



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

SERENA BLOUNT | UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SERENDIPITY IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

ABSTRACT:

This presentation reviews the programmatic scaffolding necessary to create an efficient and well-oiled system of English intern placement. Emphasis is placed on the expansion of offerings developed with the goal of exposing liberal arts degree students to oft-overlooked career paths that demonstrate the flexibility and myriad applications of their degrees. Case studies will emphasize the serendipitous results of personal engagement with students in order to facilitate placements that have altered career paths through motivating and inspirational service-learning.

THEMATIC FOCUS: PLAYING AROUND | SURPRISING COLLABORATIONS | DISSONANCE & RESILIENCE

BIO(S):

SERENA BLOUNT

Dr. Serena Blount serves as Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of English at the University of Alabama. In this capacity, she has substantially developed and expanded a skeletal internship program into a robust set of offerings with systematized processes. Dr. Blount is active on the University of Alabama Neighborhood Partnership Program and the Council on Community-Based Partnerships. She was selected as a Community-Engaged Teaching Fellow in 23-24. She won her department's Outstanding Service award as well as an Excellence in Community-Engaged Teaching Award through the Division of Community Affairs in 2024.