Connecting Science and Society in the Classroom
Julie Morris, lecturer, Biological Sciences PhD, ecology (systematics & evolution), Kent State University – julie.a.morris@du.edu

Rebecca L Powell, Asc Professor, Geography & the Environment PhD, geography, University of California–Santa Barbara – Rebecca.L.Powell@du.edu

Thomas Walker, Director of Ed Programs & LGBTIQA Svcs, Center for Multicultural Excellence PhD, intercultural communication, Arizona State University – thomas.walker@du.edu
Goals
- Initiate dialogue on importance and opportunities
- Gather ideas and identify needs for greater institutional support

Agenda
- Why the connection is important
- Best/promising practices
- Discussion on opportunities & challenges
Learning effectiveness
- individuals connect better with content and process that reflects them
- broader learning styles and diverse perspectives among learners (learning effectiveness)

Recruitment
- cultivates climate to attract more and more diverse peoples and perspectives to courses and profession

Cultural competence
- increases skills and experience for working with globally diverse colleagues
Builds public support
- more effective communicators enhance public’s scientific literacy and support

Can increase funding potential
- indirectly through more supportive public
- directly from funders interested in/requiring diversity (e.g., NSF requirements)

Improve our professional experience
- can connect teaching, research and service expectations with integrated projects (relationships!) bridging class and community

Others?

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Each panelist in turns shares a few examples of effective ways

- Hybrid course connects beyond academic work, to pop culture
- Lab presentations practices peer communication
- Flat classroom and pods
- Upper division classroom assistant/peer mentors
- Service learning: Science Saturdays, DU Day of Action visits
- Diversifying STEM history and current developments (>Europe)
- Using science examples with social context (e.g., statistics using HIV data, baseball, etc.)
- Just & Sustainable Future projects (next slide)

*We can have slides with some points listed, or just talk with “examples” backdrop slide*
What have you tried, or heard/seen? (additional *best/promising practices*)

- What *challenges* have you faced?
- What *resources* would be helpful?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Potential community partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance (MGA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> MGA aims to enhance access of all communities in the Front Range to vibrant open spaces. Promotes youth engagement through community-based education, interpretive programming.  <strong>Themes:</strong> equity and access to parks, wellness, healthy communities, biodiversity conservation, cultivating environmental stewardship; experiential learning</td>
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<td><strong>Multimodal Transportation Hub</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> Existing space at DU station becomes a model of connectivity at the intersection of rail, a major bike route, the freeway, and campus. Community gathering space.  <strong>Themes:</strong> equity and access to the city; wellness; healthy communities; safe streets; affordable housing; diversity; reduced carbon footprint; improved air quality; experiential learning</td>
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<td><strong>Solar Partnerships</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> Partnerships allow greater negotiating power in purchasing solar power infrastructure. Energy demonstration and STEM education projects connect DU and diverse school populations.  <strong>Themes:</strong> equity and access to resources; reduced carbon emissions; improved air quality; health; access to educational opportunities; diversity; experiential learning</td>
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<td><strong>Farm to Table Initiative</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> Network of community partners collaborate to build an environmental sustainable, culturally relevant, just food system in the Denver region.  <strong>Themes:</strong> equity and access to “good food”; diversity; wellness; individual, community, and environmental health; community building; experiential learning</td>
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What have you tried, or heard/seen? (additional *best/promising practices*)

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Signup sheet to receive compiled info

We’ll also share with:

- State of Knowledge working group (Chancellor’s Transformative Directions)
- Undergraduate Academic Programs (FSEMs)
- STEM deans
- Office of Teaching & Learning
The DU Center for Sustainability and Sustainability Council invite faculty, students, and staff to creatively envision possibilities for interdisciplinary research and teaching related to four potential projects: Metropolitan Greenspace Alliances, Multimodal Transportation Hub, Farm-to-Table Network, and Solar Partnerships.