RE-IMAGINING OUR FIVE COLLEGE CAMPUS-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
A VIRTUAL REFLECTION & DIALOGUE

THURSDAY MAY 13: 4-6 PM / THURSDAY MAY 20: 4-6 PM

These two zoom sessions explore how community organizations, community members, activists and organizers can work with Five College faculty, students, and staff to share resources, shift power and support meaningful relationships in our collaborative work.

AGENDA

THURSDAY MAY 13

4:00 - 4:20  Welcome / Land Acknowledgement / Icebreaker

4:20 - 4:50  Keynote Conversation:
History and Context of Holyoke’s Campus-Community Compact
Maria Salgado-Cartagena, Hampshire College
Joseph Krupczynski, UMass Amherst
MODERATOR: Mary Bombardier, Hampshire College

4:50 - 5:00  Break

5:00 - 5:45  Break-out Rooms
There will be five rooms based on the principles outlined in Holyoke’s Campus-Community Compact. Participants will be able to select the group/topic that most interests them. The objective of these conversations will be to assess the principles outlined in the compact, apply them broadly to all engagement work throughout our region, and address how we can better share resources, shift power and support equitable relationships in our collaborative work.

Principle 1: RECIPROCAL COLLABORATIONS
Principle 2: SHARE POWER & BUILD TRUST
Principle 3: PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY NEEDS
Principle 4: PROVIDE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
Principle 5: BUILD CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY

5:45 - 6:00  Closing & Evaluation

THURSDAY MAY 20

4:00 - 4:20  Welcome / Land Acknowledgement / Icebreaker

4:20 - 4:50  Keynote Conversation:
Our Engagement Histories + the Present Moment
We will discuss the origins of reciprocal engagement between the Five Colleges and local communities with a review of Holyoke’s Campus-Community Compact. We will also explore the current landscape of community engagement across the Pioneer Valley during this challenging time. A keynote conversation will be followed by break-out sessions to discuss values and best practices for building reciprocal campus-community partnerships.

Mary Bombardier, Hampshire College

4:50 - 5:00  Break

5:00 - 5:45  Break-out Rooms

5:45 - 6:00  Closing & Evaluation
AGENDA

Our Engagement Challenges + Future Possibilities
We’ll discuss the key challenges for transformational campus-community engagement and explore new ways to develop anti-racist and socially just relationships between the Five Colleges and local communities. A keynote conversation will be followed by sessions that explore specific topics on the future of just and equitable campus-community partnerships.

Welcome / Land Acknowledgement / Icebreaker

Keynote Conversation:
The Future of Campus-Community Partnerships
Marisol Morales: Vice President for Network Leadership for Campus Compact
Elvis Mendez: Co-Director, Neighbor to Neighbor
MODERATOR: Joseph Krupczynski, UMass Amherst

Break-out Sessions
There will be six sessions. Participants will be able to select a single group/topic that most interests them. There will be two types of sessions to choose from:

“Discussion/Dialogue” sessions are open-conversations amongst participants on a key question/issue and guided by facilitators (typical “break-out” room format).

“Presentation/Panel” sessions will have a presentation by a small panel about a specific community-university topic and/or project, followed by a short Q&A.

Discussion/Dialogue Sessions

1. Preparing Students to do Anti-Racist Work with Community Organizations
Facilitators: Deborah Keisch, UMass Amherst / Vanessa Martinez, Women of Color Health Equity Collective
This discussion/dialogue will focus on what strategies might be developed in the classroom and what content might be included in the curriculum to support racial justice and anti-racist practices when students engage with community partners. From a community partner perspective, what do students need to be prepared to engage in anti-racism at their sites, and how can instructors support this?

2. Decentering Whiteness in Community Engaged Learning
Facilitators: Mary Bombardier, Hampshire College / Chris Felton, UMass Amherst / Naiomi Robles, Holyoke Community Activist / Maria Salgado-Cartagena, Hampshire College
This discussion/dialogue will begin with a brief framing of whiteness in community engaged learning using Tania Mitchell’s “Service-Learning as a Pedagogy of Whiteness” followed by time to think on and begin to share ways to decenter whiteness. The goal of the session is to provide ideas to take action for change in our partnership work.

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Presentation/Panel Sessions

3. Partnering with Community Archives
Presenters: Wendy H. Bergoffen, Amherst College / Eileen Crosby, Holyoke Public Library
This panel focuses on college-community partnerships in local archives. In Spring 2020, students in an Amherst College course, “Archive Stories,” visited a number of local archives, including the History Room at Holyoke Public Library. Panelists will describe their preparations and expectations for these visits, what worked, and how they are thinking about collaboration and reciprocity in the future.

4. Youth Participatory Action Research to Promote Education Equity
Presenters: Erin DeCou, Smith College / Sam Intrator, Smith College / Joesiah Gonzalez, New North Citizens Council
Since 2018, Smith College has partnered with community organizations in Springfield to launch a Youth Participatory Action Research project investigating the transition out of high school and into young adulthood. This panel will share our process and preliminary findings, and provide a space to consider YPAR as an approach to community engaged scholarship.

5. Power & Positionality in Community-Engaged Work and Community-Based Participatory Research
Presenters: Airin D Martinez, PhD, UMass Amherst / Brenda D Evans, MPH, UMass Amherst
Although community partners are supposed to be equal partners with academics and program planners in community-engaged and participatory projects, there continues to be inequities related to power and positionality. We will discuss power and positionality in the context of 1) the diversity and social mobility of community representatives and partners, 2) the equitable distribution of instrumental and material resources, and 3) how community-engaged and participatory projects fail the community at large.

6. Supporting Elders through Community-Engaged Learning
Presenters: Theresa Ahrens, Amherst Neighbors / Samantha Bilal, Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts / Moderator: Ellen Correa, UMass Amherst
Working in Springfield and Amherst, the panelists will discuss the strengths and challenges of partnering with undergraduate students on programs and projects that support elders in their respective communities. They will also reflect on their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and its implications for the future.

Closing & Evaluation
Theresa Ahrens is one of the founding members of Amherst Neighbors, a member-led, no-fee, non-profit organization offering programs and events to older adults who wish to live independent, engaged lives in their homes and communities. Since September, she and Marilyn Denny have collaborated with UMass directors and students from IMPACT and The Boltwood Project to create the Stories Project. This project partners students with older adults in the community to build intergenerational relationships and encourage reciprocal learning about one another.

Wendy H. Bergoffen is a Senior Lecturer in the American Studies Department at Amherst College. She has collaborated with the college’s Center for Community Engagement to develop a series of experiential learning courses focused on critical community engagement.

Samantha Bilal has worked over 17 years in the region and has made a deep commitment in investing in Springfield through diverse professional experience and community-based work. Currently, she manages the Public Health Institute of Western Mass’s (PHIWM) Live Well Springfield Coalition, and leads the Climate Change and Health Equity Initiative which supports policy and advocacy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve health outcomes for those of marginalized communities directly impacted by climate change, and dismantle systemic racism. She has also led the Age-Friendly City initiative, working closely with community organizations and city officials to designate Springfield an Age-Friendly city, Dementia Friendly city, and an Age-Friendly hospital system—the first community in the US to have a triple designation.

Mary Bombardier is an Assistant Dean of Community Engagement at Hampshire College. Most recently her work has been focused within the Hampshire College community building the new academic model. With a focus toward developing shared practices and accountability structures to support the goal of becoming an anti-racist institution grounded in collaboration and community engagement. For the past twenty years she has facilitated partnerships with communities in Western MA with students, faculty and staff. She looks forward to reimagining and rebuilding with local communities with the collective knowledge and practice built over this past year.

Ellen Correa is faculty with the UMass Amherst office of Civic Engagement & Service-Learning. She is the academic director for The Boltwood Project, the student-run civic engagement and leadership program designed to provide enrichment, recreation, and socialization for adults and children of intellectual or physical diverse ability. She teaches entry level and advanced service-learning courses, and is especially interested in the ethical, relational, and political implications of assimilative Latinx identities.

Eileen Crosby, a historian and archivist, has been Librarian for Historical Collections at the Holyoke Public Library since 2012. She has led two projects at the History Room, both funded by national grants, aimed at preserving the history of local Puerto Rican and Latinx family life, politics, and culture: The Nuestros Senderos community
scanning project and the *Claiming Place* VHS digitization project. She is active in facilitating use of these and other History Room collections by students and faculty and in creating opportunities for students/interns to participate in the work of the archives through outreach, research, metadata, and translation projects.

**Erin DeCou** is Project Manager for Participatory Action Research at Smith College’s Jandon Center for Community Engagement. DeCou joined Smith’s Urban Education Initiative staff in 2016, and since 2018 has provided operational leadership on a federally-funded YPAR project based in Springfield exploring the transition out of high school. Prior to joining Smith, DeCou worked in the nonprofit youth development sector in Philadelphia, PA, serving as Executive Director of Neighborhood Bike Works and Philadelphia’s Magic Gardens.

**Brenda Evans**, MPH, is a lifelong resident of Springfield, MA and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has 20 plus years of education and experience in the public health field, which includes training, health care workforce development and community engagement. She is dedicated to population health and health equity via advocacy and intersectional systemic change to achieve optimal health for all. She is currently, Community Research Liaison for the Center for Community Health Equity Research @ UMass Amherst SPHHS.

**Chris Felton** is UMass Amherst Civic Engagement & Service-Learning’s community partnership coordinator and is co-chair of the Five College Community-Based Learning Committee. She has remained dedicated for over 20 years to creating opportunities with students, faculty, staff, and local community members to work together for social justice through community-engaged learning. During that time, she managed CESL’s *Community Scholars Program*, contracted courses, and the *IMPACT* program. Chris’s commitment to building community and working for social justice includes involvement with local education, racial, economic, and climate justice initiatives. She holds a BS in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University and a MEd in higher education administration from UMass Amherst.

**Joesiah Gonzalez** serves as the Director of Youth Services at New North Citizens Council (NNCC). He oversees day to day operations for all youth related programming, such as: case management and outreach services; workforce development for both in school and out of school youth, and after school and summer camp programming. Born and raised in the City of Springfield, Gonzalez is a proud product of Springfield Public Schools, and has a burning passion to see change in the lives of young people in our community, city and region.

**Sam M. Intrator** is the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor of Education and Child Study at Smith College and the founding director of the Smith College Urban Education Initiative. Intrator is the author and editor of seven books focused on education, schooling, and teaching including *Quest for Mastery: Positive Youth Development Through Out of School Programs*, which explores an emerging network
of out-of-school programs dedicated to helping youth develop the personal qualities and capacities that will help them succeed in school, college, and beyond.

Deborah Keisch, PhD, is a lecturer at UMass Amherst and is also the Faculty Director of the Community Scholars Program, a two-year civic engagement and leadership program that works in collaboration with community organizations to advocate for a more just world. Deborah has been immersed in the field of education for over two decades as a practitioner, researcher, and activist - and is committed to research and teaching practices that support the work of social change.

Joseph Krupczynski is the Director of Civic Engagement and Service-Learning (CESL) and a Professor of Architecture at UMass Amherst. As the CESL director he builds the capacity for communities, students, faculty and staff to collectively create just, reciprocal and transformative relationships between the campus and community partners. As a designer, public artist and educator, his creative work and scholarship explores issues of spatial justice and builds participatory platforms for meaningful engagement—especially in collaboration with underrepresented communities.

Airín D. Martínez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion & Policy at UMass Amherst SPHHS. Her research includes methods from the social and biomedical sciences, with a consistent anchoring in a community-based participatory research (CBPR), to understand how sociopolitical and institutional arrangements produce health disparities in US- and foreign-born Latinx adults and their children. She has conducted research in historically marginalized communities for over 15 years in San Francisco, Baltimore, Phoenix, and now, Western Massachusetts.

Vanessa E. Martínez-Renuncio, PhD, originally from San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, is a Professor of Anthropology and the Honors Program Coordinator at Holyoke Community College and is on the Executive Leadership team of the Women of Color Health Equity Collective, a 501c3 grassroots volunteer organization led by women of color focused on community capacity building using a racial and social justice framework. In this capacity Vanessa serves as the research chair and trainer/consultant for cultural humility, anti-racism and anti-oppression work. Her work in the community is multi-layered and because of this Vanessa also serves as the research evaluator on three community-centered health equity initiatives - age friendly, climate change, and gambling - partnering with other organizations in Western Massachusetts.

Elvis Méndez was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in Framingham Massachusetts. He is the co-Executive Director of Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts where he develops organizing and political strategies to aid in both the dismantling of systems of oppression and the creation of new systems for liberation. Prior to joining Neighbor to Neighbor Elvis has led organizing efforts for the National Guestworker Alliance (now Resilience Force), Immigrant Worker Center Collaborative and Warehouse Workers for Justice.
**Presenter Bios**

**Dr. Marisol Morales** has served as the Vice President for Network Leadership for Campus Compact, based out of Chicago, Illinois, since 2018. In this role Morales provides guidance, inspiration, and practical support to network staff across the country, helping state and regional directors achieve local goals while advancing shared network priorities. She leads Campus Compact’s efforts to increase inclusion, equity, and diversity internally and in higher education community engagement. She trains and presents regularly on issues related to higher education community engagement and equity. Morales is also the co-host of the bi-weekly Campus Compact podcast, *Compact Nation* as well as host of the Campus Compact National Webinar Series. In 2020, she was appointed as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Community-Engaged Scholarship at University of Central Florida.

**Naomí Robles** has been a long-time community member and activist in Holyoke. Working with grassroots and non-profits and currently working as an educator. She has been a founding member of the *Biblioteca 451* people’s library in Holyoke and Springfield since 2012. Currently, she is a graduate of Holyoke Community College and a current student at Mount Holyoke College. In life, she seeks to transform and grow through personal and community transformative practices. Imagining a future where there is room, safety, and growth for all of us is the driving energy behind her work.

**Maria Salgado-Cartagena** is the Director of Hampshire College’s Lebron-Wiggins-Pran Cultural Center, and the long-time organizer for Holyoke Bound. She is also known as the People’s Historian of Holyoke’s Puerto Rican Diaspora. Maria began her career as a volunteer at *Nueva Esperanza* in Holyoke where she was introduced to Campus-Community Partnerships by Carlos Vega—and began to develop a critical practice of community engagement.

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**Special Thanks**

**EVENT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**
- Nancita Alejandro: Coordinator of VELA Afterschool Program at Amherst Regional Middle School
- Dana Altschuler: Ethnic Studies Director of Holyoke High School
- Brenda Evans: Community Liaison for the UMass Center for Community Health Equity Research
- Elvis Mendez: Co-Director of Neighbor to Neighbor

**FIVE COLLEGE COMMITTEE BASED LEARNING COMMITTEE:**
- Zoe Jacobs: Amherst College
- Mary Bombardier: Hampshire College
- Maria Cartagena: Hampshire College
- David Hernandez: Mount Holyoke College
- Denys Candy: Smith College
- Chris Felton: UMass Amherst (co-chair)
- Joseph Krupczynski: UMass Amherst (co-chair)