



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

MARY-JO PARKER | UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

STEM MAJOR ADVOCATES AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

ABSTRACT:

The goal of service learning is to examine the STEM leaders and the power they bring, either directly or indirectly, to their community as a result of responsible scientific knowledge and advocacy thereof to middle school-aged students.

Advocacy through service has shown the program can encourage STEM undergraduates' clarity and understanding of the role they have as advocate leaders serving their communities.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | DISSONANCE & RESILIENCE

BIO(S):

MARY-JO PARKER

Mary Jo Parker, Ed.D., is a first-generation, Hispanic, and faculty member in the Natural Sciences at University of Houston-Downtown, a federally designated Hispanic-serving and Minority-serving institution. She also is the Executive Director of the Scholars Academy, an academic unit in the supporting STEM majors. She brings extensive experience in curriculum and development, supervision and leadership at K-12 and higher education, K-16 outreach and STEM recruitment, online instruction, teaching non-majors biology in the online environment, and closing the achievement gap for minority STEM students. Dr. Parker has incorporated service learning into the University Seminar (Transfers) and Human biology online core courses successfully. Her research focuses primarily on understanding mentoring on underrepresented STEM undergraduates and effective learning in online environments.

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