



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

**SUNJUNG THAO, YESEUL NAM, REUEL J. SHEPHERD,  
ABIGAIL BONE & EMMA PASIERB | UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

## **PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION THROUGH A SERVICE-LEARNING APPROACH**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

To foster harmony through diversity acceptance, our service-learning project paired college students with local children. 38 undergraduates taught 23 children various aspects of diversity, employing the learning-by-teaching principle. Assessments showed significant improvements in both groups' understanding of diversity. College students gained enhanced course comprehension and career insights, while children improved their ability to define and apply diversity concepts. The project demonstrated the effectiveness of early diversity education and its successful integration with educational skills.

**THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY | LEARNING THE CHORDS**

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

#### **SUNJUNG THAO**

Sunjung Kim Thao, an Associate Professor at the University of Central Arkansas, specializes in language, reading, and cognition in language-based learning disabilities. Her research focuses on using technology in assessment and intervention for language-learning disabilities. At UCA's clinic, she is involved in literacy assessment, diagnostics, and intervention. She leads the eyeRead lab, researching reading and learning. As a service-learning faculty liaison, she supports and trains faculty on best practices and advocates for the benefits of service-learning to faculty, students, and the community.

Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025

**YESEUL NAM**

Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas

**REUEL SHEPHARD**

Interim Executive Director at the University of Central Arkansas

**ABIGAIL BONE**

Undergraduate student at the University of Central Arkansas

**EMMA PASIERB**

Undergraduate student at the University of Central Arkansas