



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

DR. JORDIN LANE, DR. KIM MCCALL | UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

TOOLS FOR CHANGE: TRANSFORMING BARRIERS INTO COMMUNITY PORTALS

ABSTRACT:

This presentation showcases how academic-community partnerships transform systemic barriers into organizational portals for empowerment. By working with multiple levels of government—including the Housing Authority, City of Birmingham, Park and Recreation Department, and the District Attorney's Office—programs such as WILAH, REPAIR Angels, SAFEHaven/Youth Tools for Life, and SAFEGuard empower women, youth, and elders. These initiatives combine practical skills with advocacy, fostering resilience and leadership while illustrating scalable, government-supported models for equity, inclusion, and sustained community engagement.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

BIO:

Dr. Jordin Lane, PhD, MA, CHES, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. A Faculty Fellow in Service Learning, she integrates academic coursework with meaningful community engagement, preparing students to address real-world health challenges. Her work emphasizes collaborative partnerships with local organizations such as the Women Under Construction Network and the Housing Authority of Birmingham, advancing initiatives that promote empowerment, resilience, and equity. Through teaching, mentorship, and evaluation, Dr. Lane bridges scholarship and service to strengthen communities.

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