



Alternative Service Experiences Institute

June 18-19, 2013
High Point, NC



North Carolina | **Campus Compact**



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

Reminders

Tweet about the conference throughout the day using
#ASExp13



Recycle your name badge at the registration table.

Thank you

Office of Service-Learning at High Point University and Melissa Anderson,
Director of University Events, High Point University --
we appreciate your hard work and hospitality!



Workshop facilitators and special guests Elizabeth Niehaus,
Melody Porter and Shoshanna Sumka



Institute Planning Committee

Selena Hilemon, Appalachian State University
Assistant Director of Community Service, A.C.T.

Christa Leimbach, Davidson College
Assistant Director for Civic Engagement Programs

Evan Small, Elon University
Programs Coordinator, Kernodle Center for Service Learning
and Community Engagement

Adam Culley, NC State University
Assistant Director, Center for Student Leadership Ethics and Public Service

Jessica Lynn, South Carolina Campus Compact
Executive Director

Jaime Russell, UNC Wilmington
Assistant Director, Center for Leadership Education and Service

Jennifer Cooper, Western Carolina University
Assistant Director, Center for Service Learning

Alternative Service Experiences Institute 2013

Tuesday, June 18

- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Registration - Conference Center, Greek Village**
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Opening reception and roundtable discussions**

Wednesday, June 19

All plenary sessions and workshops located in Phillips Hall. See workshop descriptions for room locations.

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Registration and light refreshments - Phillips Hall, outside of Francis Auditorium**
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. **Opening Plenary Session**
- Welcome: Dr. Joe Blosser, Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning and Asst. Professor of Religion and Philosophy and Gail Tuttle, Vice President For Student Life*
- Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Niehaus, University of Maryland, College Park*
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Workshop Session One**
- 11:40 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. **Plenary Session Two**
Christa Leimbach, Davidson College, and Kate Johnson, Appalachian State University
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch - Plato S. Wilson School of Commerce**
- 1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. **Workshop Session Two**
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Plenary Session Three**
Adam Culley, NC State University, and Evan Small, Elon University
- 3:40 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. **Plenary Session Four**
Melody Porter, College of William & Mary, and Shoshana Sumka, American University
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. **Reflection and wrap-up**

Special Guests



Elizabeth Niehaus, Ph.D., is the creator and principal investigator of the National Survey of Alternative Breaks, a longitudinal survey of students who participate in Alternative Break programs. Dr. Niehaus earned her Ph.D. in College Student Personnel at the

University of Maryland, College Park, where she now serves as a Research Associate in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education & Special Education. Her dissertation was entitled *Alternative Break Programs and the Factors that Contribute to Changes in Students' Lives*. In August she will be joining the faculty in the department of Educational Administration at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, as an Assistant Professor. Formerly she was the Assistant Director and Instructor in the Master of Professional Studies in Leadership Education and Development office (Navy LEAD) at the University of Maryland. Her interest in Alternative Breaks stems from her own personal experience as a student participant and staff advisor for a number of different domestic and international Alternative Break and other service-learning and study abroad programs.

Dr. Niehaus is a frequent conference speaker and contributor to peer-reviewed publications.

Melody Porter is the Associate Director of the Office of Community Engagement at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, where she advises their alternative breaks program, Branch Out. She leads the Office's efforts to develop mutually beneficial community partnerships, infuse the values of social justice throughout programming and develop student commitment to active citizenship. Melody has provided training in best practices for alternative breaks on campuses, at various national and regional conferences, and at gatherings of Break Away, the national alternative breaks organization. She is a founding



member of the Haiti Compact, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Break Away, and a regular volunteer and advocate for sustainable food systems in Richmond, VA. She was named Break Away Staff Person of the Year in 2010. Branch Out Alternative Breaks was named Program of the Year in 2011.

Melody previously served as Director of Volunteer Emory at Emory University, and Associate Minister at First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia. She earned her Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Arts from Emory University.

Shoshanna Sumka, the Assistant Director for Global Learning and Leadership at

American University, oversees international immersion and the Alternative Break programs. In her seven years at AU, she has developed the program from the ground up. She also created a leadership training program, increased participation by

300%, and helped develop a model for student community engagement now used throughout the Office of Campus Life. She has lived, traveled and/or worked in Kenya, Israel, Indonesia, Belize, Eastern Europe, Venezuela, Zambia and India. She directed the University of Idaho's study abroad program in Ecuador for five years where she taught Service-Learning courses about indigenous groups in the Amazon rain forest, the Andes, and mangrove restoration in coastal regions. Shoshanna was named Break Away Staff Person of the Year in 2012. Her undergraduate degree is in Sociology and Anthropology from Earlham College and she earned her Master's in Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland.



Alternative Service Experiences Institute 2013

Opening Plenary Session 9:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

Fostering Student Learning and Development Through Alternative Breaks: Evidence from the National Survey of Alternative Breaks

Dr. Elizabeth Niehaus, University of Maryland

Workshop Session One 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Why do you do what you do? Connecting your Program to your Institutional Mission through Learning Outcomes and Assessment (Room 221)

Elizabeth Niehaus, University of Maryland

What good are alternative service experiences? What do students and community members get out of them? How do you know? How do you use what you know about your programs to justify their time and expense to others across campus and in the community? In this workshop, participants will learn how to develop and assess program goals, and how to use those assessments to connect alternative service experience programs to the larger institutional mission.

Alternative Service Experiences 101 (Room 223)

Christa Leimbach, Davidson College

Jennifer Cooper, Western Carolina University

Explore the basics of Alternative Service Experiences! This session will cover the fundamentals of ASEs from program structure, site development, budget, liability, pre-trip and post-trip ideas to resources. This session will be a great way to hit many key areas for those new to ASEs and will also help provide a foundation for the rest of the Institute.

Plenary Session Two 11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Pre-trip & Post-trip: Connecting the Before, During and After of Domestic ASE

Christa Leimbach, Davidson College

Kate Johnson, Appalachian State University

This workshop will focus on important foundational elements any alternative service experience should include. Basic orientation, social issue education, group dynamics, and reflection will be discussed along with suggested best practices. Learn about two universities' programs that share common themes and concerns. There will be time for conversation and resource sharing.

Workshop Session Two 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Developing Domestic Community Partnerships for Mutual Benefit (Phillips Auditorium)

Melody Porter, College of William & Mary

Shoshanna Sumka, American University

One of the most important aspects of developing a quality, justice-based Alternative Breaks program is creating partnerships that will lead to positive community impact and student growth. We will explore and offer methods to determine community need, build on assets and responsibly access resources, responding to a common critique of ASEs: "How can relatively unskilled students make a difference in a short-term trip, without creating more work for the community or causing conflicts over limited resources?"

Civic Engagement Across the Sea (Room 221)

Selena Hilemon, Appalachian State University

As service-learning goals have evolved, the number of students pursuing international courses has increased. This convergence creates service-learning partnerships in developing communities worldwide. What makes international service-learning good? This workshop considers equitable power dynamics and antiquated programming structures, and provides practical models that support reciprocal partnerships.

Workshop Session Two

Continued

Reflections on New and Veteran Course-Based Alternative Breaks (Room 223)

Evan Small, Elon University

Course-based training models provide an excellent opportunity to deepen student learning and the Alternative Break experience. This workshop will provide participants a chance to hear two different experiences with course-based models -- one long-term, and one short-term.

Plenary Session Three 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preparing Student Leaders to Lead Alternative Service Experiences

Adam Culley, NC State University

Evan Small, Elon University

This session will highlight models for student leadership training in preparation for Alternative Service Experiences. Find out about what Elon University and North Carolina State University do to prepare engaged student leaders. Attendees will have an opportunity to share ideas and best practices.

Plenary Session Four

3:40.m. – 4:40 p.m.

Alternative Breaks: Working for Social Justice

Melody Porter, College of William & Mary

Shoshanna Sumka, American University

Service work in the community may focus only on immediate needs or fixing the problems in a community. We will explore a justice model that focuses on community organizing, solidarity and advocacy as the outcomes of an alternative break experience. We will also explore methods to build capacity and empower community members to address their own needs, so AB programs can work from the foundation of a justice model rather than relying solely on direct service or charity.

Presenter Information

Jennifer Cooper, Assistant Director, Center for Service Learning, Western Carolina University

Adam Culley, Assistant Director, Center for Student Leadership, Ethics & Public Service

Selena Hilemon, Assistant Director of Community Service, Alternative Service Experience Coordinator/ACT Office/ Appalachian State University

Kate Johnson, Associate Director for Community Service, Appalachian and the Community Together (ACT), Appalachian State University

Christa Leimbach, Assistant Director for Civic Engagement Programs, Center for Civic Engagement, Davidson College

Evan Small, Assistant Director, Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, Elon University

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Empowering students
Impacting NC communities*



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Mark your Calendar

August 6, 2013

Western Network Meeting, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

August 7, 2013

Eastern Network Meeting, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC

September 6-7, 2013

North Carolina Campuses Fighting Hunger Conference

Understanding the issues. Highlighting best practices. Articulating collaborative solutions.

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Sponsored by NC Campus Compact, Wake Forest University, Stop Hunger Now, CSLEPS at NC State University, and Universities Fighting World Hunger

November 1-2, 2013

CSNAP Student Conference

Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC

February 4, 2014

Civic Engagement Institute (NC Campus Compact members only)

Strengthening our Partnerships: Aligning our Campus Community Engagement and Economic Development Endeavors

University of North Carolina Wilmington

February 5, 2014

Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement Conference (PACE)

Research, resources and best practice models for campus-based community engagement work

University of North Carolina Wilmington

To receive occasional email updates about civic engagement on higher education campuses, send name and email address to: nccc@elon.edu

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