

Outstanding Posters of 2012 Announced at National Outreach Scholarship Conference

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Five research posters were recognized for making outstanding scholarly contributions at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium's (ESC) 2012 National Outreach Scholarship Conference in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. ESC President Hiram E. Fitzgerald of Michigan State University announced the poster award recipients during the closing session of the annual meeting on October 3rd, 2012.

Posters were rated on the basis of their quality of engagement scholarship content, textual clarity, and visual/graphic quality. A panel of judges reviewed more than 50 posters from an impressive field of national and international submissions. It is the second year that the ESC has sponsored a special recognition program for scholarly work presented as a poster.

Each group of presenters receiving an outstanding poster award is invited to publish an abstract of their work in a special issue of the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* (JCES) to be published in 2013. The JCES special issue is based on the themes of the 2012 National Outreach Scholarship Conference: **Partner. Inspire. Change.**

The ESC comprises 20 universities that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity. Its 14th annual conference will be held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas on October 8-10, 2013.

2012 Outstanding Poster Award recipients include:

- **The Impact of Incentives on Nutrition Education and Behavior**
Jo Britt-Rankin, Candance Gabel, and Kimberly J.M. Keller (University of Missouri)
This project was designed to assess the impact of nutrition education and the use of monetary support for food purchases on positive dietary behavior changes.
- **Improving Classroom Instruction: Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative**
Elizabeth Hickman (Auburn University)
The Alabama Department of Education's initiative to improve math and science statewide includes design, partnerships, sustainability, evaluation, and pre-service programs. The mission is to improve student learning by providing all students in grades K-12 with the knowledge and skills needed for success in the workforce and/or secondary studies.
- **Long-Term Effects of Service-Learning on Students' Civic Engagement After College**
Shannon Wilder (University of Georgia)
Survey research examines the long-term effects of service-learning participation on civic engagement behaviors and beliefs of students enrolled in a specific service-learning course at one institution from 2004-2011 compared to a similar population of alumni who did not take this service-learning course.

- **Partnering with Local Communities to Enhance Rural Mental Health**

Chao-Hui Huang, Latrice Vinson, Susan Guin, and Martha R. Crowther (University of Alabama)

The West Alabama Mobile Unit Project aims to provide engaged scholarship and a community/university partnership in Alabama's Black Belt region to deliver accessible, innovative, and quality mental health care for rural residents.

- **Voice Matters: Lessons Learned from Women in a Historically Marginalized Community About How Service Learning Can Inform Research**

Michelle Laws (Virginia Commonwealth University)

The exclusion of the target population at the front end of the research process can often lead to interventions that show little or no effect in terms of creating positive change in health behaviors and health status. The poster addresses whether service-learning can benefit community-based research.

More poster award information is available on the [Engagement Scholarship Consortium](http://engagementscholarship.org) website: <http://engagementscholarship.org/awards/esc-poster-award>.

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The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is committed to excellence in the scholarship and practice of engagement locally and globally. The ESC has articulated a broad scholarly agenda that includes:

- Researching and studying throughout the world, the scholarship of engagement
- Facilitating international cooperation among individuals concerned with promoting conditions that will bring about engaged scholarship as a criterion influencing higher education faculty performance evaluations
- Encouraging the realization that the scholarship of engagement is a critical aspect of university responsibility
- Promoting education, research and study of the effects of engaged scholarship on community-campus partnerships
- Promoting research and study of the impacts of community-campus partnerships
- Conducting meetings, workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences and congresses domestically and throughout the world
- Disseminating research (original, basic and applied) from a wide variety of disciplines on the impact of campus-community partnerships
- Discussing and sharing questions, problems, issues, information and theories regarding campus-community partnerships
- Advancing the study of campus-community partnerships and educating the public on effective programs for community change
- Publishing and communicating through print and electronic media the proceedings (including abstracts and scientific papers) of the aforementioned workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences or congresses
- Publishing and disseminating research on the scholarship of engagement through newsletters, books, monographs, reports, studies and periodicals, in any language, and also to make the foregoing available through electronic media

Additional information is available at: <http://engagementscholarship.org/>.