



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

**BRIDGID SHANNON, KATELYN PALMER, BETSY STAUDT  
WILLET & PAIGE RENTZ | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **CHORDS & CONTEXTS: COMMUNITY EMBEDDED LEARNING & COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Just as the context of a chord refers the way it fits into the structure of a piece of music, community embedded learning and communities of practice can empower students, community practitioners, and institutional partners alike to co-/compose and actualize individual and collective systems of belonging, unexpectedly productive reciprocal relationships, and coalitions that leverage intentional listening and meaningful, sustainable practices to unlock new collective capacity among place-based community ecosystems..

**THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY | PLAYING AROUND |  
SURPRISING COLLABORATIONS | LEARNING THE CHORDS**

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

#### **BRIDGID SHANNON**

Bridgid P. Shannon serves as Assistant Director for Community Engagement at Florida State University's Center for Leadership & Service and Southeast Regional Coordinator of PeaceJam Foundation. English and Intergenerational Studies were Brie's focus at Rollins College, followed by graduate studies in Children's and Young Adult Literature and Creative Writing at Hollins University (M.A. & M.F.A.). Her work stretches from 3-year-olds to senior citizens. Constants have been leadership, relationships, community ecosystems, and fostering positive, sustainable change by engaging stakeholder voices through art, literature, and storytelling. She has collaborated with youth in education, leadership, and service programming for more than 30 years.

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## **KATELYN PALMER**

Katelyn Palmer is a second-year Media and Communications Studies and Editing, Writing, Media Major. She currently serves as a PeaceJam Coach and Regional Leadership Team member, and EngageTLH Trip Facilitator with both Leon County Humane Society and Leon County Schools through Florida State University Center for Leadership & Service. Community engagement has been part of her individual and family ethos from a very young age. She is passionate about children's rights, dismantling racism, queer rights, women's rights, political balance, and structural equity. Katelyn endeavors to foster reciprocal, sustainable engagement relationships that support both individual and community capacity to thrive.

## **BETSY STAUDT WILLET**

Betsy Staudt Willet serves as the Program Manager for the PURPOSE research training fellowship at Florida A&M and Florida State University and board member at Connection First, Inc.. She is a peacemaker who develops thriving teams, designs catalytic programs, and applies systems thinking to build a better future. Betsy has a bachelors degree in Chemistry from Bucknell University, a master's in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a certificate in systems thinking from Cornell University. She spent 15 years in nonprofit leadership in the MidAtlantic before moving to Tallahassee, FL.

## **PAIGE RENTZ**

Paige Rentz is a recovering journalist who returned to Florida to redirect her passion for community and storytelling to the work of FSU's Center for Leadership & Service. She works with a student team to tell the stories of its people and programs working to make the world a better place. Paige also works with TEDxFSU and community-focused storytelling initiatives on campus. She is a graduate of Chipola College, Sarah Lawrence College, and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In her free time, Paige is likely searching for the perfect photo lighting, reading, or playing video games.