



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

## MADISON DRUMMOND, DR. GREG WILSON | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

### INTEGRATING STUDENTS INTO COMMUNITY- ENGAGED WORK: THE PROPEL RURAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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#### ABSTRACT:

The PROPEL Rural Scholars Program is an experiential learning opportunity for University of Georgia undergraduate students focused on real-world knowledge building through exposure to rural economic and community development. After training, interdisciplinary project teams partner with rural Georgia communities to provide additional capacity in support of the community's identified development goals. This opportunity brings together community expertise with student learning for mutually beneficial impact. This program will focus on curriculum and community impact demonstrated since 2022.

#### THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

**Floods and Droughts: Too much of one thing, not enough of another. How complimentary partnership can fill the gaps.**

#### BIO:

As a Research Professional, Madison Drummond provides technical assistance and project management for community and economic development clients, particularly focusing on rural communities. She manages and conducts research for the Institute of Government's PROPEL rural economic development capacity-building program. Madison formerly served as the Institute's Student Engagement Manager. Prior to joining the Institute of Government in 2023, Madison served in a variety of roles within Student Affairs in Georgia, Virginia and Florida. Madison is a first-generation college graduate, and is pursuing a PhD in Workforce Education at the University of Georgia.