GULF-SOUTH
SUMMIT

SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

SABRINA WALTHALL | MERCER UNIVERSITY

NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS LEVERAGE GENERATIVE AI AND TIKTOK FOR INDIRECT SERVICE LEARNING

ABSTRACT:

Indirect service learning addresses broad community issues with clear benefits, though not for specific individuals. This work explores how nontraditional students in a science course used generative AI (ChatGPT) and TikTok to create educational videos on common diseases, earning micro-credentials as healthcare social media advocates. By leveraging technology, students gained transferable skills, blending creativity with practical application, and engaging in lifelong learning while making a tangible impact in their communities through innovative indirect service learning.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | PLAYING AROUND

BIO(S):

SABRINA WALTHALL

Dr. Sabrina L. Walthall is a professor of science at Mercer University, where she coordinates pre-health programs and integrates service learning into STEM education. Dr. Walthall has led several service learning initiatives that blend science education with community outreach including international service in Cape Town South Africa. Last year she received the Higher Education Curriculum Contribution Award for her commitment to a STEM-focused 501(3)c community partner. She was recently named a Fulbright Specialist and plans to bring STEM focused service learning to the global stage. Her research focuses on STEM education, global health, and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in academia

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