

National Outreach Scholarship Conference Names Outstanding Posters of 2011

Contact: Hiram E. Fitzgerald, President, Engagement Scholarship Consortium, and Associate Provost, Michigan State University, Office of University Outreach and Engagement, (517) 353-8977, fitzger9@msu.edu; Burton A. Bargerstock, Chair, 2011 Implementation Committee, National Outreach Scholarship Conference, and Director, UOE Communication and Information Technology, Michigan State University, (517) 353-8977, bargerst@msu.edu

October 4, 2011

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Engagement Scholarship Consortium has announced five outstanding posters presented at its 2011 National Outreach Scholarship Conference (NOSC), inaugurating a recognition program for scholarly work from an impressive group of national and international submissions.

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) is composed of 15 universities that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity.

ESC President Hiram E. Fitzgerald of Michigan State University announced the outstanding poster award recipients during the NOSC closing session. Posters were rated on the basis of their contribution to the conference theme, and for their textual content and visual/graphic quality. A panel of judges reviewed over 110 posters presented during the October 2-4, 2011 meeting in East Lansing, Michigan. It is the first time poster awards have been presented at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference.

Each group of presenters receiving the award has been invited to publish an abstract of their work in a special issue of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, to be published in 2012.

2011 Outstanding Poster Award recipients include:

- **Exploring Competencies for Manufacturing Education Partnership (MEP) Centers**

Diane Chapman and Kate G. Guerdat
North Carolina State University

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center staff work with small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers to help them create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. This poster presentation displays the results of this research into MEP staff competencies, including competency list development and efforts to validate the competencies.

- **Mapping a Strategic Plan for Health: Community-Based Participatory Research with Underserved, Low-income, Urban Neighborhoods**

Gail Zandee
Calvin College

Since 2002, community-based participatory research methods have been used by the Nursing Department to map out a strategic plan for health for three urban low-income, underserved neighborhoods. The strategic plans unite community members, nursing students and nursing faculty, and neighborhood organizations around the top health concerns identified by residents living in each neighborhood.

- **Measuring Academic Capacity: Research in Relationship**

Fay Fletcher, Lola Baydala, Stephanie Worrell, Barbara McLean, and Davina Rousell
University of Alberta

Community-university researchers work within and between many communities, each having unwritten rules, policies, and ways of being that are at times aligned and at other times in conflict. In this poster presentation, academic researchers discuss focus group findings, exploring their capacity to work within and between academic and First Nations communities.

- **Student and Community Partner Expectations for Effective Community-Engaged Learning Partnerships**

Holly Stack-Cutler and Sara Dorow
University of Alberta

Encouraging student and community partner feedback about their community-engaged learning (CEL) experiences can lead to understanding promising CEL practices. The authors discuss findings from a workshop in which students involved in CEL described their placement expectations, and from a survey of community partners' perspectives on working with students and university CEL partnerships.

- **Transformative Experiences of Study Abroad: Engagement, Instructor-Led and Immersion Programs**

Natalie Graham and Pat Crawford
Michigan State University

Study abroad is famed for fostering transformative experiences for college students. Does the type of program make a difference? This poster provides a comparative analysis of the transformative experiences of students' participation in three distinct program types: engagement, instructor-led, and immersion. The authors present analysis of 24 in-depth interviews.

This year's event brought together more than 500 attendees from 75 universities and colleges in 29 U.S. states and five additional countries, including Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, and South Africa.

The 2011 conference theme, Engaged Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice, included five tracks that addressed a wide range of topics, ranging from technology to innovation to globalization.

#####

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://outreachscholarship.org>.