



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

DR. MARGARET JELINEK LEWIS | LONE STAR COLLEGE - TOMBALL

REAPING THE BENEFITS: CONNECTING STUDENTS THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING AND FOOD

ABSTRACT:

This presentation describes several inter- and intra-campus service learning projects that address food insecurity among our students and across our community. Dr. Jelinek Lewis will describe the development of a service learning program from a one-night food banquet to a cross-campus collaboration. As the program expanded, so did the diversity of students who were involved. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of challenges and future directions.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

BIO:

Margaret Jelinek Lewis, PhD, is a psychology professor and International Faculty Fellow at Lone Star College – Tomball. Over the past twenty years, she has incorporated service learning projects into her psychology courses, including building a community playground and coordinating hospice volunteers. More recently, she has guided students in Honors and International Education in developing service learning programs around the topics of food insecurity, immigration, and neurodiversity. A follower of servant leadership, Margaret is also involved in Scouting America and faith-based service initiatives. She currently also serves as behavioral sciences department chair.

Houston, TX | March 26-28, 2026