



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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CIVIL RIGHTS IN CONTEXT: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, CHALLENGING SCHOLARS, CELEBRATING PROGRESS

ABSTRACT:

Under Director Ted Ellis, Florida State University's Civil Rights Institute (CRI) encourages the intersection between interdisciplinary study, creative expression, and civic engagement as a pathway to safeguarding civil rights. The CRI hosts workshops, speaker series, art galleries, history trips, and more. CRI's Student Committee Chairs reflect upon these experiences, highlighting what they reveal about the modern progression of the Civil Rights Movement and the untapped potential of academic institutions and service agencies for community empowerment.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Shifting Foundations: Modern fundamental changes in how communities form, change, and represent themselves.

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

Gauging the Waters: Using research and assessment to course correct or gain deeper insight.

BIO(S):

Katelyn Palmer is an Editing, Writing, and Media/Media and Communication Studies student, serving as a Community Ambassador Program Peer Mentor and an EngageTLH facilitator.

Josiah Rivette, a Political Science and International Affairs major with minors in Economics and Philosophy, works as an OPS Aide in the Florida Senate and holds leadership positions in the Black Student Union Cabinet, Student Foundation, and Renegade Leadership Honor Society.

Eryn Files, an International Affairs and U.S. Intelligence major, serves as Presidential Scholars' Outreach Chair, BSU's Professional Development Co-Chair, and a prison reform intern. Together, they chair FSU's Civil Rights Institute Student Committee.