Tennessee Board of Regents, Office of Academic Affairs
National Endowment for the Humanities
Tennessee Campus Compact

Summer Summit

Bringing the Outside In

Thursday-Friday, July 28-29, 2016

The TBR/NEH Partnership:
Intentional Teaching of Difference toward the Growth Mindset

Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges through Religious Pluralism in Tennessee
Civic Learning, Service Learning, Experiential Learning, and Democratic Engagement
Relevance, Resilience, Identity, Meaning, Belonging, Purpose

Thursday, July 28, 2016
Islamic Center of Tennessee/ICT
5400 Bell Forge Lane East, Antioch, TN 37013

Democracy and Diversity:
What is Higher Education’s Responsibility?

10:00-11:30  Lunch on Your Own

11:30-12:30  Registration, Tour of Islamic Center by Imam Ahmed

12:30-12:45  Welcome
Imam Ahmed, Imam, Islamic Center of Tennessee/ICT
Mrs. Aisha Lbhalla, President, Muslim Women’s Council of ICT
Ms. Vanessa Lazón, Director, Community Inclusion, Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement, Mayor Megan Barry’s Office of New Americans
Dr. Mark Byrnes, Provost, Middle Tennessee State University/MTSU
Chancellor David Gregory, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents/TBR

12:45-1:30  Why We’re Here Overview
ARE WE STILL BOWLING ALONE? REFLECTIONS ON OUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT JOURNEY
Dr. George L. Mehaffy, Vice President for Academic Leadership and Change
American Association of State Colleges and Universities/AASCU

1:30-2:20  Diversity and Democracy
“DOING” DEMOCRACY THROUGH DIVERSITY: TRANSFORMATIVE PEDAGOGIES OF PRACTICE AND ENGAGEMENT
Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil, Director of Civic Learning and Democracy Initiatives
Association of American Colleges and Universities/AAC&U, Washington, D.C.
Introduced by Dr. Mani Hull, Executive Director, Tennessee Campus Compact
Panel Discussion on Current Issues in Immigration

**REFUGEES, THEIR JOURNEY, AND THEIR RECEPTION IN OUR COMMUNITY**

If protecting the American legacy means furthering, sharing it, and being a beacon of hope, which is a great source of American pride, how do we together as Americans, in an era of conflict, continue and further the American heritage of opportunity? In undertaking the ongoing work of establishing a more perfect union, do we in higher education play a critical role and what is it?

- Refugee stories
- How we welcome them into our communities
- Tools and skills for educators in the classroom

**Mr. Abdou Kattih**, Syrian American community leader; President, Murfreesboro Muslim Youth, bringing with him some Syrian refugees to Tennessee

**Ms. Kasar Abdulla**, Kurdish American community leader; Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition; co-founder, AMACTN; recipient of President Obama’s Champion of Change award

**Mr. Abdulkadir Gure**, Somali American refugee

**Ms. Holly Johnson**, Director, Tennessee Office of Refugees, Catholic Charities of Tennessee

**Ms. Zulfat Suara**, Nigerian American community leader; Chair, American Muslim Advisory Council Tennessee/AMACTN

Moderated by **Dr. Amy Sayward**, Professor, Department of History, MTSU; Executive Director, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

3:30-3:45

**Shared Thinking**

**Dr. Sayward, Dr. Mehaffy, and Dr. Tristan Denley**, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents, comment on the panel and about community building, forming a more perfect union, and the role to be played in this work by higher education

3:45-3:55

**NEH-TBR Program Overview**

**NEH-TBR BRIDGING CULTURES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP**

**Dr. Mary Evins**, Program Director, Religious Pluralism in Tennessee, Center for Historic Preservation, MTSU

3:55-4:55

**Bridging Cultures and Educating for Democracy at Jackson State**

**Jackson State Community College**

**Dr. Mechel Camp**, English, Dean of Communication and Humanities

**Dr. Nell Senter**, Philosophy, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Mr. Tony Rafalowski**, English

**Dr. Mantri Sivananda**, History

**Mr. William Shull**, History

**Ms. Kim Warren-Cox**, Communication

5:00-5:15

**Closing Comments, Making Connections**

**Dr. Mehaffy**, American Democracy Project, AASCU

**Dr. James H. Williams**, American Democracy Project, MTSU

Housekeeping for tonight and Friday

5:15

**Dismissal**

Dinner on Your Own...BUT we ask you to join us to continue today’s conversations! Pick your dining pleasure: **ETHIOPIAN, INDIAN/SOUTH ASIAN, or KURDISH**...

- Ethiopian/East African – Gojo Ethiopian Restaurant, 415 Thompson Lane, Nashville 37211
  With Ms. Zulfat Suara, Dr. Laura Clark, Dr. Jim Williams
- Indian/South Asian – Woodlands, 3415 West End Avenue, Nashville 37203
  With Dr. Mani Hull, Dr. Amy Sayward, Dr. Antoinette van Zelm
- Kurdish – House of Kebab, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville 37211
  With Ms. Kasar Abdulla and Dr. Mary Evins
Friday, July 29, 2016
Baha’i Faith Community Center
1556 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37211

Helping Students Shift from a Fixed Mindset to a Seeking/Growth Mindset Through Civic Learning and Religious Pluralism

8:00-8:30  Arrival and Networking

8:30-8:35  Welcome
           Ms. Antoinette Washington, Secretary of Spiritual Assembly of Baha’i Nashville
           Chancellor Denley

8:35-9:20  Educating for Democracy
           \textit{DIVERSITY, CIVIC EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, AND POLITICS: CONNECTING CURRENTLY DISCONNECTED LEARNING GOALS}
           Dr. Nancy L. Thomas, Director, Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, Tufts University; Director, National Study on Student Learning, Voting, and Engagement
           Dr. Thomas will be joining us remotely and interactively from Ontario, Canada

9:20-9:30  Break
           \textit{Break snacks graciously provided by the Baha’i Faith Community Center}

9:30-10:35  Bridging Cultures and Educating for Democracy at Cleveland State
            Cleveland State Community College
            Dr. Robert Brandon, English, Dean of Humanities
            Dr. Matthew Tolbert, Psychology, Chair of Social Sciences
            Mr. Will Benson, Music
            Dr. Victoria Bryan, English
            Mr. Robert Ellis, History
            Mr. Andy Foskey, Library
            Ms. Sandy Whetmore, Education
            Dr. Charles Wilson, Philosophy

10:35-10:45  Break

10:45-11:45  Panel Discussion by Women of Faith
           \textit{MODELING PEACE AND DIALOGUING ACROSS DIFFERENCE}
           What are the challenges of being a female in a faith institution traditionally dominated by men? How does gender impact how your voice is heard and how you exercise leadership in your religious tradition? How does gender affect your interaction with other religious leaders? How does power allocation and marginalization impact your work within your own circles? In our wider Tennessee community, what is the biggest challenge you face being a person of your particular faith? For the benefit of our college faculty: When you yourself teach young people, what works best, from your own experiences as a religious leader, in terms of bringing intercultural understanding about/between/among people of different faiths? How best do we bridge religious divides?
           Ms. Berthena Nabaa-McKinney, Islamic Center of Nashville; Past Principal, Nashville International Academy
           Ms. Judith A. Saks, West End Synagogue; Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Communications Director, retired
           Mrs. Talieh Ferdowsi, Baha’i Faith Community member and Iranian American refugee
           Ms. Sarabjit Bhatti, Nashville Gurdwara Sikh Temple; Research Scientist, Tenn. State Univ.
           Moderated by Ms. Kasar Abdulla and Dr. Evins
Musical Program of American Religious Diversity

**EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH THROUGH SONG AND WORDS**

A luncheon presentation sharing religious pluralism through music and artistic expression with warm appreciation to our gracious and talented singers and musicians, who include our hosts, the Baha’i Faith Community Center

**Ms. Laura Ware**, Baha’i Faith Community Center
**Mr. Rashed Fakruddin**, President, Islamic Center of Nashville
**Cantor Tracy Fishbein**, Cantor, The Temple Nashville, Congregation Ohabai Sholom
**Mrs. Swarn Birdee**, Nashville Gurdwara Sikh Temple

1:00-1:45  College Teaching and Religious Pluralism

**RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN GENERAL EDUCATION: HOW INTENTIONAL INCLUSION OF DIFFERENCE CAN BE CENTRAL IN GEN.ED. PEDAGOGIES**

**Dr. Emily Sohmer Tai**
2015-2016 National Distinguished Humanities Educator, Community College Humanities Association/CCHA; Mentor in Religion in Community College Humanities Courses, NEH Bridging Cultures in Community Colleges Program; Associate Professor of History, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

1:45-2:30  A Civic Learning Call to Action

**MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION VISION PROJECT CIVIC LEARNING GOAL**

**Dr. John D. Reiff**
Director, Civic Learning and Engagement, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

2:30-3:30  Panel Discussion on Tennessee’s Procedures, Protocols, and Next Steps

**TENNESSEE’S RESPONSE AND PATHWAYS FORWARD WITHIN TBR: WHERE DO WE TAKE IT FROM HERE?**

**Dr. Randolph C. Schulte**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents
**Dr. Larry Bailey**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Jackson State Community College
**Dr. Denise King**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cleveland State Community College
**Dr. Mark Byrnes**, Provost, Middle Tennessee State University

Moderated by **Dr. Reiff**

3:30  Closing Comments on Bridging Cultures

**Dr. Evins** with Cleveland State Faculty and Jackson State Faculty

3:45  Dismissal

BUT we ask you to join us to continue our summit’s conversations!

After the summit
You are invited to an
**Interfaith Oneness Music Festival**
Blair School of Music, Ingram Hall
Vanderbilt University
2400 Blakemore Avenue, Nashville 37212

5:00  Blair Reception and Refreshments

6:30  Interfaith Musical Groups Representing Many Religious Traditions
Welcome by **Dr. Randy Schulte**, TBR Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs