

The University of Southern Mississippi
The Aquila Digital Community

History of USM Community Engagement

Center for Community Engagement

2022

History, USM Community Engagement Directors and Initiatives

Christy Kayser

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Directors, Center for Community and Civic Engagement (reported to Vice President, Research)		Directors, Office of Community Service-Learning (reported to Student Affairs)
		Spring 97 – Spring 99 Deanna Berg
2000 Founding Director Thomas Schnaubelt, Ph.D.,		Fall 2000 – Summer 02 John Wyble
2000-2004 JJ Trotta		Fall 2002 - Summer 05 Hunter Phillips
2004-2010 Stephanie Meincke		Fall 2005- Fall 07 David Brooking
2010-2013 Vava Kamali		Spring 2008- Spring 2013 Joshua Duplantis
2013: CCCE merged with OCSL under Joshua Duplantis		
Summer 2013 – Summer 14 Joshua Duplantis		
Fall 2014 – current Christy Kayser (formerly Arrazattee)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name changed June 2017 from the Center for Community and Civic Engagement to the Center for Community Engagement • In March 2021, CCE was reorganized with a new reporting line to the Center for Faculty Development in Academic Affairs. 		

Brief history of OCSL and then CCE initiatives:

In 1995, Southern Miss joined Campus Compact and was recognized by USA Today for its Make A Difference Day activities. In 1996, the CCCE acquired its first AmeriCorps students to tutor elementary school students. In 1997, CCCE created its first Agency Guide, to enhance its ability to match volunteers with social service agencies, and a senior faculty member began his role as Faculty Liaison for Service-Learning.

In 2000, Southern Miss was selected as a sub grantee by Eastern Michigan University to initiate a Faculty Seminar in Service-Learning, and between 2000 and 2002, Southern Miss doubled its student service hours to approximately 30,000. In 2002, two faculty members received Cohen Research Awards through the American Humanics program. In 2005, the CCCE initiated a partnership with the University of Guelph, Toronto, for alternative spring breaks. Guelph students visited nearly every year over their spring break but USM students only visited Guelph a few times, and this partnership was discontinued in 2017. In 2007, the faculty seminar opened its doors to community college faculty. In 2009, Southern Miss was the lead institution in the state's establishment of the Mississippi Campus Compact. Southern Miss achieved the President's Honor Roll for Civic Engagement, an award by the Corporation for Community and National Service in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2012.

In 2010, Southern Miss was again recognized by receiving the Carnegie Classification for community-engaged campuses. Southern Miss was reclassified in 2020.

USM, under CCE's leadership, hosted and planned the President's Summit for Community Engagement, a one-day conference for community stakeholders, in 2016 and 2017.

In 2016, a profound appreciation for community service inspired former University of Southern Mississippi Professor Richard Conville and his wife, Mozella, to make a \$100,000 gift to the USM Foundation for discretionary support of programs associated with the University's Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE).

In 2019, the Campus Link AmeriCorps program was discontinued due to difficulty recruiting qualified tutors and lackluster community impact.

For numerous years, at least since 2013, CCE oversaw the REACH program, a community federal work-study program, which placed students in work-study jobs in the community. In March 2021, this program transitioned to the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement (IME) and was renamed IMPACT. The Alternative Service Break program also was transitioned to the IME office after being housed in CCE since at least 2010.