



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

**DR. AMANDA NELMS, DR. SALLY BARTON-ARWOOD &  
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## **DEVELOPING CAREER READINESS AND ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES THROUGH REFLEXIVE AGENCY**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

This interactive presentation will engage participants in the exploration of reflexivity as a vehicle to transform coursework. The presenters will share their experience engaging in personal reflexivity about course critical service-learning opportunities and how this process led to course amendments, including critical service-learning requirements and connection to Career Readiness competencies. The presenters will share their study pertaining to how these changes impacted student field experience reflections in class. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in reflexivity pertaining to current critical service-learning requirements.

### **THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS**

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

#### **AMANDA NELMS**

Dr. Amanda Nelms is an Associate Professor in the College of Education at Belmont University. She primarily teaches undergraduate and graduate courses within the English as an Additional Language teacher licensure program. During her time at Belmont, she has instructed Education courses that engage teacher candidates in experiential learning opportunities with PreK-12 students, and led a university project, BASIC grant, which explored university students' perceptions when engaged in critical service-learning with a focus on collaboration among public schools, non-profits, and university.

**DR. SALLY BARTON-ARWOOD**

Sally Barton-Arwood, Ph.D. is a Professor of Education at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. She has worked in the field of education for over 30 years across P-12 and higher education. Sally's teaching, research, and advocacy has focused on students with disabilities and teacher preparation. As part of this work, Sally has served as a higher education curriculum trainer and consultant. She has also been instrumental in building university, P-12 school, and community partnerships to better meet the needs of diverse student populations locally, nationally, and internationally in communities across Haiti. Throughout her career, Sally has remained centered on equity and inclusion within classroom spaces designed to support the belonging and success of all students.

**DR. LAUREN LUNSFORD**

Dr. Lauren Lunsford is a Professor in the Department of Education. Dr. Lunsford joined the Belmont faculty in 2006 and she has served Belmont University in a number of roles. Her work has centered on preparing teachers to meet the needs of all of their students, particularly in the areas of literacy and technology. She currently teaches in their newly launched Special Education program specifically teaching literacy courses and collaboration courses for teacher candidates.