



# The Importance of Community Engagement in Higher Education:

## *Community Service Indaba*

Friday June 11, 2021 – 02:00 PM, Pretoria (+2 GMT)  
ZOOM MEETING ID: 824 0390 5575 PASSWORD: 317656



**Host/Moderator**  
Clement Dlamini

**Facilitators/Speakers**



**Dr. Julie Drolet**



**Dr. Lorlene Hoyt**



**Dr. James Krueger**



**Angel Ancha Bulunga**

Globally, universities have a responsibility to engage with communities, contribute to the development of well-rounded graduates, design ground-breaking research and to contribute to the local and global through community engagement. The University of Eswatini's Centre for Community Service believes that its core mandate is to ensure that the institution fulfils its community engagement requirements.

Community engagement can take diverse forms: student volunteerism, service-learning, field education, and scholarly engagement through research and exchange programmes. Community engagement is founded on principles of capacity building, service leadership, and patriotism. The University of Eswatini seeks to expose its students and staff to the value of community service in industry as well as society. To achieve the desired outcomes of community engagement, there ought to be a shared understanding and values of the role of community engagement in higher learning.

The Director of the Centre for Community Services, along with partners and friends, have agreed that there is a need for dialogue with the global community about the experiences of students, researchers, and industry leaders. There is a need to increase awareness and understanding on community engagement. The Seminar will host meaningful conversations and discussions on community engagement in order to begin to develop new community-university collaborations for improved engagement.

The Center will host a Seminar event to facilitate a 2-hour dialogue/conversation that will bring together local and international speakers to share their experiences, community-university research and partnerships, field education collaborations, and community engagement institutions within higher learning. The seminar seeks to provide an opportunity for participants to engage with each other in order to better understand what community engagement looks like in diverse contexts.

### **Objectives of Virtual Seminar**

- To share community engagement experiences and their impact on enhancing learning
- To establish linkages between community services or engagement with action research
- To explore the benefits of community engagement for students, faculty, and the institution
- To explore how community engagement can lead to field education/practicum placements



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## Guest Speaker Profile



***Dr. James Krueger***

Dr. Krueger is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Health, Medicine, and Society Program at the University of Redlands located in Redlands, California. He has over a decade of experience integrating community service learning into teaching and academic program design. He has lead service based courses that travel to Eswatini and work in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, integrated service components into course offerings on campus at the University of Redlands, and, as founding director of the program, spearheaded the creation of a service/internship based capstone as a requirement for graduation from the Health, Medicine, and Society Program. He teaches widely in the areas of Philosophy of Medicine and Bioethics.



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***Dr. Julie Drolet***

**Dr. Julie Drolet** - Julie Drolet is Professor in the Faculty of Social Work's Central and Northern Alberta Region in Edmonton, Canada. Dr. Drolet is Project Director of the Transforming the Field Education Landscape: Intersections of Research and Practice in Canadian Social Work Field Education project funded by a SSHRC Partnership grant (2019-2024). The partnership brings together social work researchers, field educators, social work associations, field agencies, and post-secondary institutions in Canada and internationally. She is principal investigator of the study titled In the Aftermath of the 2016 Alberta Wildfire: Experiences of Social Work Practitioners and Human Service Professionals in Long-Term Disaster Recovery funded by a SSHRC Insight Grant. She served as principal investigator of the Alberta Resilient Communities project, a study examining child and youth resilience in Southern Alberta following the 2013 floods. Working closely with community service providers, Dr. Drolet hopes to increase awareness of the importance of social work in long-term disaster recovery.

Dr. Drolet has published extensively in international social work and social development with a particular focus on disaster recovery, climate change, social protection initiatives, international and Canadian field education, qualitative research, and international migration and Canadian immigration. She teaches social work research, international social work, social work practice with immigrants and refugees, and field education courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. She has held over \$10.5 million in research funding in multiple social work research projects. She has published over 150 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reports, and she is the author of 9 scholarly books and edited collections. She collaborates with interdisciplinary teams of scholars on various research projects and employs numerous students as research assistants. She has supervised 59 graduate and 75 undergraduate student research assistants, 6 post-doctoral scholars, and 28 field practicum students. She is actively involved in student research training and mentorship, as well as knowledge mobilization initiatives, that involve community-university research partnerships and community engagement.



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***Dr. Lorlene Hoyt***

**Dr. Lorlene Hoyt** is a Research Professor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, a faculty member of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University, and the Executive Director of the Talloires Network. From 2002-2011, she served as Assistant then Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) where she founded MIT@Lawrence, an award-winning city-campus partnership with the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts. She holds a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.



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**Angel Ancha Bulunga**

**Angel Ancha Bulunga** - is a Swati citizen who is based in South Africa, Johannesburg. She is a Programme Officer at the Jakes Gerwel Fellowship, an Allan Gray Fellow and Mandela Rhodes Scholar. She holds a BSc and BSc Honours in Environmental Science obtained at Rhodes University in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown). As a student at Rhodes University, she was an active student volunteer and student leader. In 2014, in her second year she received the Student Volunteer of The Year Award and she also collaborated with the Community Engagement office in ideating and implementing the community engagement program at orientation. This was also adopted for the Environmental program. In 2016 she was the SRC Community Engagement Councillor and interim SRC Environmental Councillor which allowed her to work closely with different stakeholders on policy. She is of the strong belief that community engagement has the power to produce holistic graduates and responsible global citizens.