



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

KENDRICK HENSON, MARCUS WASHINGTON | BATON ROUGE YOUTH COALITION (BRYC)

BEYOND BATON ROUGE: BUILDING COMMUNITY AS NEWCOMERS

ABSTRACT:

How can newcomers authentically engage in service-learning communities? This session highlights two BRYC staff, Marcus Washginton (Director of Operations) and Kendrick Henson (Learning Manager), who relocated to Baton Rouge and built trust with Fellows, families, and partners. Drawing from operations and curriculum, they share lessons on creating access through infrastructure, empowering youth voice through participatory research, and honoring local culture. Participants will gain insights into how “outsiders” can respectfully enter, listen, and become bridge-builders in new communities.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

BIO(S):

Marcus joined BRYC in December 2024 with over 20 years of experience in youth development and advocacy. As director of operations, he ensures BRYC's Downtown, Airline, and Iberville sites deliver world-class programs and services, while overseeing the tech library, transportation program, and office support team. Marcus holds a bachelor's in community health and wellness from Rhode Island College. His career spans youth sports coaching, Montessori education, gang prevention counseling, and executive leadership at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South. Originally from Rhode Island, Marcus enjoys basketball, board games with his wife and four children, and movies.

Kendrick joined BRYC in June 2024 as eighth grade learning manager, leveraging his classroom teaching experience to enhance Fellows' research skills, engage them in socioemotional learning, and prepare them for the ACT. In his second year, he is rebuilding the YPAR curriculum, connecting Fellows to community leaders and offering opportunities for service. Originally from Dallas, Kendrick earned a bachelor's in honors sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. Before BRYC, he taught social studies at IDEA University Prep, earning Teacher of the Year while coaching basketball to a league championship. He is pursuing a master's in curriculum studies from LSU and enjoys family time, music, sports, and hiking.