Leadership Through Sustained Dialogue

November 7, 2015
UNC Pembroke
Pembroke, NC
## 2015 CSNAP Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast, Exhibitors, and Tabletop Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Performance by Southern Sun Singers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leslie Garvin, Executive Director, NC Campus Compact</td>
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<td>Dr. Zoe Locklear, Provost, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UNC Pembroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Inclusive Leadership Through Sustained Dialogue, Part I</td>
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<td>Rhonda Fitzgerald and Lane McLelland, Sustained Dialogue Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch and Presentation of Awards</td>
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<td>Community Impact Student Awards</td>
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<td>Marshall Alternative Service Experience Scholarship</td>
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<td>John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Inclusive Leadership Through Sustained Dialogue, Part II</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Inclusive Leadership Through Sustained Dialogue, Part III</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Conclusion and Farewell</td>
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Welcome

Welcome to #CSNAP2015 at UNC Pembroke! We are excited to have nearly 100 student leaders and staff from more than 20 campuses in our statewide network join us for this day of learning, connection, and celebration. On your campus, in your community, and in our world, we see evidence of so many divisions that threaten to stalemate us: political infighting, rising inequality, cynicism and mistrust. From the streets of Ferguson to the U.S. Congress, obstacles to progress can seem insurmountable. Today we’ll explore a radical solution: listening. The sustained dialogue process demands that we “listen deeply enough to be changed” by what we learn. Our hope is that you’ll take this process back to your campus and put it into practice in your own leadership and service.

Prizes

Register for door prizes in the main hall. Prizes will be distributed during lunch and closing session.

Share your #CSNAP2015 experience and connect with us on Twitter today @NCCampusCompact.

One lucky Tweeter will win our Social Networking Awesomeness Prize (SNAP) for Tweet of the Day!

Reminders

Recycle your name badge at the registration table as you leave today.

Complete our online CSNAP evaluation form, available at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015CSNAP
Your feedback helps us plan future events!

Special Thanks

To the staff of UNC Pembroke, especially Christie Poteet and her team at the Office for Community and Civic Engagement.

To our CSNAP Partner Teach for America, and our other exhibitors and advertisers: City Year, Food Recovery Network, the Institute on Philanthropy & Voluntary Service, and the National Conference on Student Leadership.

To Food Lion and their Food Lion Feeds program, for a generous donation of foodstuffs to the UNC Pembroke CARE Resource Center food pantry.

To Cheerwine for donated soft drinks.

To those who nominated candidates for the Barnhill Award and to the Barnhill Award selection committee members: John Barnhill, Aaron Marshall, Carolyn Byrne and Chad Fogleman.

To those in the network who selected Community Impact Award recipients.

Wireless Access for Guests

On your wireless device, search for available networks, select the BraveWiFi or ResidentialWifi wireless network and click “connect.”

Open an Internet browser. The SafeConnect authentication page should automatically be displayed, but if not, try browsing to safeconnect.uncp.edu.

When the SafeConnect authentication page opens, login with your guest account username: csnap and password: uncp110615. Click “I accept the acceptable use policy,” then click submit.
Sustained Dialogue Facilitators

Rhonda Fitzgerald, Managing Director
Sustained Dialogue Campus Network

As Managing Director, Rhonda oversees the growth and strategy of the Campus Network. With nearly ten years of experience growing Sustained Dialogue, she enjoys training future SD leaders and developing innovative offerings, as well as interacting with the thousands of students, alumni, and professionals in the network. She also supports international student-led dialogue initiatives and projects at Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), the University of Cape Town (South Africa), and the University of Khartoum (South Sudan). In addition to her training work, Rhonda helps lead evaluation, communications, and implementation of the organization’s CRM and database tools. Rhonda is from New Jersey and is based in Washington, D.C. She is an alumna of Princeton University.

Lane McLelland, Director
Crossroads Center, University of Alabama

A certified Sustained Dialogue trainer, Lane directs the Crossroads Center at the University of Alabama where she leads efforts to foster diversity and inclusion on campus through intercultural and interfaith engagement. Before joining the Crossroads Center, McLelland served as the Assistant Director in New College, the University’s interdisciplinary studies program, teaching cross-cultural ethics and principles of deliberative democracy. McLelland received her BA in International Studies and Conflict Management from The University of Alabama. She then taught English at Tunghai University in Taiwan and followed her years in Asia with three years working with China-related organizations in Washington, D.C. She earned both a Master of Divinity degree and an M.A. in Ethics from the Pacific School of Religion. In addition to serving as a United Methodist minister at Chinese Community United Methodist Church in Oakland, California, and Trinity United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, McLelland also worked as a bioethicist at the Emory Center for Ethics in Atlanta, Georgia, before returning to academia.

The Sustained Dialogue Institute helps people to transform conflictual relationships and design change processes around the world. We define dialogue as “listening deeply enough to be changed by what you learn.” Sustained Dialogue (SD) is a process codified by Dr. Harold “Hal” Saunders, an American diplomat who was instrumental in a number of peace processes in the Middle East in the 1970s onwards, including the famous Camp David treaties between Israel and its neighbors. During his involvement in negotiations, he observed that participants’ relationships seemed to evolve through a recognizable pattern. In the early 1990s, Hal distilled his experience and observations into the key concepts that serve as the foundations of SD.

SD has been used in communities around the world. In 1999, a group of students at Princeton began using the process to solve deep-seated issues around race relations. The Sustained Dialogue Campus Network has grown over 15 years to campuses around the world.
2015 Community Impact Award Winners

The Community Impact Award recognizes students at NC Campus Compact member schools who display outstanding leadership and innovative approaches in their civic engagement efforts. This year, twenty-one students are honored, joining more than 200 individuals recognized since the award was first presented in 2006.

Appalachian State University - Kelsey Trevethan

A passionate advocate for the special needs community, Kelsey Trevethan is the program coordinator for KAMPN, a nature-based summer camping program for children with autism and their families. In this role she fundraises, leads trainings, and directs the summer camp. Through her efforts, 45 children and families attended KAMPN free of charge. Kelsey is also a coach for ABLE Recreation, a baseball and networking program for individuals with special needs. On campus Kelsey has been an Alternative Service Experience Peer Leader for seven trips, including the inaugural program in Watauga County. Kelsey has also served as the chair of the MLK Day of Service Challenge, which sent over 200 student volunteers to 20 nonprofits. Hailing from Clayton, NC, Kelsey is a senior majoring in Special Education.

Duke University - Sarah Du

As a Public Policy major, senior Sarah Du has taken her education beyond the classroom and into the community. She has explored education policy and learning through service in her home community of Sammamish, WA, her surrounding community in Durham, and most recently, in an urban high school in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently a research assistant at the Sanford School of Public Policy, analyzing data to support work in education policy. Sarah’s initial interest in education policy stemmed from her summer experience with DukeEngage in Bennettsville. Sarah has served as a DukeEngage Academy Leader for two years and has dedicated at least 150 hours to assisting DukeEngage and promoting civic engagement on campus. In addition to her Public Policy major, Sarah is pursuing minors in Global Health and English.

Central Piedmont Community College - Wylena Jones

Second-year nursing student Wylena Jones has consistently demonstrated her commitment to service at CPCC through her involvement and volunteering. She has completed over 90 hours of community service and is consistently engaged with several student organizations. Wylena is currently president of the national honors organization, Phi Theta Kappa, and leads its bi-annual Street Clean-up project. She is also a member of the Rotaract Club and the Positive Communities for Women. Wylena volunteers annually for the CPCC Skyline 5k Scholarship Fundraiser Run, the Salvation Army Christmas Center, Sensoria Book Sale at CPCC that raises money for Birthday Blessings, and CPCC’s MLK Day Challenge. She also helps those home-bound receive healthy meals through Friendship Trays. Wylena is from Charlotte, NC.

East Carolina University - Brettelyn Knell

Brettelyn Knell’s commitment to service and community inspires people of all ages to make the world a better place. At ECU, she has been involved with the Adopt-A-Grandparent program for four years and currently serves as the program coordinator. She has partnered with other organizations to bring programming for Veterans Day, National Nursing Home Week, Thanksgiving, and Christmas to residents at the Golden Living Center. She orients student volunteers, raises awareness about the program, and connects courses to the work. Her commitment resulted in the Golden Living Center and the Adopt-A-Grandparent program receiving the 2015 ECU Leadership Awards for Outstanding Service Program of the Year and Community Partnership of the year. Brettelyn is a senior from Perryville, MD majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders.
Elon University - Noah Sakin

Noah Sakin has worked tirelessly to advance the well-being of others since he first arrived at Elon University. He serves the campus community in multiple roles: Resident Assistant, Residence Life Student Advisory Board Member, Challenge Course Facilitator, Zeta Beta Tau Risk Manager, and Head Captain of Safe Rides. Noah was recently appointed as the Alternative Breaks Student Director, where he will provide leadership to 30 student coordinators who organize over ten programs and, in turn, provide domestic and international service experiences for nearly 300 students. His initial experience took place as an Alternative Service Break participant, where he worked with a program helping to resettle families from the Middle East in the Jacksonville, FL area. Noah is a senior Human Services major from Baltimore, MD.

Fayetteville State University - Joel Cook

Joel Cook has been a key figure in FSU’s new Campus Kitchen Project, serving as the project’s student leader coordinator. During planning stages, he mobilized students to participate on the leadership team. Through his work Joel has demonstrated a commitment to partnering with other people and organizations, fostering collaborations with the Student Government Association, Department of Sociology, Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Academic Affairs, Aramark, and the FSU Farmers Market. He realizes that the sustainability of CKFSU is inextricably tied to campus-wide support of and engagement with the project. Joel is a senior from Fayetteville, NC majoring in History and Intelligence Studies.

Guilford College – Ben Randazzo

As a Bonner Scholar Ben Randazzo has been a leader and an advocate for service. In 2014 he served as lead coordinator for the National Bonner Congress held at Guilford College. His dedication earned him a summer internship at the Bonner Foundation in Princeton. In the absence of a program coordinator, senior Bonner intern Ben has stepped in and taken on those responsibilities, ensuring the program will continue to flourish. Outside of Bonner, he has served as a campus project coordinator for Oxfam and has worked with Guilford's Community Kitchen project which provides meals to local residents experiencing homelessness. He has also served as a summer intern in his hometown of Brooklyn with Grow NYC, where he worked to improve New York City's quality of life through environmental programs that transform communities. Ben is majoring in Justice Policy Studies.

High Point University - Christen Cothran

Over the past four years, Christen Cothran has worked to support children and youth in her community. She has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Helping Hands, Operation Christmas Child, and at numerous schools with Reading Buddies. She has also worked at Camp Crestridge for Girls in Black Mountain, NC. With all her volunteer experience, Christen has been more than a service project leader. Her most significant role has been founding the Impact Club at High Point University. The club has worked with Youth Network and Backpack Beginnings for 3 years. Christen has dedicated her final year to turning the Impact Club toward sustainable service projects, and educating all members of the club about the importance of this shift. Christen is from Rural Hall, NC and is majoring in Elementary Education.
Pfeiffer University - Jessica Greene

Jessica Greene is a senior majoring in Elementary Education who has supported young people in the Misenheimer community throughout her time at Pfeiffer. Jessica has served as a mentor at local Title I schools and worked with children with disabilities at Wings of Eagles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center. Jessica has also been a leader on campus, engaging over 350 students to participate in drop-in service, days of service, and other service opportunities that address community issues such as homelessness and art education. Jessica is from Shelby, NC.

Queens University of Charlotte - Sally Van Cleve

After visiting an orphanage in the Dominican Republic while in high school, Sally Van Cleve felt compelled to do something to help improve lives of people there. Inspired by Toms founder Blake Mycoskie’s book Start Something that Matters, Sally created her own jewelry business, WATERring the World. Running the business out of her dorm room, she purchases goods from a manufacturer in the DR and contributes proceeds to clean water initiatives. Sally is also involved in work as a tutor and English teacher with refugee communities in Charlotte, and as a Young Life Leader and Rotaract officer. Through her service and advocacy, Sally helps inspire a global mindset among her peers. She is a junior Spanish major from Jacksonville, FL.

The University of North Carolina at Asheville - Anja Mayr

After taking several Service-Learning designated courses, Anja Mayr was struck by the great value and importance of engaged learning. These experiences motivated her to create and lead the first-ever living-learning community on campus focused on Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Justice (LEAD). As the

North Carolina State University – Brian Iezzi

Brian Iezzi, a senior Textile Engineering major from Gastonia, NC, exemplifies servant leadership. He has served as a Resident Assistant, project manager for the NC State Stewards program, and chair of the Sustainability Fund Advisory Board. Brian is the co-founder of the NC State Bike Share program. In addition to his community and campus involvement, Iezzi has conducted extensive undergraduate research seeking a more sustainable alternative to platinum for hydrogen generation, and he co-founded a business that researched and designed these alternatives. He currently holds a U.S. Provisional Patent as a co-inventor of this new technology, which could significantly impact the energy storage industry.

North Carolina Central University - Peyton Lambert

Peyton Lambert has been a service leader during her time at NCCU. She has been involved with many organizations, including NCCU Campus Ministry, Student Activities Board, and Every Nation Campus Ministry. She also served as an Orientation Leader this past summer. Through her leadership of two women-focused groups on campus – 100 Black Women and Eagle Sisters – she has both addressed community needs and increased membership in the organizations. She created proposals to promote collaboration between these groups and the NCCU Student Judicial Board. For example, Peyton led the NCCU 100 Black Women MLK Jr. Memorial Walk and has held several auctions and fundraisers to raise the needed funds. She also mentors students in Durham Public Schools. Peyton is a senior Psychology major from Charlotte, NC.
Resident Assistant for the floor and the Student Reflection Leader for the first-year seminar course, Anja helps her peers deepen their knowledge by examining the root causes of complex social issues and exploring how they might become change agents. This experience has helped 16 first-years find a clear pathway to engage more deeply with the Asheville community and also discover ways to align their academic studies with community service. Anja is a junior from Charlotte, NC majoring in Health and Wellness Promotion and Psychology.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - José Cisneros

A History major from Snow Hill, NC, José Cisneros has worked tirelessly to offer leadership and support to two organizations working to enhance opportunities for Latinos. As a government relations intern for Student Action with Farmworkers, José has lobbied NC legislators on SB 463, organized lobby days, and provided biweekly legislative updates to partners. Additionally, José has worked with Scholars Latino Initiative, a university-based program aiming to empower the next generation of Latina/o leaders by building a community that promotes academic excellence and social responsibility. Through his work with Scholars Latino Initiative, José has inspired countless other students to serve as mentors and to serve their mentees with dedication, compassion and care.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte - Angelica Rose Brown

In her first semester at UNC Charlotte, Rose Brown founded a student organization called My Sister’s Keeper, a group that works to influence the community by philanthropy and the art of self-expression through dance and step. This organization combines Rose’s artistic talents as a performer and her humanitarian and philanthropic passions. Under her leadership, My Sister’s Keeper has raised hundreds of dollars for campus and community charities. Rose has also served as a program coordinator and teaching assistant for UNCC’s Psychology Learning Community. In this role she led community service projects, including Stop Hunger Now and the new Niner Student Food Pantry, where she was responsible for 35 student volunteers. Rose is a junior majoring in Psychology and Business with a minor is Civics. She is from King’s Mountain, NC.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro - Elisven “Levi” Saavedra

As a Nutrition and Dietetics major, Levi Saavedra knows about food. His passion for fighting hunger and food waste led him to become the founding member and president of the UNC Greensboro chapter of the Food Recovery Network, FRN. Since its inception the program has donated over 800 pounds of food. Levi has grown this chapter of FRN significantly by networking with various student groups and campus departments. He has also worked to expand the efforts of FRN off-campus, developing partnerships with food producers and non-profit organizations who provide food to communities in need. He has worked to send student volunteer groups to the UNCG Community Gardens, BackPack Beginnings, Greensboro Urban Ministries, and many others. His work led him to be selected as a student presenter at the Students for Zero Waste Conference. Levi is a junior from Mebane, NC.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke - Madison Wilcox

Madison Wilcox is a senior from Fairmont, NC majoring in Exercise and Sports Science-Education. With an extensive background of service activities, Madison went above and beyond when she developed the Sports Empowerment Program. The program aims to bring UNC Pembroke students and local youth with developmental disabilities together to play sports. A nominator says, “Madison sets such a wonderful example for her peers. She is ambitious, aware, responsible, and goes above and beyond to make sure all people, regardless of ability or education, have the opportunity to be successful. Madison celebrates the success of others, encourages us all to do better, and empowers us to make a difference.”
The University of North Carolina at Wilmington - Steven Núñez

Steven is a senior majoring in Philosophy & Religion and Anthropology. Steven is an active leader at UNC Wilmington and commits to enact social change by promoting social justice. Steven organized and coordinated the Political Empowerment Speaker Series, an initiative that educated students about the importance of well-informed political engagement prior to the 2014 midterm election. He recently founded Project Theology in Action, a partnership with Mercy House, to engage with the Wilmington community. This fall he presented at the 10th Annual UNCW Men’s Leadership Summit, and he was appointed as Student Government Nontraditional Senator. His experience as a former Special Forces Weapons Sergeant has shaped his leadership style and passion to embrace people of all walks of life, and he embodies the Special Forces motto, “De Oppresso Liber,” which means “freeing the oppressed.”

Wake Technical Community College - Asia King

Asia King is a second-year student from Raleigh, NC majoring in Business Management. She is a leader at Wake Tech and is involved with SGA, Phi Beta Lambda, National Days of Service, and the Alternative Break program. Asia was a participant in a 2015 Alternative Spring Break to Washington D.C., and she has been selected to be a student leader for the 2016 Alternative Spring Break. Her trip advisor wrote: “This is our first year using student leaders, and Asia is continually working out problems, focusing on making the trip have impact, and actively recruiting students to apply for the trip.” Asia also volunteers regularly at the Wilmington Street Men’s Shelter and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

Warren Wilson College - Melvis Madrigal

Melvis is a junior Biochemistry major from Asheville, NC. As a member of the Bonner Leaders service work crew he has served as a mentor and program coordinator for the MANOS Latino youth mentoring program, co-led a service break trip to Georgia focusing on immigration issues, and was part of a planning committee for the campus visit of journalist and immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas. Melvis also serves as an interpreter with Mountain Area Health Education Center, providing translation for Spanish speaking patients at the clinics. Currently, Melvis is the college’s Issue Area Coordinator for Race & Immigration, coordinating the efforts of three other students to provide race & immigration service opportunities for Warren Wilson College students in the local community.

Western Carolina University - Michelle Powers

Michelle was engaged at WCU before her first day on campus as a member of the inaugural Ripple Effect class and learning community. She now serves as the Retreat Chair and has been a peer mentor for over 40 students in the program over the last two years. Michelle has also been involved with four alternative break trips, including two trips she organized and led with over 20 student volunteers. As a three year student employee at the Center for Service Learning, Michelle has been an advocate for service and student activism and is training the next wave of alternative break leaders. Michelle presented at the 2014 CSNAP conference as part of a forum on Western Carolina University’s model initiatives titled Ripples of Student Engagement in Disaster Response and Social Activism. Michelle is a junior Criminal Justice major from Raleigh, NC.
Marshall Alternative Service Experience Scholarship

The Marshall Alternative Service Experience (ASE) Scholarship supports the participation of one Community Impact Award recipient in an alternative break program organized by a North Carolina Campus Compact member school.

The scholarship was created in 2015 by Aaron Marshall, a former Community Impact Award and Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award winner. During his undergraduate career at Western Carolina University, Aaron was part of 9 alternative service trips as a participant and leader. He believes strongly in the power of the “disorienting dilemma” alternative breaks present to students as they step out of their comfort zones to help others. Moreover, Aaron knows firsthand how these programs provide real opportunities for student leadership. The Marshall ASE Scholarship gives other students the chance to have similar transformative experiences.

The scholarship (up to $250) will fund the recipient’s participation in an alternative service experience in which the student takes on a leadership role. Preference is given to students who receive federal financial aid and/or are active duty military, reservist, National Guard, or a veteran or their dependent.

Coming April 2016:
Political Leadership Workshops for NC college students

NC Campus Compact is teaming up with the NC Institute of Political Leadership to offer college students a special training on political engagement and leadership. The Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 1987 by William Friday and other NC leaders with the goal of educating future political and community leaders. The collegiate leadership program is a one-day introduction to politics and public service, featuring sessions on campaigning, ethical decision-making, and governance. Two sessions – one in the west and one in the east – will be held in early April for students in the NC Campus Compact network.

Designed for undergrad or graduate students who are interested in public service, community leadership, or holding elected office, trainings include exercises to explore your values, ethics, and the current state of politics, as well as the chance to hear a panel of current and former elected officials. Make plans to join us or share this opportunity with others! Details and registration coming soon at www.nccampuscompact.org.
When Kate Gatterdam graduates from Queens University of Charlotte next May, she will take with her dynamic leadership skills, a commitment to collaboration, and a passion for improving the health and lives of children. And she’ll leave behind a path of engagement for others to travel, a path that includes successful campus-wide service programs and an active student leadership team.

Elected as a sophomore to chair the school’s first campus-wide “Up til Dawn” fundraiser benefitting the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Kate worked for over a year on the campaign. She directed a team of ten student leaders who engaged more than 150 Queens volunteers.

“I’m a biochemistry major,” Kate explains, “and this cause connects to health, medicine, research and service – so it was really appealing to me.”

The Up til Dawn event ultimately raised $26,000 for childhood cancer research, making Queens the leading St. Jude fundraising school in the southeast. The event and the team were also recognized by the student body with Student Life awards for “best event” and “best student organization.” Since new student leaders took over this fall, the campaign has already raised $9,000 towards its 2016 goal.

“Through Kate’s leadership St. Jude Up til Dawn has become part of the Queens University life-blood,” says St. Jude representative Amy McKinney. “Throughout my career I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of students. While every person is special, Kate is certainly a stand-out.”

Her work so impressed St. Jude that Kate was hired for a summer internship at the organization’s regional office in Charlotte, where she supported other event organizers and volunteers.

Queens staff also credit Kate for expanding the school’s annual “Sleep for a Cause” event, which raises awareness of homelessness and collects food donations for local shelters. The 2014 event brought in 5,000 pounds of food, nearly doubling the prior year’s total.

A Dowd Presidential Scholar and member of the Student Alumni Council, Kate got her start in service at Queens as a student-athlete, volunteering with her lacrosse teammates at nearby Sedgefield Elementary. Her experience working in the media center of the Title I school led Kate to become more involved with the Center for Active Citizenship, a relatively new campus unit that supported the award-winning partnership.

Kate later became a two-term chair of the Center’s student advisory board. She believes the group should act as “stewards of service on our campus,” so she doubled board membership and encouraged regular participation in the group’s Saturday service workdays.

Kate credits her mother – “a fourth-generation Rotarian” – with instilling an ethic of service. As a child she took part in Rotary service events throughout her hometown of Bexley, Ohio.

While her post-grad plans include a research year and, hopefully, graduate school in pharmacology, Kate says she will keep her focus on helping others. “I want to be involved with making medicine more affordable and accessible to those who can’t afford it.”

John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award 2015 Recipient

Kate Gatterdam, Queens University of Charlotte
Created in 2011, the John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award is awarded annually to a student at a NC Campus Compact member institution who, like Mr. Barnhill, demonstrates innovation in civic engagement, creating foundations that expand partnerships amongst communities, campuses, and individuals. The student must be in their final year of school.

John Barnhill entered college with a passion for serving and a commitment to searching out and developing leaders. Devoting almost 30 hours a week in direct service while a student at Elon University, in 1989 he co-founded the campus’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter. Seeing the potential in each person, as well as the real needs in the community, John founded Elon Volunteers! (EV!) in 1990. EV! equips leaders to organize, plan, coordinate, and recruit fellow Elon students for local, national and international service. Twenty years later, 100+ EV! leaders continue to mobilize students to volunteer over 100,000 hours annually.

John continued his commitment to utilizing civic engagement to develop students as campus and community leaders, becoming Elon University’s first paid staff to coordinate volunteer service. Under his leadership, the Office of Volunteer Programs became the endowed, nationally recognized Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement. The Center facilitates partnerships with local and international communities, and advances student learning, leadership, citizenship, and volunteerism, preparing them for lives of active community engagement. As one administrator shared, “John created the student leadership model for Elon, focusing students’ passions for service in productive ways to address community needs.”

In 1993 John broadened his vision, helping form North Carolina Campus Volunteers (NCCV), a statewide coalition of students and staff who unified volunteerism across the state. Through John’s guidance, NCCV created and hosted the first Student Conference 20 years ago. NCCV merged with NC Campus Compact when it formed in 2002, and the Compact has continued to host the yearly conferences, now called CSNAP. In 2002, John was selected to serve as the founding Executive Director of North Carolina Campus Compact. During his four years in this role, he helped other campuses build their infrastructures to produce civically-engaged graduates and strengthen communities.

John is recognized not only for his personal service and leadership, but also as someone who built student confidence, engagement, leadership and impact. He reflects a genuine heart for students, helping them see their untapped potential and catch his passion for serving others.

Previous Trailblazers

2011 Morgan Abbott, UNC-Chapel Hill
2011 Sam Williams, Appalachian State University
2012 Rachel Stanley, Elon University
2013 Amanda Moore, Appalachian State University
2014 Aaron Marshall, Western Carolina University
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