



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCES

ABSTRACT:

This presentation highlights Make an Impact Day, a large-scale service-learning initiative embedded within Morehead State University's First-Year Seminar. Designed to introduce over 1,000 new students annually to civic responsibility, the program connects academic learning to purposeful community action. Through reflection, collaboration, and partnership, Make an Impact Day demonstrates how institutions can create scalable, sustainable pathways of community that prepare students for lifelong engagement while addressing local needs. Participants will leave with replicable strategies for their campuses.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

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

BIO:

Andrew Sexton has a passion for serving others and lifelong learning. He is the Coordinator of Service Learning at Morehead State University where he champions community engagement by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to reciprocally share knowledge and resources throughout MSU's service region. Andrew leads the Engaged Eagles Initiative at MSU, which involves 1) a foundational, first-year service experience known as Make an Impact Day, and 2) (co)curricular, faculty-led service projects across a wide variety of disciplines.

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