



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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BRIDGING SILOS: STUDENT SCHOLARS' CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION IN RESPONSE TO REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS

ABSTRACT:

In response to "organizational silos" hindering homeless services, the Resiliency Think Tank unites undergraduates as an interdisciplinary team for a service-learning engagement. This project empowers students to explore the intersection of their professions and homelessness. Using community needs assessments, students develop and lead projects addressing child and family homelessness and post-secondary student vulnerabilities and marginalizations. The RTT model fosters cross-sector collaboration, empowering students to address community-identified needs through innovative, student-driven solutions.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Blockage and Clearance: Physical, infrastructural, financial, or organizational barriers or portals to community engagement.

Convergence and Intersections: How increasing or decreasing hyperconnectivity can impact community engagement.

BIO:

Dr. Janeal White is an Assistant Professor and the Family Science Internship Coordinator at Lamar University. She champions impactful service-learning that uses authentic, lived-experience needs assessments, believing this approach fosters dignity by honoring individuals as experts in their own lives. As Faculty Lead of the Resiliency Think Tank, Dr. White guides an interdisciplinary student team exploring poverty, homelessness, and resiliency through community outreach, inspiring projects that address real needs. With over 30 years in youth development, she is committed to empowering students and communities via experiential learning.