GULF-SOUTH
SUMMIT

SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

MICHAEL RAHIMZADEH & MADISON WOODS | VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

"NO ONE WANTS TO WORK ANYMORE": STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE TODAY'S STUDENTS IN SERVICE LEARNING

ABSTRACT:

Engagement in service has shifted dramatically in recent years in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, new social technologies, and other social and political factors. As a result, practitioners have needed to reimagine our approaches to engaging students in service-learning opportunities. This interactive workshop explores the challenge of engaging current students in service by understanding their motivations. By unpacking generational trends and current barriers, we will develop new strategies to sell service as both meaningful and relevant.

THEMATIC FOCUS: PLAYING AROUND | DISSONANCE & RESILIENCE

BIO(S):

MICHAEL RAHIMZADEH

Michael Rahimzadeh (he/him) is a Program Coordinator in Student Organizations, Leadership, and Service at Vanderbilt University. His work focuses on student leader training and involvement programming as his area supports a portfolio of over 600 student organizations. Originally from Richmond, Kentucky, Mike received his A.B. in Anthropology from Princeton University prior to his Master's in Higher Education Administration at Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

MADISON WOODS

Madison Woods (she/her) is a Program Coordinator for Vanderbilt University's Student Organizations, Leadership, and Service. She primarily engages with Vanderbilt service initiatives by providing service leadership trainings and managing community partnerships between student volunteers and local organizations. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 2021 and her master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from The Ohio State University in 2023. Her professional interests lie in the intersection of community engagement, leadership education, and justice.