



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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## **CULTIVATING A SENSE OF BELONGING WITH THE UHD STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

This will be a panel discussion regarding the UHD Student Photography Project, which asks our introductory history students to snap photographs highlighting Houston area sites that are dear to them and their community and that require historical preservation. The Project culminates in a student photo exhibition and contest. We will trace the project's origins and evolution, discuss how we partnered with local historic-preservation organizations, and share practical guidance for adapting this service-learning model in other cities.

### **THEMATIC FOCUS:**

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

### **BIO:**

Theresa Case earned her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin and has taught at the University of Houston-Downtown since 2002. She teaches the history of US women, the New South, industrial America, and the US before and after 1877. She also instructs first-year seminar classes and a course on historical research and writing. At UHD, Dr. Case has served as history coordinator and assistant chair, organized student research conferences, developed University seminar courses and history courses, and led student success initiatives. In 2018-2022, she was chief liaison for the Gateways to Completion (G2C) Project, a partnership between the UHD History Program, the Gardner Institute, and the American Historical Association to advance student success in introductory history courses. Dr. Case's research area is late nineteenth-century and early-twentieth century US, especially social and cultural history. Her 2010 book, *The Great Southwest Railroad Strike and Free Labor*, revisited the history of a pair of massive strikes on the southwestern system of railroads. In 2021, Dr. Case published her research on Black railroaders' grassroots labor and civil rights protest during and after WWI. It won the 2021 H. Bailey Carroll Award for Best Article in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.