



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

## **ANNA GANDY & KATE BOUCHILLON | AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

### **EMPOWERING COMMUNITY HEALTH: AUBURN UNIVERSITY RURAL HEALTH AMBASSADORS IN ACTION**

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

The Auburn University Rural Health Ambassadors program creates lasting impacts in underserved communities by fostering health equity, bridging resource gaps, and promoting wellness education. This presentation explores how community members collaborate to address rural health disparities, using creative partnerships and community-driven engagement. By focusing on connection, care, and the power of intergenerational collaboration, participants will learn how this innovative program cultivates resilience and equips volunteers with skills for lifelong service and learning.

#### **THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY | RESONANCE**

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

##### **ANNA GANDY**

As a graduate assistant with the AU Rural Health Initiative, I focus on addressing disparities in Alabama's rural communities, with focus on mental health. Currently pursuing a Master's in Clinical Mental Health at Auburn University, I bring a strong foundation from my undergraduate degrees in Criminology and Psychology from Mississippi State University. My commitment to service-learning is highlighted by my mentorship roles, where I've supported both the prison population and at-risk youth. Through these experiences, I aim to promote mental health awareness and advocate for equitable access to services in underserved areas.

##### **KATE BOUCHILLON**

AmeriCorps Vista and Staff Member at Auburn University Outreach and Public Service

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