



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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BEYOND BATON ROUGE: BUILDING COMMUNITY AS NEWCOMERS

ABSTRACT:

How can newcomers authentically engage in service-learning communities? This session highlights two BRYC staff, Marcus Washginton (Director of Operations) and Kendrick Henson (Learning Manager), who relocated to Baton Rouge and built trust with Fellows, families, and partners. Drawing from operations and curriculum, they share lessons on creating access through infrastructure, empowering youth voice through participatory research, and honoring local culture. Participants will gain insights into how “outsiders” can respectfully enter, listen, and become bridge-builders in new communities.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

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

BIO(S):

Kendrick joined BRYC in June 2024 as eighth grade learning manager, leveraging his classroom teaching experience to enhance Fellows' research skills, engage them in socioemotional learning, and prepare them for the ACT. In his second year, he is rebuilding the YPAR curriculum, connecting Fellows to community leaders and offering opportunities for service. Originally from Dallas, Kendrick earned a bachelor's in honors sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. Before BRYC, he taught social studies at IDEA University Prep, earning Teacher of the Year while coaching basketball to a league championship. He is pursuing a master's in curriculum studies from LSU and enjoys family time, music, sports, and hiking.

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