRIVEN INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD INTEGRATED EDUCATION

ABSTRACT:

This session is designed for educators, administrators, and policymakers seeking actionable strategies to enhance early childhood education. Participants will explore methods for conducting community needs assessments to pinpoint and address local issues, such as the need for accessible, affordable childcare. We'll discuss the alignment of high-quality programs with institutional missions and visions, the value of building partnerships among stakeholders, and ways to optimize resource use effectively. By the end of the session, participants will have a toolkit of practical strategies for developing or refining integrated early childhood and special education programs, alongside insights into navigating state policy implications.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY

BIO(S):

CATHY ESCHETE

Dr. Cathy Eschete is the Associate Dean and an Associate Professor in the College of Education at Belmont University. She has over 20 years of experience in education in both P-12 and higher education. She holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Special Education from Louisiana State University. She has presented at numerous professional conferences on topics, such as education policy, early childhood education, special education, and supporting children in the foster care system.

Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025

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