

Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Thursday, June 10, 2021

Welcome

Mary Hyde, Ph.D.

Director,

Office of Research and Evaluation



Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue.

Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

June 09, 2021

Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Panel Moderator

Melissa Gouge, Ph.D.

Research Analyst

*Office of Research and Evaluation/
AmeriCorps NCCC*



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Participatory Action Planning to Address the Opioid Epidemic in a Rural Virginia Community

Carlin Rafie, Ph.D., MS, RD

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

*Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Exercise
Virginia Tech*



Emily Zimmerman, Ph.D., MS, MPH

*Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
and Population Health, Div. of Epidemiology,
Virginia Commonwealth University*

*Director of Community Engaged Research and
Qualitative Research, Center on Society and Health*



2018 Community Conversations Research Grantee

Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Project process

- ☀️ Opioid use disorder (OUD) as an emerging national health issue
- ☀️ Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia identified as a community with a significant OUD crisis
- ☀️ Community task force approaches Engaging Martinsville for help.
- ☀️ **The SEED Method**
- ☀️ **Multi-level stakeholder engagement**
- ☀️ **Generation of community derived responsive strategies**
- ☀️ **Community buy-in and prioritization of strategies for action**



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Project Accomplishments

- ❖ Create a Detox Center in Martinsville & Henry County
- ❖ Establish a Drug Court in Martinsville & Henry County
- ❖ Increase public awareness of local substance and opioid use treatment, recovery, and support resources
- ❖ Expand and sustain youth and parent opioid use prevention education in Martinsville & Henry County schools



Workgroups & Action Planning Strategies

Four work groups composed of interested community members were formed to implement four strategies prioritized by community stakeholders

THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



CREATE A DEDICATED DETOXIFICATION FACILITY IN MARTINSVILLE/HENRY COUNTY

The first step is to strengthen the continuum of care for those with substance use disorder (SUD)

ESTABLISH A DRUG COURT IN MARTINSVILLE/HENRY COUNTY

Establish a drug court for people with a substance use disorder to receive treatment



RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE OPIOID-RELATED SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Raise public awareness of the opioid issue and the work being done to address it in Martinsville/Henry County

EXPAND YOUTH AND PARENT SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN MARTINSVILLE/HENRY COUNTY

Educate parents and students about substance misuse



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Project S.P.A.R.C

Sam Intrator, Ph.D.

Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor of Education & Child Study

Smith College

2018 Grantee



Ready to Launch



How Out-of-School Programs Can Support the Transition Out of High School



Getting Stuck



*Youth Participatory Action
Research on How Out-of-School
Programs Can Support the
Transition Out of High School*



Swimming At Your Own Risk



*Youth Participatory Action
Research on How Out-of-School
Programs Can Support the
Transition Out of High School*



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Does AmeriCorps Experience Improve a Young Person's Employment Prospects?

Jodi Benenson, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, School of Public Administration,
University of Nebraska Omaha*

Noorya Hayat, Ed.M.

*Senior Researcher, CIRCLE, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life,
Tufts University*

**2015 National Service and Civic Engagement Research
Competition**



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Two Complementary Studies

Focus Area: National Service and Employment

- **Study 1:** A correspondence study to examine the impact of AmeriCorps on employment outcomes. We created fictitious application materials and applied to 2,010 jobs between 2016-17.
- **Study 2:** Used a survey, interviews, and small correspondence study to explore the perceptions of hiring managers from the Employers of National Service (ENS) network on AmeriCorps service experience.

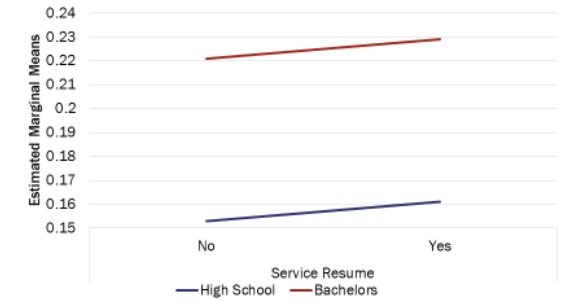
The logo for CIRCLE, featuring the word "CIRCLE" in blue capital letters. The letter "I" is replaced by a stylized American flag with a white star on a blue field and red and white stripes.The logo for Tufts University, featuring the word "Tufts" in a large, blue, serif font, with "UNIVERSITY" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.The logo for the University of Nebraska Omaha, featuring the text "UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Omaha" in black, with "Nebraska" in a larger font. To the right is a stylized logo consisting of a red and black "O" shape.

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Study Findings

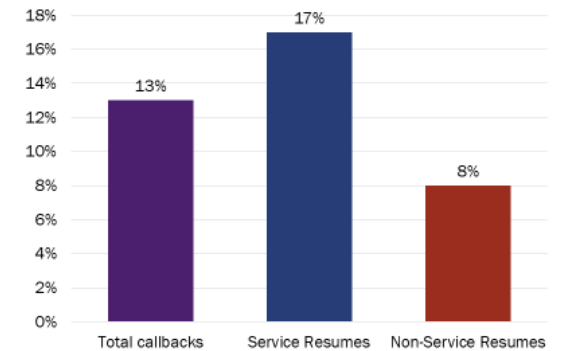
- In the correspondence study, we found that there was **not a significant difference in the rate of callbacks between applications that included national service experience and those that did not.**
- We also found that a **college degree was the major predictor of receiving a callback for a job application.**
- By examining perceptions of ENS, we found that **if employers know and understand AmeriCorps they are likely to take it into account in hiring decisions.**
- However, **many hiring managers lack in-depth understanding of AmeriCorps** and how it builds career and leadership skills that are invaluable in any job position.

Callbacks by Education



Significant at $p \leq .001$ with covariates Race, Gender, City Name, Sector and Occupation.

Employers of National Service Callbacks by Service



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Research & Policy Implications

- College degree is used as a “signal” for implicit qualities and earned skills
- Very few job opportunities are visible in an online search for non-college youth, including national service alumni
- Building familiarity with national service through Employers of National Service opens employment pathways
- Further exploration needed around why and for whom national service experience boosts employment prospects

Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

UW-Madison

Laura Schlachter, Ph.D.

Research Analyst,

AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation

Researcher,

University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Grantee Program Accomplishments

The “civic spillover hypothesis” posits that participation at work begets civic participation. But what happens when civic engagement leads to more participatory workplaces?

We use survey and interview data from the most systematic study of U.S. worker cooperatives to complicate core assumptions of the civic spillover hypothesis and propose an alternative “civic enrichment hypothesis.”

Our civic enrichment framework recognizes that professional and civic spheres often overlap and the potential for civic experiences off the clock to shape the nature of work.



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Grantee Program Accomplishments

Our first study demonstrated how civic enrichment operates in the unique context of firms fully owned and democratically controlled by workers.

Our next step is to examine the spillover vs. enrichment hypotheses in the context of conventional workplaces. We will analyze responses to new questions about the relationship between work and civic life we are introducing in the 2021 CPS Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement.



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Kimberly Bender, PhD, MSW

Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Endowed Professor for
Children and Youth

*University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work in
partnership with the Colorado Coalition for the
Homeless*

2018 Grantee



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Grantee Program Accomplishments

Using participatory research methods, this study aims to understand how mutual aid (i.e., peer-to-peer support) can support young people experiencing homelessness to build social capital and civic engagement.

Our team has developed deep insights into how:

1. Young people experiencing homelessness perceive mutual aid provided by peer workers
2. Peer workers experience their role, including the personal benefits, challenges and needs associated with providing mutual aid
3. Young people experiencing homelessness conceptualize social capital and civic engagement



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK



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Grantee Program Accomplishments

Our methods have included:

- Individual interviews
- Semi-structured journaling
- Photovoice

Relevant to today's topic, we've found

- Engaging in photovoice can be a source of social capital and civic engagement
- Peer support can be a pathway to paid meaningful employment but requires thoughtful organizational support



Civic Engagement and Pathways to Employment

Panelist Discussion and Q&A



Melissa Gouge, Ph.D.

*Research Analyst,
Office of Research and
Evaluation,
AmeriCorps*



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*Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922
Professor of Education &
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Laura Schlachter, Ph.D.

*Researcher,
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