



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

DR. TANU ALTOMARE | MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

FROM THE GULF TO THE VALLEY: TRANSLATING TEACHING VALUES INTO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

ABSTRACT:

The presenter will share how her professional experiences at a university in Texas shaped her current teaching philosophy at a university in Pennsylvania. She will highlight four community engagement projects focused on health equity and environmental health, detail their integration into the undergraduate public health curriculum, and assess their impact on students' perceptions of self-confidence and self-efficacy. Attendees will reflect on and share their own teaching philosophies through the lens of service and experiential learning.

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:

Dr. Tanu Altomare joined the Moravian University faculty in 2022. Her scholarship examines perceptions of drinking water quality and safety among Lehigh Valley residents. In her teaching, she actively partners with local organizations, including Monocacy Farm Project, Wildlands Conservancy, Monocacy Creek Watershed Association, and William Penn Elementary, to develop community-based, experiential learning opportunities in environmental health. Prior to her appointment at Moravian, Dr. Altomare served as Assistant Director for Supplemental Instruction at the University of Houston-Downtown, where she trained and supervised over 200 undergraduate tutors and mentored student research in higher education.