SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

unmasking social CHANGE

Saturday
October 31, 2015
9:00am - 4:30pm

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Campus Compact Connecticut
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<td>9:00am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Registration and Breakfast</td>
<td>Beckham Hall, Fayerweather</td>
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<td>9:40am – 11:00am</td>
<td>Welcome and Keynote Speaker</td>
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<td>11:05am – 12:30pm</td>
<td>Workshop Session I</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:30pm – 2:45pm</td>
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Stay Connected

Download this schedule on Guidebook! Follow @CTCampusCompact, @Wes_SALD and @Wes_Engage on Twitter and connect with today’s conference using #unmaskchange. Reflect on your experiences, ask questions, share photos, and think big about social change with fellow students and change-makers!
Forwards, Backwards & Inside-Out: The Essential Elements in Planning a Service-Based Event (Usdan, Room 110)

This session will explore the ins and outs of planning and facilitating a large-scale, community service-based event. It will discuss essential elements of planning as well as marketing your cause to obtain backing from your supporters. Attendees will learn how to create a memorable event that has lasting impact on its participants and community.

Emily Cameron, Americorps *VISTA, Eastern Connecticut State University

Mindfulness and Social Justice: A Primer (Usdan, Room 108)

Mindfulness practices offer deep potential to mitigate prejudice and discrimination and facilitate de-identification with these dynamics among oppressed groups, while fostering self-compassion, assertiveness, and action among all impacted by the cycles of social injustice. This session will offer a brief guided mindfulness practice followed by a review of mindfulness research and theory relevant to social justice and leadership.

Tosca Braun, MA, Student, UConn
Diane Quinn, Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

The Art of Grantsmanship: Fundraising for Social Change (Usdan, Room 114)

This interactive workshop will serve as an introduction to the essential elements of grant writing from an educational equity standpoint. We will discuss how nonprofit organizations follow a logical approach in crafting their goals, objectives, plans and development strategies to secure funding streams and affect real social change.

Anne Hofmeister, Americorps *VISTA, Higher Edge

The Importance of Working in Collaboration to Serve Latino Communities (41 Wyllys, Room 110)

This presentation will focus on the importance of working in collaboration with grassroots organizations to improve the overall well-being of marginalized communities. There is a common intersection among domestic violence, mental health and trauma experienced by Latino families. In order to provide adequate support and interventions, we need to provide ongoing education by reaching out to community and family members.

Rocio Chang-Angulo, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UConn Health
Paloma Bayona, Program Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI CT)
Wendy Mota Kasongo, Director, Diversity and Accessibility, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
**The Poetics of Prison: A View from the Inside Out (41 Wyllys, Room 112)**

What is transparency in the prison industrial complex? This session, led by a student of the Wesleyan Center for Prison Education Program will explore the absurdity of the term "correctional facility", as well as the importance of access to a quality education.

*Bashaun Brown, Former CPE Student and Patricelli Center Entrepreneur in Residence
Maddie Neufeld, Wesleyan University ’12*

**The Transformative Experience of Global Immersion (41 Wyllys, Room 115)**

Sacred Heart University undergraduate and graduate students participate in distinct international service programs globally. This student panel will present on their experiences and on how participating in an international service program was pivotal in re-conceptualizing constructs such as youth development, geopolitical boundaries and philanthropy.

*Matthew Kaye, Ph.D., Director, Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, Sacred Heart University
Student Panelists, Sacred Heart University*

**Unmasking Your Privilege (41 Wyllys, Room 113)**

This interactive session will explore ways that we enjoy privileges based on being members of social identity groups in the United States. Following the activity, we will engage in conversation on practical ways we can shift our awareness of our privileges into actions for progress.

*Nikia Bryant, Program Coordinator, Parent Giving, Trinity College*

**Working Together to Promote Community Service: Using Social Media to Transform the Image of the Community (41 Wyllys, Room 114)**

This session will describe how faculty, staff and students work together at Eastern Connecticut State University to impact the community, highlighting a service-learning class that combines social media and volunteerism. The audience will be invited to discuss their own involvement with social media and promoting social change.

*Nicolas Simon, Professor of Sociology, Eastern Connecticut State University
Kimberly Armstrong Silcox, Director, Center for Community Engagement, Eastern Connecticut State University
Joshua Henton, Undergraduate Student, Eastern Connecticut State University*

**Lunch Exhibit: Grasping Intersectionality, One Photo at a Time (Beckham Hall, Fayerweather)**

Brad Watson’s exhibit centers around photography as the median of perspective to empower the voices of people from all walks of life, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the world.

*Bradford Watson, University of Connecticut*
**College Positive Volunteerism: Supporting College Access Through K-12 Programs**  
(Usdan, Room 108)

Do you work with a K-12 program? Do you want to promote a college going culture in your community? Our College Positive Volunteerism workshop will help mentoring, tutoring and youth development program volunteers provide students with resources to increase college enrollment and success for all students, especially those underrepresented.

*Carly Zerr*, Americorps *VISTA, CT Campus Compact*
*Emily Sawicki*, Americorps *VISTA, CT Campus Compact*

**Cross-Identity Collaboration Building for Social Change: Bring It to Your Community**  
(Usdan, Room 110)

Learn about the benefits of cross-identity collaboration building, and then how to start a B Stigma-Free Coalition on your college campus and in your community—bringing together diverse groups that care about the stigma that often happens due to people’s weight, mental illness, disease, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, height, race, gender, etc.

*Loretta Jay, MA*, Executive Director, B Stigma-Free

**In the Interest of Science: Promoting Awareness about the History and Future of African American and Latino Participation in STEM Fields**  
(41 Wyllys, Room 112)

Black and brown bodies have been exploited throughout America’s history in the "interest of science." Much of these atrocities have been suppressed from public and educational discourse, along with the numerous intellectual contributions that African Americans and Latinos made to the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The session will explore the issue of STEM participation using a social justice framework - discussing the role of institutional racism, conscious and unconscious bias, inequality in educational access, and sense of belonging is often missing among African American and Latino students and practitioners pursuing STEM fields.

*Renee Johnson-Thornton, Ph.D.*, Dean for Equity and Inclusion, Wesleyan University
*Aura Ochoa*, Undergraduate Student, Wesleyan University

**Putting Your Passion to Work**  
(41 Wyllys, Room 110)

Learn how to make an impact through your career in Putting Your Passion to Work. Participants will work to better understand themselves and how to be an effective change maker. We will also consider impact options, communicating passions, and career development as interests and passions grow and change.

*Erin Jouliot*, Graduate Student, University of Connecticut; Wesleyan Patricelli Intern
Rereading the Key Essay: What's a College Paper For? (Memorial Chapel)

"I guess I'm working on becoming a black writer in Mississippi and some folks around Millsaps College don't like the essays I'm writing in the school newspaper." -- Kiese Laymon, in *How to Slowly Kill Yourself in America Without Really Trying*

In this workshop, Kiese and Brit, who at the time was an Assistant Professor of Biology at Millsaps and chair of the Millsaps faculty's Student Affairs Committee, will lead a reading and discussion of "Laymon's Terms," which was published in 1995, with reflections on the controversy that followed. This controversy included a demand by Millsaps President George Harmon that the Student Affairs committee cease funding publication of the "Purple and White," the student-run newspaper in which "Laymon's Terms" appeared.

Kiese Laymon, Keynote Speaker; Associate Professor of English, Vassar College
Briton Shell, Co-Facilitator

Special Olympics Connecticut and SO College Clubs - Perfect Partners (41 Wylys, Room 114)

Learn how SO College Clubs can support the 14,000 Special Olympic athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities who are the athletes' teammates) statewide through fundraising, public awareness, social events, healthy practices, and training activities. Hear first-hand from our athletes how SO College and changing perceptions at the college level have directly affected them. You can make an impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities in your community.

Katie Femiak, Manager, Volunteer Services, Special Olympics Connecticut
Student Panelists, University of Connecticut

The American Dream (Usdan, Room 300)

Audience members will participate in a multi-dimensional workshop with everyone involved in an interactive relationship building process, critical social discussion, and a shared learning process. The session will focus on race, education, and realities associated with The American Dream.

Justin Evanovich, Assistant Clinical Professor, Educational Leadership, University of Connecticut

World Café: Exploring Methods of Building Conversations and Meaning Within Our Groups (41 Wylys, Room 115)

World Cafés are used to support conversations, build common language and understanding within groups, and to explore meaning on various topics. In this workshop, we will review the methodology created and supported by the World Café Community Foundation. The group will then participate in a world café discussion on meaningful service and explore as a small group what makes service meaningful.

Gina De Vivo Brassaw, Associate Director for Community Outreach, Student Activities, University of Connecticut
Creating and Presenting Socially Conscious Art
(Beckham Hall, Fayerweather)

The arts (including visual arts, music, theater, dance and other hybrid forms) have always been essential to social movements and in turn, have often reflected the world beyond the stage or the canvas. Artists, activists, teachers, administrators and any combinations thereof will learn inspiring yet sensible ways to foster creativity and social conscience in ways that work in tandem and enrich one another. We will explore how artists and activists can work together for more effective awareness and change.

Noah Baerman, Professor of Music, Wesleyan University

From Charity to Justice: Integrating Community Members into Service
(Usdan, Room 110)

What is charity-oriented service? What does justice-oriented service look like? We will discuss how justice-oriented service creates additional value for both student volunteers and community members. Together, we will develop strategies consistent with a justice-oriented service-learning framework to integrate community members more fully into their service-learning project.

Sarah Purtill, Northwestern Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Gender Spectrum
(41 Wyllys, Room 114)

Think that it as easy as "he said" or "she said"? Explore the world beyond the gender binary using multiple forms of media and discuss how you can be more inclusive as an individual or group utilizing open language, and an open mind.

Emily Blandford, Residence Hall Director, Housing and Residential Life, Eastern Connecticut State University

Social Justice: Beyond the Buzzword
(Usdan, Room 108)

Social Justice, Diversity, Inclusion. These common buzzwords are often used in business and on college campuses without a true understanding of what the REALLY mean. This session will dissect some of those buzzwords and their common misuse and will guide participants to create visions of what a socially just community truly looks like.

Bulaong Ramiz, Assistant Director, Student Activities and Leadership Development, Wesleyan University
Derek Hall, Director of Facilitator Training, The Discovery Center
**Storytelling and Power Building: Lessons from Undocumented Immigrant Youth Organizing in Connecticut**
(41 Wylys, Room 115)

Connecticut Students for a Dream is a youth-led network fighting for the rights of undocumented students and their families through education, advocacy, and empowerment. Our presentation will focus on the process of building a grassroots youth movement, from initial engagement and leadership development of members, to building power through telling stories, to raising consciousness within the wider community.

*Student Group Panelists, Connecticut Students for a Dream*

**Sustaining Community Engagement Beyond the Classroom**
(41 Wylys, Room 114)

Interested in establishing a more holistic approach to social change and community collaboration? This session will discuss the Global Engagement Fellows Program at Quinnipiac University as a possible model for other universities and as a unique approach to social justice. The Global Engagement Fellows Program provides a new pedagogical model for sustained engagement in social justice by having students participate in two human rights workshops; meet throughout the year with faculty/student fellows to discuss key readings; and collaborate, with community partners, on a social action project.

*Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, Associate Professor of Legal Studies, Quinnipiac University
Page-Ashley Campbell, Student, Quinnipiac University*

**The Human Rights Framework**
(41 Wylys, Room 112)

The human rights system was born out of a highly successful social justice movement that has worked to establish universal principles that govern how states should treat citizens and non-citizens. This workshop will foster an understanding of the complex web of institutions, laws, and norms that legitimize the human rights system.

*Zach Smith, Americorps *VISTA, Connecticut College*
Kiese Laymon is a black southern writer, born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. Laymon attended Millsaps College and Jackson State University before graduating from Oberlin College. He earned an MFA from Indiana University and is currently an Associate Professor of English at Vassar College.


*Long Division* was named one of the Best of 2013 by BuzzFeed, The Believer, Salon, Guernica, Contemporary Literature, Mosaic Magazine, Library Journal, Chicago Tribune and the Crunk Feminist Collective. It was also short-listed for the Believer Book Award, the Ernest Gaines Award and the Morning News Tournament of Books. *Long Division* won the 2014 Saroyan International Writing Award on November 10th.

Three essays in "How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America" have been included in the Best American series, the Best of Net award, and the Atlantic’s Best Essays of 2013.

Laymon was selected a member of the Root 100 in 2013 and 2014. He is the recipient of the 2015-2016 Grisham Writer in Residence Fellowship at the University of Mississippi. He has three books forthcoming including a UK edition of *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others* with Bloomsbury in February 2016, as well as *A Fat Black Memoir* to be released this upcoming Spring and a novel *And So On* which can be expected in the Spring of 2017, both from Scribner.
About the Conference

Steering Committee

Central Connecticut State University: Jessica Hernandez—Program Coordinator, Community Engagement

Connecticut College: Kim Sanchez—Associate Director, Office of Volunteers for Community Service

CT Campus Compact: Matthew Farley—Executive Director
  Kaytee Stewart—Program Coordinator
  Colleen Dorney—Americorps "VISTA Leader"

Eastern Connecticut State University: Luis Rodriguez—Assistant Director, Center for Community Engagement

Fairfield University: Karen Pritchard—Program Coordinator, Center for Faith and Public Life

Norwalk Community College: Courtney Anstett—Coordinator, Service-Learning

Special Olympics Connecticut: Kathryn Femiak—Manager, Volunteer Services
  Marc Mercadente—Senior Director, Community Impact Department

St. Vincent’s College: Kathryn Coutu—Director, Academic Service Learning and Student Engagement Department

University of Connecticut: Sara Cook—Program Coordinator, Office of Community Outreach

University of Saint Joseph: Karonica Davidson—Coordinator, Community and Civic Engagement

Wesleyan University: Elisa Cardona—Director, Student Activities and Leadership Development
  Victoria King—Undergraduate Student
  Diana Martinez—Coordinator, Office of Community Service
  Shardonay Pagett—Undergraduate Student
  Bulaong Ramiz—Assistant Director, Student Activities and Leadership Development
  Jennifer Roach—Civic Engagement Fellow

Sponsors
About the Conference

About Wesleyan’s Social Justice Leadership Conference

The Social Justice Leadership Conference (SJLC) is a collaborative effort which provides a space for students, student groups, community members, alumni, faculty, and staff to discuss social justice and to learn and refine leadership skills. SJLC seeks to empower its participants to create change by applying the skills and knowledge acquired during the conference.

Students, student groups, alumni, community members, faculty and staff facilitate sessions in their area of interest or expertise. Sessions focus on leadership skills that may be applied to any social movement and on the many manifestations of injustice and how participants can be involved in creating change. SJLC provides participants with resources and opportunities for engagement on campus, in Middletown, in Connecticut and across the globe.

Connecticut Campus Compact

Campus Compact, founded in 1985 by the presidents of Brown, Georgetown and Stanford Universities and the president of the Education Commission of the States, is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents dedicated to civic engagement. With a national office and 34 state affiliates, Campus Compact promotes community service that develops students’ citizenship skills and helps campuses forge effective community partnerships. Campus Compact believes that higher education is vital to the success of our democracy by preparing students for active public participation. Connecticut Campus Compact (CTCC) is comprised of 28 public and private college and universities throughout Connecticut, making it uniquely positioned as the only organization in the state that represents both private and public institutions. CTCC member campuses are committed to involving students, faculty, and staff in reciprocal partnerships in order to enhance students’ academic, civic and personal development while simultaneously meeting the self-identified needs of communities. CTCC supports the integration of community engagement into the academic and co-curricular cultures of its member campus network by sponsoring faculty and professional development, funding high quality initiatives, advocating for critical priorities, and building reciprocal, cross sector partnerships.

educating citizens · building communities