Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos

Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos is President and Chief Executive Officer of the League for Innovation in the Community College, an international organization dedicated to catalyzing the community college movement. The League hosts conferences and institutes, develops Web resources, conducts research, produces publications, provides services, and leads projects and initiatives with more than 700 member institutions representing 9 different countries, over 160 corporate partners, and a host of other governmental and non-profit agencies. In its continuing effort to make a positive difference for students and communities, the League is dedicated to improving student and organizational learning through innovation, experimentation, and institutional transformation.

Dr. de los Santos earned an A.A. degree from Mesa Community College in Arizona subsequently transferring to the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a B.A. in Rhetoric. He earned his Masters in English from Arizona State University, where he was honored as a Graduate Regents Fellow. Gerardo received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was named Distinguished Graduate.

Dr. de los Santos has represented community colleges at the White House on multiple occasions and has authored and co-authored over 45 higher education publications focusing on issues, including innovation and practice, leadership development, key trends in community colleges, alternative funding, as well as technology and STEM advancements in community colleges. He serves on over 14 national advisory, foundation, and editorial boards including the ETS Community College Advisory Council, the Community College Research Center’s Advisory Board, Columbia University, Change Magazine’s Editorial Board, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement Board.

Dr. de los Santos’s most recent of recognitions includes being the recipient of the International Leadership Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development of the University of Texas at Austin.
Jo Watson

Jo Watson has a Master’s Degree, with an emphasis in leadership. Jo Watson is a business leader, speaker, mentor and life coach. She helps those who want to rediscover their passions, assess their strengths and weaknesses in order to move toward achieving their professional and personal goals. Her experiences as a CEO and business owner have given her insight into how the corporate environment influences our ability to live with authenticity.

She is a musician at heart and believes music is a universal language with the ability to touch the hearts of people when words cannot. Her journey has given her a passion for young unwed mothers, those who live in poverty and those who want to live without fear.

Jo is a native of Arizona, and lives with her husband Jay. She also has three children, and two grandchildren.

Keynote Address

Closing the Gap - Creating Authenticity

If you had the courage to be who you are, who would recognize you, and how different would your life be?

The “gap” is the distance between who we are (authenticity) and who we represent to others. It is also the place where our unrealized hopes and dreams lie. When we trade away our true self (authenticity), because of fear and the need for approval, our lives become anemic and have little or no joy. But how different would our lives be if we had the courage to close the gap?
Assessment of Service Learning Student Learning Outcomes
This workshop is designed for beginning service learning practitioners and staff who want to learn about authentic ways to assess intended student learning outcomes through the use of rubrics and qualitative student work such as reflection journals and analytic papers. The procedures in use at Kapi`olani Community College will be covered, along with specific examples of rubric categories for various learning outcomes. A sample paper will be analyzed by workshop participants using our protocol. Potential uses of results will then be covered. Finally, participants will be grouped according to interest and encouraged to design an assessment plan for their own courses or programs.

Presenters: Tanya Renner, Professor of Psychology, Kapi`olani Community College, Francisco Acoba, M.A., Assistant Professor, English, Kapiolani Community College.

Building Peace and Community Wellness: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Models
The need to foster peaceful relations and support community wellness is ever present in American communities. As U.S. society continues to represent a diverse mosaic of cultures, ethnicities and religious groups, preparing student leaders with the means and strategies to build bridges, facilitate dialogue and conversation, and overall promote peace, collaboration, and wellness are needed. In this workshop, faculty will engage in activities designed to (1) identify student leaders and foster leadership (2) develop skills and tools that faculty can use in the classroom, and (3) uncover opportunities for student leaders to apply their abilities.

Presenter: David J. Smith, JD, MS, Educational Consultant and Peacebuilding Trainer

Advanced Practices in Service and Sustainability Learning: Part III
The purpose of this workshop is to create an ongoing Community of Practice for service-learning practitioners who are also working with sustainability in all its dimensions: the civic and moral considerations of the social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental challenges we face as a planet. Where are we in terms of teaching sustainability practices and thinking? How is sustainability related to service-learning? What can community colleges and universities do to help communities become more resilient? Emerging categories of practice include: Campus as a Living Laboratory, Campus and Community Resilience, Interdisciplinary Integration, Reciprocal Service and Change, and Connecting to Spiritual and Home-based Practices.
Kapi`olani Community College will lead the workshop by sharing their place-based issues in sustainability and resilience, and how their practices contribute to community problem solving. They will then facilitate small-group discussion and sharing to assist workshop attendees in sharing and developing their own programs, curriculum, community partnership development, and service-learning practices.

Presenter: Robert Franco, Professor, Pacific Anthropology, Director, Office for Institutional Effectiveness, Krista Hiser, Associate Professor of Composition and Faculty Service Learning Coordinator, Kapi`olani Community College.
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Morning Pre-conference Sessions (9:00 am – noon)

Grant Writing from Start to Finish
Service learning and civic engagement programs are often faced with the daunting task of writing grant proposals. The overall process of writing a competitive grant proposal includes developing a clear program idea, gathering the necessary background information, researching appropriate funding sources, and developing a strong narrative application. The myriad tasks related to successful grant writing can be overwhelming. This interactive hands-on session will guide you past the basics to develop a holistic approach to proposal development.

The goals of this workshop are to (1) provide a general overview of the grant-writing process, (2) identify common barriers to securing funding for implementation of faculty innovation, service learning, and civic engagement programs, and (3) demystify the grant-writing process while encouraging campus-wide involvement in the process.

During this interactive workshop, participants will develop an idea from conception to a fundable and competitive application. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and put your best ideas into practice; at the end of this session you’ll be presenting your complete proposal! The morning session will cover the basics and the afternoon session is designed for individuals to work on an existing or planned proposal.

Presenter: Joseph Swaba, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Gateway Community College.

Afternoon Pre-conference Sessions (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

Comprehensive Assessment of Service Learning Using Engagement, Learning, and Achievement Framework
This workshop is designed for advanced service learning practitioners and staff who want to learn about the comprehensive approach taken at Kapi‘olani Community College to assess our service learning program. We will present the Kapi‘olani Engagement, Learning, and Achievement (KELA) framework. This multifaceted approach, based on the institution's values, includes surveys such as CCSSE to measure engagement, SLOs assessment to measure learning, and institutional research to measure achievement through, for example, GPA and retention comparisons. Participants will identify and discuss the framework categories in depth and consider the potential for aspects of this model to support comprehensive assessment at their institutions.

Presenters: Tanya Renner, Professor of Psychology, Kapi‘olani Community College, Francisco Acoba, M.A., Assistant Professor, English, Kapiolani Community College.

An Introduction to Service Learning and Civic Engagement
This workshop features two long-time practitioners who will share strategies and lessons learned about academically based service learning as a teaching and learning tool that leads to student success. Learn what service learning is, what it isn’t, and why and how to do it. Discover how service learning can help students meet a college-wide civic engagement learning outcome. Hear what students, partners, and faculty say about how their partnerships transformed individuals and communities. Participate in hands-on activities that focus on using service learning to promote community engagement; integrating civic responsibility components into course syllabi; encouraging student dialogue and critical thinking on social issues; and increasing meaningful involvement between colleges and communities. Take home proven tools and resources, including a service learning curriculum development worksheet, stakeholder analysis, syllabus design, and reflection ideas.

Presenters: Gail Robinson, Senior Advisor CCNCCE and Duane Oakes, Faculty Director, Center for Community and Civic Engagement, Mesa Community College.
The Physics of Civics: Leveraging Funding and Support for Your Service-Learning Program

As a cascade of social and environmental problems descend on our communities, local, regional, national, and global, it is important to establish a supportive and sustainable structure for garnering both internal and external funding for our service learning programs. Since service-learning makes a strong claim to driving positive student outcomes (engagement, learning, and achievement), and to problem amelioration in the community, we need to leverage internal and external sources of funding, move from inertia to momentum, and create beneficial multiplier effects for both student success and community betterment.

This interactive workshop will enable participants to map out internal and external sources of support and funding for your service-learning program, and develop new tactics so that your service-learning program can achieve lofty goals for your campus and community.

Presenter: Robert Franco, Professor, Pacific Anthropology, Director, Office for Institutional Effectiveness, Kapiʻolani Community College.

COMING SOON!

Concurrent Session Descriptions and Schedule for May 20 - 21, 2015