



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

**EMILY GIBSON, DAVID JONES | EngageKY**

## LAYING A NEW FOUNDATION: CO-CREATION AS A PATH TO COLLECTIVE ACTION

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### ABSTRACT:

Looking for a new, energizing way to bring your class, organization, or community together? Co-creation is a powerful approach that taps into the collective wisdom, skills, and lived experiences of every member of a group. More than just a method, it's a mindset—one that transforms collaboration into a meaningful, community-building experience. In this session, you'll discover the core principles of co-creation and explore practical ways to bring it to life in your own group.

### THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

### BIO(S):

As the Training Manager for EngageKY, Emily Gibson's work includes developing and supporting training required for EngageKY's AmeriCorps service members to thrive in their service. As a former AmeriCorps service member herself, she views service as a personal and professional learning experience and is passionate about partnering with current service members to co-create training content and craft opportunities for growth while serving. Emily completed her undergraduate work and Master of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She currently resides in Elizabethtown, KY with her retired Army Veteran spouse, 2 teenagers, dog and rabbit.

David Jones serves as the Program Coordinator for Training with EngageKY, where he empowers teams and communities to co-create actionable plans that address immediate needs and long-term goals. Committed to collaboration and diversity, he helps build resilient networks that adapt to change and foster sustainable progress. A Greenville, South Carolina native, David graduated from Furman University in 1986 and earned a Master of Divinity in Religious Education and Communications from Southern Seminary in 1990. With over 30 years of experience working with middle through college students, he has led numerous service-learning initiatives across varied communities and needs.