

**2025 PROGRAM**

*Engage*  
**OHIO**

*Ohio University's Community &  
Place-Based Engagement Symposium*

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October 23-24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

| Ohio University Inn & Conference Center

2025 PROGRAM

# *Engage*OHIO

*Community & Place-Based Engagement Symposium*

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October 23-24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Ohio University Inn & Conference Center, Athens, Ohio



# SCHEDULE

## PLENARY & AWARDS CEREMONY THURSDAY 10/23 | THE ATHENS ARMORY

5:45 - 6:15 PM	Welcome
6:15 - 7:10 PM	Awards Ceremony
7:15 - 8:00 PM	Plenary Session

## FULL-DAY SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY 10/24 | THE OU INN

8:00 - 8:30 AM	Registration
8:30 - 8:50 AM	Welcome Remarks
9:00 - 12:00 PM	Morning Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch + Keynote
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Afternoon Sessions I
2:40 - 3:40 PM	Afternoon Sessions II
3:50 - 4:50 PM	Afternoon Sessions III
4:50 - 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Happy Hour Reception

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 23RD, 2025**

# **AWARDS CEREMONY**

**5:45 Doors open**

**6:15 OPENING REMARKS**

- Dr. Nukhet Sandal, Interim Associate Vice President for Community Impact
- Kerry Pigman, Executive Director, Athens County Foundation
- Dr. Lewatis McNeal, Vice Provost for Regional Higher Education

**6:25 AWARDS CEREMONY**

**OHIO Community Engaged Faculty & Administrator Awards**

- Community Engaged Administrator Award: Rebecca Robison-Miller
- Community Engaged Faculty Award: Dr. Lynn Harter

**OHIO Outstanding Community Partner Awards**

- Ohio University Eastern: St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio University Chillicothe: Education Advisory Leadership Committee
- Ohio University Lancaster: Fairfield County Auditor's Office
- Ohio University Southern: Third & Center
- Ohio University Zanesville: Christ's Table
- Ohio University Partner of the Year: Athens County Public Libraries

**Community Campus Coalition | Stephanie Dodd, Executive Director**

- Ping Award for Community Service: Jess Mitchell, Arts & Sciences '25

**7:10 PLENARY SESSION**

## **PLENARY SPEAKER**



**LESLIE COOK, HEAD OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, TETONS SCIENCE SCHOOL**

Leslie's interests in science and getting kids outside led her to attend Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center's Graduate Program in Finland, Minnesota. She completed her Master's degree at Prescott College focused on understanding how educators connect students to place. Those graduate studies led her to Teton Science Schools where she has been since 2008. Leslie works with the Professional Learning team, facilitating training for in-service and pre-service teachers near the Tetons, across the US, and around the world. Since 2017, Leslie and her colleagues at Teton Science Schools have been partnering with OHIO University's faculty, staff, and students to explore, experience and implement leadership and community engagement through place-based study and program development.



# MORNING SESSIONS

9AM-12PM

*Vans to mobile sessions depart at 9:10*

THE RIDGES | **My Backyard Stream – A Citizen Science Program**, *Jen Bowman*

Dive into watershed education with My Backyard Stream, a citizen science program connecting teachers, students, and communities across Ohio. Learn how to collect water quality data and why partners are using hands-on data collection and lesson plans to make water quality science engaging and accessible.

CULTURE & CREATIVITY | THE DAIRY BARN

PRESERVATION & REVITALIZATION | SOUTHEAST OHIO HISTORY CENTER

OU INN SESSIONS

**Alternative Spring Break in Appalachia** *Kim Jeffers, Jake Lietzow, University College, Harry and Janis Ivory, Rendville Historic Preservation Society*

What happens when students spend spring break in service instead of on vacation? Hear from coordinators, students, and community partners about Ohio University's Alternative Spring Break program. Through stories, reflection, and even art, see how this immersive experience builds civic engagement, leadership, and deep community connections.

**Workshop: Real World Problems** *Jacqueline Yahn, Patton College, Emily Bentley, Building Bridges to Careers*

Join us for an engaging, hands-on workshop designed to bring Real World Problem Scenario (RWPS) to life across in your classroom, on your campus, or within your organization. This interactive session will introduce practical tools, proven strategies, and valuable partnerships. You'll learn how RWPS can empower educators and staff to connect students with real-world experiences, local businesses, and creative career pathways.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LUNCH KEYNOTE

DESCRIPTION





# AFTERNOON SESSIONS

## 1-2:30PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

**Tourism, Storytelling, and Community Impact: Frameworks and Case Studies:** *Boone Troyer, Athens County Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Desa Tobin-Nairn, Patton College, Adonis Durado, Scripps College*  
Tourism, education, and community growth thrive when partners work together. This session highlights how collaboration shapes tourism that tells authentic community stories. Visit Athens County will share its regional framework, followed by case studies where Hospitality & Tourism students advanced sustainable tourism through service-learning projects and Visual Communication students partnered with locals to create signage, exhibits, and branding. Together, these examples show how partnerships grow tourism, enrich student learning, and celebrate Southeast Ohio's identity. [Cutler Ballroom](#)

**GIFTS from the Tetons - Great Ideas for Teaching: Room 2** *Faculty alumni of the 2025 Place-Based, Community-Engaged Pedagogy Workshop*

**Service-Learning & the Appalachian Community Grants Program** [Room 3](#) *Andie Walla, Scripps College & Gina Collinsworth, Ohio Valley Regional Development Council*

Take a behind-the-scenes look at how student filmmakers traveled across Southeast Ohio to capture stories of communities transforming through Appalachian Community Grant projects. From mayors to grassroots leaders, students produced powerful videos while gaining professional skills. Presenters will share lessons from this ongoing collaboration and how storytelling strengthens both community impact and student learning.

### **Poster Session Room 4**

Celebrate the breadth of community and place-based engagement through this interactive poster session. Browse projects, ask questions, and connect with ideas that spark innovation.

## 2:40-3:40PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

**Preparing Teachers for Place-Based Social Studies Teaching:** *Amy Wolfe, Ohio University Chillicothe, Debra Dunning, Ohio University Lancaster, Teri Peasley, Ohio University Zanesville, Martha Evans, Ohio University Southern, Kim Ciroti, Ohio University Eastern - Patton College*  
Faculty from five regional campuses highlight a collaborative initiative that immerses preservice teachers in place-based learning. Through field trips, service projects, and connections with public schools, teacher candidates gained deeper understanding of regional history and social issues while building responsive teaching practices. The model offers a replicable approach to integrating curriculum, community, and faculty collaboration.

**Engaging Students through Mutually-Beneficial Partnerships:** *Lee Sites & Logan Lambert, Southeast Ohio History Center, Hester Lambright, OU Museum & Archives Club*

Explore how the Southeast Ohio History Center and Ohio University work together to preserve regional culture while offering students hands-on experience. From internships to collaborative projects, these partnerships highlight how history and higher education can mutually support one another—and inspire broader regional coalitions.

**Train Your Resilience Muscle – A Place-Based Framework for Leadership & Community Growth:** *Nagham Alsamari, Imkan Leadership Development*

This interactive workshop introduces a resilience framework for students, nonprofits, and community leaders. Participants will explore practices that prevent burnout, build self-awareness, and strengthen leadership capacity. With guided reflection and practical tools, attendees will learn how resilience can support both personal growth and sustainable community engagement.

**Community-Engaged Learning for Graduate Students: OHIO English:** *Megan AV Russell & Talinn Phillips, College of Arts & Sciences, Student Panel: Lauren Fitch, Morgan Henderson, Sabrina Lacy, Ashley Allen*

Graduate students are stepping into community engagement in new ways. Hear directly from English interns who partnered with local nonprofits, alongside faculty who designed the program. This panel offers fresh insights into how graduate-level engagement shapes professional development, academic goals, and meaningful community impact.



## 3:50-4:50PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

### **A University-Community Collaboration Toolkit: Advancing Sustainable Tourism in Ross County:**

*M. Hashim Pastun, Voinovich School*

This session presents a toolkit developed through Ohio University's partnership with Ross County to guide sustainable tourism planning. Students, faculty, and local stakeholders co-designed feasibility studies and strategies using innovative tools like StoryMaps, AI-assisted planning, and outcome mapping. The model offers a replicable framework for aligning academic work with measurable community impact.

### **EPIC – A Practical Framework for Ethical Collaboration with Experts by Personal Impact (EPIs)** *Leah Buzek, IncuBrighter*

This workshop introduces EPI-C, a framework for partnering ethically with individuals who bring lived experience to community change efforts. Participants will explore tools for role clarity, reciprocity, and trust-building, leaving with practical strategies to move beyond tokenism and toward authentic, power-sharing collaborations.

### **YOU ARE HERE: Incorporating Ohio into OHIO's Writing Curriculum:** *Talinn Phillips, Paul Shovlin, Sara Abdelrahman, Loren Smith, College of Arts & Sciences*

See how Ohio University's writing program reimagined first-year composition through a place-based lens. Faculty will share how assignments—from rhetorical analyses of Athens to cross-cultural ghost story projects—help students see writing as rooted in place, culture, and identity. A lively look at how writing connects students to their new community.

### **Experiential Learning through Nursing Outreach in Homeless Camps:** *Angelina Hardiesty-Kelley, College of Health Sciences & Professions, Ohio University Chillicothe*

Step into the world of community health through the eyes of nursing students who join outreach teams in Ross County homeless camps. This session reveals how hands-on engagement shifts perceptions, builds empathy, and prepares nurses for real-world challenges. Hear reflections that are eye-opening, humbling, and deeply human.

## 4:50-5:00PM CLOSING REMARKS

•Speakers TBD

## 5:00-6:30PM Happy Hour Reception in the Solarium

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