



CONTINUUMS
of
SERVICE

April 6-8, 2017 | Denver, Colorado

Sponsored by
Campus Compact
Western Region

Conference Title

Elevating Higher Education for the Public Good: Commitment|Action|Impact

Conference Theme Statement

Please join the Western Region of Campus Compact for the 19th [Continuums of Service Conference](#) in Denver, CO – the Mile High City – to elevate the **commitment**, **action**, and **impact** of higher education and the public good. The 2017 Continuums of Service Conference, *Elevating Higher Education for the Public Good: Commitment|Action|Impact*, will empower students, faculty, administrators, and community partners to embrace a commitment to advance civic and community engagement for a just, equitable, and sustainable future.

Commitment: Higher education has a special role to play in addressing the historically entrenched inequities that directly contradict our democratic ideals and persist at institutions across the country. At the same time that colleges and universities have declared a deepening commitment to the public good, we are experiencing a crisis of conscience in how and who higher education is serving. Economic inequality exacerbates America’s persistent racial and socioeconomic divides, eroding the capacity of colleges and universities to play their historic role of enabling social mobility. We must redouble our efforts with renewed commitment to preparing students for democratic citizenship, building partnerships for change, and reinvigorating higher education for the public good.

Action: As anchor institutions, colleges and universities have a responsibility to collaborate with and bring resources to bear in addressing the challenges facing our communities. As we reflect upon our commitment to the public purposes of higher education, we pledge to move towards bold action with renewed intention and vigor. Our public purpose must have impact and be realized through a field-level movement of engaged teaching, research and service missions. We must translate commitment into concrete actions that continue to assert higher education’s role as a pivot point to the inequity and divisions that are root causes of so many community challenges.

Impact: The Continuums of Service Conference examines where we’ve been, where we are, and where we are going in the field of community engagement. The conference is an opportunity for all campuses to maximize the impact of engagement for students, communities, and our shared world. Commitment and action must lead to measurable impact that creates meaningful change for students, for institutions, and for communities. We must explore critical questions about the impact of our work, challenging traditional responses and methods and forging new ways of ensuring that we are creating positive change, that we are cultivating mutually-beneficial partnerships within the community, and that we are collectively growing the next generation of engaged leaders.

Whether you are a novice, curious about learning the basics of community-campus partnerships, or a seasoned professional seeking new and innovative approaches, this conference will provide opportunities to learn, explore, connect, and take audacious actions.

Conference Overview

The goals of this conference are:

- To highlight innovative programs and practices that serve as models for college and university engagement, both on campus and within the community;
- To facilitate rich conversations that allow conference participants to workshop ideas and possibilities around their institution's engagement commitment, actions, and impact;
- To support institutions of higher education as they develop, implement, and sustain their Civic Action Plans;
- To celebrate the achievements of the field and to challenge the field in new directions.

Emphasis areas:

- *Commitment:* Deliberation and intention by higher education institutions to redouble their efforts with renewed commitment to preparing students for democratic citizenship, building partnerships for change, and reinvigorating higher education for the public good.
 - How does your proposal invite higher education to “go bold” in its engagement efforts?
 - What innovative strategies is your institution engaged in to lessen economic inequality and enable social mobility?
 - How is community engagement framed at your institution or within your local community? Is it workforce development, student volunteerism, engaged scholarship, all of the above?
- *Action:* Programs, initiatives, and partnerships that translate commitment into concrete actions that continue to assert higher education's role as a pivot point to the inequity and divisions that are root causes of so many community challenges.
 - If your institution has developed a [Civic Action Plan](#), how does your proposal fit into that campus-wide plan?
 - What are the elements of your institution's most effective campus and community partnerships? How can they be better? Can they inspire other campuses?
 - How is the focus for engagement programs, initiatives, and partnerships determined at your institution? Who is at the table for designing courses of action?
- *Impact:* Practices that explore critical questions about the impact of this work, challenging traditional responses and methods and forging new ways of ensuring that colleges and universities are creating positive change, cultivating mutually-beneficial partnerships within the community, and collectively growing the next generation of engaged leaders.
 - How are students, faculty, and administrators at your campus most effectively engaging in community action?
 - What motivates and supports engagement at your campus?
 - How do you or how does your institution assess and determine success in engagement initiatives and programs?

Presentation categories:

- Workshop – 45 minutes each within a 90-minute session
 - Workshops provide a concentrated amount of time for presenters to dive deeply into content. While workshops are not required to be interactive, all presenters should allow for meaningful dialogue about the content as part of the workshop design.
 - Conference organizers will group 2 proposals together to form each workshop session based on aligned content. Presenters should plan on a 45-minute presentation and will be connected with another presenter within the same workshop prior to the conference. This format allows for depth in presenting content while also allowing for multiple perspectives to be shared focused on similar content.
- Community Conversations – 45 minutes
 - Community Conversations provide a venue through which presenters bring a question or concept to the table for deliberation. Presenters introduce the question or concept and participants engage with one another in dialogue around that topic. Community Conversations are highly interactive and allow for space to deliberate and discuss field-level issues.
 - Community Conversations will not have AV support, as the intention is to make these sessions true dialogues among participants.
- Poster Session –
 - The Poster Session will be hosted in conjunction with the networking event, providing the opportunity for participants to browse posters and learn about current and ongoing work in the field. Posters will remain set up in the main conference ballroom for the duration of the event.
- COS*Talk – 7 minutes each within a 45-minute session
 - COS*Talks combine depth with brevity to allow for stimulating idea generation and conversations based on 7-minute presentations. Multiple COS*Talk presenters will be grouped together into sessions with time for dialogue and questions within the session.
 - Committee organizers will group four COS*Talk presenters together by content to fill a 45-minute session.

Proposal due date: September 30, 2016

Selection process: All submissions will be peer reviewed. Applicants will be notified by November 4, 2016 whether or not their proposal has been accepted.

Submission of proposals: [insert link to website]

Questions: Contact Stephanie Schooley, CCMW Executive Director, at stephanie@ccmountainwest.org.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

1. **Presentation Category:** Select a presentation category. [drop-down menu]
2. **Proposal Title:** Please write the title of your presentation. [text box]
3. **Proposal Description:** Describe your workshop, poster session, or community conversation topic. Be sure to include the purpose, learning objectives, partners, and impacts within your description. [text box]
4. **Theme alignment:** Describe specifically how your proposal aligns with (a) the overall conference theme, and (b) the primary emphasis area that you selected. [text box]
5. **Assessment/Sustainability:** Upon what theory, research, assessment data, and/or other information is your proposal based? What methods have you used (or plan to use) in order to evaluate the effectiveness of your approach and/or to measure impact? What strategies have you employed to assure the sustainability of your program, project, or course (e.g. integrating it into institutional policies, procedures, strategic planning, etc.)? [text box]
6. **Presenter Information:** Provide a brief bio and photo for each of the presenters identified within the proposal. [file upload] *not part of the proposal criteria but included in the application form