Faculty Development for Spring 2017

As faculty are planning spring classes, keep in mind that a variety of tweaks can be made to connect to Research that Reaches Out initiatives! Specific faculty development events for spring 2017 can help with your ideas. Exact dates for workshops will be available in January, and the spring workshop series includes:

- Adapting the traditional student research paper to “reach out”
- Creating prompts to deepen student learning
- Publishing scholarly work from Research that Reaches Out projects
- Identifying and writing grants (through affinity groups)

Workshop topics come from information shared on surveys, through discussions, and via assessment data. We look forward to talking more in the spring!

Economic Freedom Spring Events

Identity in America

Building off of the momentum of last year’s “Muslims in America” series, Spring 2017 will feature a new series titled “Identity in America,” a collaboration between the Department of International & Global Studies (IGS), the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), and Research that Reaches Out. This series highlights identity issues surrounding marginalized groups affected by injustice: immigrants, racial/ethnic minorities, Native Americans, and LGBTQI. Please consider adding the dates and events listed below to your spring semester syllabus and encourage your students to participate.

Tuesday, January 24th: We Come in Peace: Aliens in America & The Immigration Process
Tuesday, February 7th: The Color Barrier: Opening the Conversation on Inequality in America
Tuesday, March 21st: The First Americans: Hope and Healing with a Native American Medicine Story
Tuesday, April 4th: America, Land of the Free? Taking Action to Shape American Equality.

All events will take place in Willingham Auditorium at 6pm.
Adulting 101

Sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement, Spring 2017 will see the introduction of a new series of workshops created especially for students. “Adulting 101” is a 4-part series of workshops aimed at teaching students the skills they need to succeed post-graduation, and these events connect with our Economic Freedom Grand Challenge

1/24 Taxes, led by Dr. Stephanie Morris (SSBE)
2/7 Financial Planning, led by representatives from Operation Hope
3/21 Budgeting, details TBD
4/4 Life Skills, details TBD

All workshops will be held in CSC I from 3:30-5:00pm

For more information, contact Hannah Vann.

Project Funding

The deadline to apply for last round of funding for Semester Project Support is February 1st. These projects should engage students at the Explore or Express levels. The faculty-staff guide is an important pre-read before preparing an application. If you would like to discuss project ideas and/or applications before you submit, contact Dr. Bridget Trogden.

Research that Reaches Out in the News

A number of excellent Mercer projects that integrate research and service are frequently featured in Mercer and local news. Here are a few highlights.

Go Baby Go!
This month, Dr. Phil McCreaor and Engineering faculty and Honors students hosted a Go Baby Go! event to modify battery-powered toy cars for children with limited mobility. Read all about it in the Mercer News and on WGXA.

Research that Reaches Out: Practicum experiences in Standing Rock
Cheyanne Reyome, a student in the Center for Collaborative Journalism traveled to North Dakota with Professor Laura Fong as a part of her practicum experience to take part in documenting the situation at Standing Rock and archiving knowledge from elders. Read about her experiences in the December 2nd issue of the Cluster (available in print only).

Greener Mercer
Greener Mercer, an organization promoting sustainability, recycling, and conservation on campus, will soon become an official student organization. Read all about their mission and sustainability initiatives in the Cluster. In addition to the Cluster article, a group of faculty, staff, and students meet regularly to discuss sustainability issues in Macon and on campus. Contact Dr. Ed Weintraut if you’d like to join this affinity group!

Upcoming: Mercer students in St. Croix

Dr. Eric Klingelhofer, Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, will lead two trips to St. Croix in Spring 2017 (Mar 4-11 & May 6-11). On these trips, students will serve as volunteers for the St. Croix Archaeological Society and spend their time examining coastal sites in danger of damage and erosion due to rising sea levels and storm surges. Findings will directly aid UNESCO in prioritizing which historic sites should be addressed first based on threat of damage. This trip would be a valuable interdisciplinary educational opportunity for a variety of our students, and connects directly with a global problem!

For more information, please contact Dr. Eric Klingelhofer.