



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

HEIDI GROGGER, SARA HAND, SETH BROOKSHIRE | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIPS

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION: HOW THE CONNECTED RESILIENT COMMUNITIES MODEL STRENGTHENS LOCAL CAPACITY THROUGH DATA AND PARTNERSHIPS

ABSTRACT:

Learn how the University of Georgia's Connected Resilient Communities initiative turns local data and dialogue into collaborative action. This session showcases a step-by-step model for convening community partners, defining shared priorities, and linking them with university courses and institutes to advance rural resilience and applied student learning.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Shifting Foundations: Modern fundamental changes in how communities form, change, and represent themselves.

BIO:

Heidi Grogger serves as the Connected Resilient Communities Archway Professional with the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership. In this role, she supports rural communities across Georgia in using data-informed collaboration to strengthen local capacity and student-engaged learning. Heidi brings more than a decade of experience leading statewide and community-based initiatives in early childhood systems, evaluation, and design thinking. She is passionate about bridging higher education and local leadership to create inclusive, sustainable solutions that reflect community voice. Heidi holds a Master of Social Work and has extensive experience facilitating multi-sector partnerships and participatory design processes.

Houston, TX | March 26-28, 2026