

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

- 2:20-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:30 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
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
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
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**

- 11:45-1:00 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