

Reflections

SLCC English, Linguistics, & Writing Studies Community-Engaged Learning Newsletter
Spring Semester 2024



Jessica Berryman, Elisa Stone, Jason Roberts, Daniel Baird, & Lucy Smith enjoy a moment at Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, UT

SLCC Civically Engaged Faculty Present at the Conference on Community-Engaged Scholarship and Teaching (CCEST) 2024: Community Voices Amplified

By Elisa Stone

Moab, Utah, was the gloriously serene setting for February's Conference on Community-Engaged Scholarship and Teaching 2024, with the theme of "Community Voices Amplified." ELWS faculty Daniel Baird, Kati Lewis, Jason Roberts, and Elisa Stone presented "More Than an Engaged Department: Creating Collaboration and Community." This presentation sparked a meaningful dialogue with our state-wide audience of colleagues, students, and community partners. Special thanks to Lucy Smith, Director of Engaged Learning, for making this transformative professional development opportunity possible for SLCC faculty to experience.



Sophia Chrysostom



Elisabeth Barrows

Boosting the Utah Children’s Center’s Social Media Footprint Through Community Engaged Writing

By Elisabeth Barrows and Sophia Chrysostom

In English 2100 Technical Writing, taught by Daniel Baird, we had the opportunity to have a service-learning experience with The Children’s Center Utah.

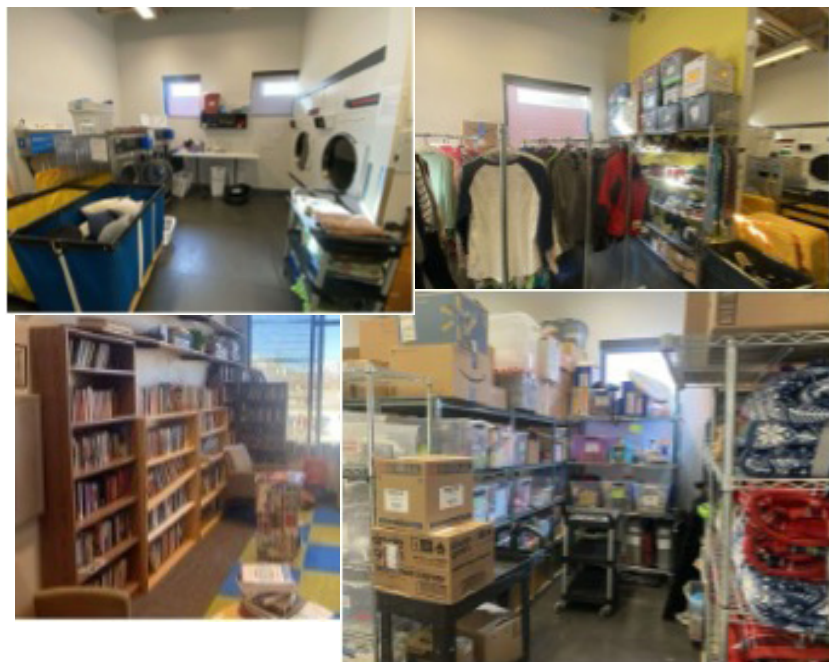
The Children’s Center Utah is a non-profit that provides mental health care to young children and their caregivers. The Children’s Center Utah provides infants, toddlers, and preschoolers trauma-informed and evidence-based mental health treatment through their programs. They have a variety of programs such as resource articles, consultations, family therapy, and therapeutic preschool.

Our project aimed to enhance The Children’s Center Utah’s marketing efforts on Instagram. We created Instagram stories that the Center could post and use as permanent pins to their page. By leveraging the principles and resources we learned in English 2100, we aimed to empower The Children’s Center Utah to achieve their community outreach goals. We learned a great deal about design consistency, message clarity in marketing, and specific applications for content creation. We would not have learned as much about marketing without creating real Instagram stories to deliver to The Children’s Center Utah. We could not have done this without the feedback from Carla Frein, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Children’s Center Utah, and Professor Daniel Baird. We appreciate the opportunity to use a combination of our skills to amplify The Children’s Center Utah’s message.

Volunteers of America Utah Youth Resource Center Community Engagement Project

by Abel Remy

Joshua Errett and I had a Community Project working with Dan Benshoff and the Volunteers of America Utah Youth Resource Center. We are part of the 2100 English Technical Writing Class with Professor Baird. We took a visit down the YRC to help VOA Utah build a story around the case managers that work there and get an insight visit on the facility. Not only has this project impacted Joshua and I, but it also helps VOA Utah spread awareness about their cause using our writing project. We got to go through and see the everyday lives of not only the case managers but the clients who are getting help and see why they are struggling. From our experience we created three different types of stories including a long form story, creating a story all about case manager and smaller ones like a newsletter/press release and then a social media post. We had the opportunity to create a presentation and invite our community partner and showcase him and the class what we have been working on this whole semester. I have learned a lot doing this Project and hope they continue to do this for the future students of SLCC.



ASL Supports the Utah Schools for the Deaf (USD) and the Parent Infant Program (PIP) Community Event

by Connie Spanton-Jex and Ethan Hoggan

On March 9, 2024, students and faculty from SLCC's ASL/English Interpreting program and INTR 1110 Connections to the Community II provided support to the Utah Schools for the Deaf (USD) and the Parent Infant Program (PIP) which was hosting a community event at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium. Students Carmen Harris and Jeralie Hymas had coordinated with USD's PIP Director Stephanie Morgan to plan art and craft activities for the children, raffle prizes, as well as treats. In preparation for the event, treats and raffle prizes were purchased by Jeralie and Carmen, while craft pieces were cut, painted, and prepared by Levi Lopez, another ASL/English Interpreting student. On the day of the event, Carmen and Jeralie were joined by student Brittany Drake and Professor Connie Spanton-Jex to provide support to USD's PIP staff as they helped roughly 250+ parents, deaf children



and siblings learn more about the support services that are available to help their deaf “child reach their potential in language, social, emotional, and academic development.”

The goals for the ASL/English Interpreting department align well with the goals for Community Engaged Learning. Students are expected to engage with the Deaf community to increase their ASL skills and learn about Deaf culture while acting as allies to support community goals. In this case, they supported the goal of language access by providing direct service to USD’s PIP staff, who are tasked with educating parents and making them aware of the services that are available

within the state. While serving, students listened to parents’ stories about learning their child was deaf and the process of finding education and language access services. This provided opportunities to use ASL with adults and children while establishing connections to Utah Schools for the Deaf where some of them will later intern as ASL/English interpreters.





back row: Gabby Hendrickson, Valerie Barban, Amina Abdoulah Abdoulahi
front row: Michael Altheman, Lana Hafoka

Students Create Volunteer Tutorials for United Way Salt Lake

by Valerie Barban

We've made some awesome changes to make signing up for volunteering a breeze! Our main goal is to make it super easy for you to get involved and contribute to important causes. We've come up with cool PDF files that have step-by-step instructions, so even if you find signing up a bit tricky, we've got your back! These files are like handy guides that show you exactly what to do and make the whole process a piece of cake.

No more confusing online platforms or complicated systems to deal with. We've simplified everything by providing well-designed PDF files that you can easily access and use. These files will walk you through each stage of the volunteering process, making it simple and straightforward. We want to make your experience as smooth as possible, so you can focus on making a difference in the community.

And get this, we've teamed up with the awesome folks at United Way of Salt Lake! They're our community partner, and they've got a ton of experience and connections with local nonprofits. By working together, we can offer you even more exciting opportunities to get involved and make a real impact in your community.

So, whether you're a volunteering pro or just starting out, we've made sure that signing up, finding contacts, completing surveys, and managing your account are all a breeze. We've got your back every step of the way with our handy PDF files and the support of United Way of Salt Lake. Let's team up and do some good together!

Students involved were Amina Abdoulah Abdoulahi, Michael Altheman, Valerie Barban, and Lana Hafoka. Also in photo opposite is Gabby Hendrickson from Promise Partnership and United Way of Salt Lake.

If you are a faculty member or student and would like to get involved with your own Community Engaged Learning project, please reach out to Ethan Hoggan, the Engaged Learning Specialist:

engagedlearning@slcc.edu
801-957-4694

Dear ELWS Faculty and Friends,

The Community Engagement Committee is excited to invite you to our 2024 Service opportunity. We have reserved two garden boxes at South City Campus plots 15 and 17. SLCC Community Gardens' website explains that the gardens:

“are here to teach our students and staff about sustainable gardening practices and empower them to grow their own fresh produce.

We believe that all people are entitled to healthy food regardless of socioeconomic status and other personal circumstances. Increasing access to this food is key to enabling people to thrive as they reach for their dreams.

We see the gardens as an opportunity to create a community around a common interest and bring people together in a relaxing and unique space.”

The produce we grow will be available to our faculty and staff, and any extra will be donated to the Bruin Pantry.

The kickoff for this event is May 16 from 12:00-1:00 at the South City Campus Garden which is located just south of the South City campus.

If you are interested in being involved, you are invited to this event, which will include lunch and swag from the Thayne Center. We also encourage you to drop in throughout the season to cultivate, weed, or just bring positive happy energy to our plants. You can do this on your own, with your family, or plan a trip with a few faculty friends.

We hope to see you all in May and then in the fall, we will plan a harvest activity as well.

Where to find the garden: The South City Campus garden is located at 155-157 E 1700 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. Opposite is the map to indicate where you can park. If you don't have an SLCC parking pass, you may want to park on 1700 S, or in the metered parking lot to the east. The closest access to restrooms and drinking water is in the main building, to the north of the garden entrance. Note that this building may be locked in the evenings and on weekends.

With affection,

EWLS Community Engaged Committee:

Daniel Baird
Christie Bogle
Kati Lewis
Jason Roberts
Elisa Stone
Brenda Sieczkowski





Presidential Community Engaged Faculty Award for 2023-2024 Goes to Professor Daniel Baird, PhD

By Lucy Smith

At the annual Thayne Center Awards Presentation on Friday, April 26th, Professor Daniel Baird received the Presidential Community Engaged Faculty Award for 2023-2024. Daniel Baird is a community-engaged learning (CEL) faculty practitioner. Daniel cares deeply about engaging his students in the community and partnering with non-profit organizations to support experiential learning while also addressing community issues. Daniel's work with community partners always involves reciprocity. He has many long-standing relationships and reaches out to community partners in advance, asking about their needs to ensure that his students are contributing effectively.

Daniel's classes have created operating manuals and informational brochures and participated in grant writing. Often, partners struggle to complete these tasks because of capacity constraints. Daniel is also thoughtful, kind, and smart. He cares deeply about student learning and the social problems related to his discipline.

Daniel has served as the ELWS Community Engagement Committee Chair multiple times and is helping to move civic engagement efforts forward on a departmental level with his colleagues.

Daniel has co-instructed the Community-Engaged Learning faculty professional development course and recently completed the Community Engagement certificate course. Daniel also serves on the CEL Designation Committee. Daniel always uses best practices in his work and serves as a model for other faculty in his department.



Salt Lake Community College

Engaged Department Retreat

Save the date!

For faculty, community partners,
and community-engagement administrators,

The Engaged Learning Office invites you to join us
for a *relaxing mountain retreat* for developing and discussing:

- Program level civic learning
- Community partnerships
- The Community Engaged Scholars program
- Community-Engaged Learning and more!

Questions? Contact the ELO
801-957-4694
engagedlearning@slcc.edu

Continental breakfast and lunch provided.
Faculty will be *compensated* for their time.

 August 1st, 2024

 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

 Silver Fork Lodge 11332 E Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd
Brighton, UT 84121

SLCC 



About Reflections

Reflections is a newsletter for and about community engaged learning published twice a year by the SLCC ELWS Department. We welcome submissions on student experiences, faculty perspectives, pedagogical insights, community partner engagement, civic involvement, staff profiles, and upcoming events. Send photos, events, posters, or articles to:

daniel.baird@slcc.edu

Faculty Editors: Elisa Stone and Daniel Baird