



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

KAREN RAYMOND, JOSH PODVIN | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COACHING4SUCCESS: A BRIDGE CONNECTING COLLEGE WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS THROUGH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

ABSTRACT:

This session will examine a partnership between the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Clarke County School District (CCSD) to establish an after-school academic and sports mentoring program. Initial strategies to tackle social-emotional skills, increase mentorship opportunities, and create more meaningful relationships between the community and the university will be shared. The session will explore considerations for, and initial reflections on, program design, launch, and implementation considering a variety of stakeholder perspectives.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Floods and Droughts: Too much of one thing, not enough of another. How complimentary partnership can fill the gaps.

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

BIO(S):

Karen Raymond serves as the Community Partnerships Coordinator, where she leads the Coaching 4 Success program—an after-school sports and academic coaching initiative aimed at empowering elementary school children in the Clarke County School District. In this role, Karen coordinates UGA volunteers who mentor students, helping them develop vital social-emotional skills alongside their athletic pursuits. Karen earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Georgia Southern University and a Master of Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology, along with a Global Health Certificate, from the University of Georgia. Her commitment to enhancing the health and wellbeing of children at this critical stage of their development fuels her passion for public health and her work with the Coaching 4 Success program. Prior to her current role, she contributed to addressing public health needs across Georgia as a graduate assistant with the Archway Partnership, another Public Service and Outreach unit at UGA.

Joshua Podvin serves as the Assistant Director for the Office of Service-Learning, focusing on community partnerships and engagement. In this role, he supports the "Engage Georgia" platform, coordinates communication and support of community partners, special projects and days of service, and helps promote reciprocity and partnership with the local community.

He previously served as the Experience UGA Coordinator, facilitating educational field trips to the UGA campus for all 13,000+ students in the Clarke County School District. He is a graduate of the Public Service & Outreach Vivian H. Fisher Leadership Academy and the Public Service & Outreach Facilitation Academy.

Prior to joining the Office of Service-Learning, Josh worked as the Senior Coordinator for the Center for Student Organizations and National Student Exchange Program at UGA for 9 years. Josh earned his M.Ed in Higher Education Administration from Arizona State University in 2006, and more recently he has been pursuing a Masters in Landscape Architecture part-time while working full-time for UGA.

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