

Clashes Over Citizenship: Webinar Series on Promoting Listening, Learning, and Engagement

Income Inequality and the Cost of Citizenship

October 27, 2016 from 3:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Hosts:



Caryn McTighe Musil is Senior Scholar and Director of Civic Learning and Democracy Initiatives at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), where she had served as Senior Vice President of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Global Initiatives for fourteen years. A director of over twenty national projects, she also wrote *A Crucible Moment: Civic Learning and Democracy's Future* (2012), which represents the collective wisdom of a broad constituency and seeks to move civic learning from niches to norms. Her project publication, *Rethinking Preparation for Work: A Civic-Enriched Liberal Education* (2015), argues that enhancing students' commitment to the common good should be a prerequisite for preparing for work. In *Civic Prompts: Making Civic Learning Routine Across the Disciplines*, she suggests how departments can integrate civic inquiries, issues, pedagogies, and assignments to teach their subject matter more effectively. She currently directs a National Endowment for the Humanities Project, *Citizenship Under Siege*, with seven community colleges to bring the power of the humanities into the public square in the face of contentious issues. Before national level positions, Dr. Musil was a faculty member for sixteen years. She received her B.A. from Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Northwestern University.



Verdis LeVar Robinson is the new interim National Manager of The Democracy Commitment (TDC) after having served as a tenured Assistant Professor of History and African-American Studies at Monroe Community College (MCC) in Rochester, New York, for ten years. In addition to serving as MCC's TDC Campus Coordinator since the beginning of the initiative, he has served on TDC National Steering Committee and on the Advisory Council for its Economic Inequality Initiative. Professionally, Verdis is a fellow of the Aspen Institute's Faculty Seminar on *Citizenship and the American and Global Polity*, and the National Endowment for the Humanities' Faculty Seminar on *Rethinking Black Freedom Studies: The Jim Crow North and West*. He is also a Public Scholar of the New York Council for the Humanities. Additionally, Verdis is the founder of the Rochester Neighborhood Oral History Project that created a walking tour of the community most impacted by the 1964 Race Riots, which has engaged over 300 members of Rochester community in walking, discussing, and learning about the legacy of Jim Crow Rochester. He holds a B.M. in Voice Performance from Boston University, a B.S. and an M.A. in History from SUNY College at Brockport, and an M.A. in African-American Studies from SUNY University at Buffalo.

Presenters (in order of appearance):



Jill Schennum has been a Professor of Anthropology at County College of Morris (CCM) since 1998 and is the Chair of the Department of Sociology, Economics, and Anthropology. Schennum is currently working on a book on her research on deindustrialization and steelworkers, *Bethlehem Steelworkers: Reshaping the Industrial Working Class*, with Vanderbilt University Press. Schennum is actively involved in community work and research in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania as an officer and board member of the Steelworkers' Archives. Schennum received a B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology from Carleton College and her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the Graduate Center, City University of New York.



Stephen Davis has taught at Lone Star College-Kingwood since its founding in 1984, having served as Associate Dean and Social Sciences department chair during at least half of that tenure. He regularly teaches the two-semester survey course in U.S. history, the new College Success course (EDUC 1300) required of all first-time students, and more specialized offerings in "Sports and American Culture;" "WW I Through History, Literature and the Arts;" and "The Beatles and the British Invasion."

Professor Davis is a co-editor of *The Norton Mix—American History: A Custom Reader and Textbook*, published by W. W. Norton in 2014. For the last two years, he has collaborated with a Government colleague on an Alternative Spring Break tour in which a van load of students takes a week to study civil rights, the blues and other American musical forms, and food culture from New Orleans to Memphis and down through the Mississippi Delta. He will be on sabbatical in the Spring to plan a study abroad program for Lone Star students in Portugal and Spain. Davis holds a B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Houston.



Fagan Forhan serves as the Assistant Dean for K-12 Partnerships and Civic Engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College. In her current role, Fagan provides strategic direction and oversight for MWCC's Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, and the college's Division of Access and Transition. She served as a member of the Board of Higher Education's Study Group on Civic Learning, which created the framework for the Vision Project's "Preparing Citizens" learning outcome, the first national civic learning requirement for public higher education in the US; she also serves as a National Steering Committee Member for The Democracy Commitment; a founding partner and Steering Committee member for the national Economic Inequality Initiative through the American Democracy Project and The Democracy Commitment; a Steering Committee Member for the 2017 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement conference; and, a member of the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association. Prior to working at MWCC, Fagan worked for six years with the Massachusetts State Legislature as Chief of Staff for a State Representative, managing budgetary issues, constituent services, and providing analysis on legislative issues. Forhan holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Seth Howard is the Assistant Director for the Center for Civic Engagement. He joined the Lone Star College-Kingwood Center for Civic Engagement in 2013 as a part-time employee and was later promoted to be the Assistant Director of the Center for Civic Engagement for the Lone Star College System. He continues to expand current and create new programs that engage the campuses and surrounding communities. Howard holds a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Houston.