

CYNDI RICKARDS

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED
EDUCATOR

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVE

Utilize my education, professional, and leadership skills to add value through intentional engagement while strategically leveraging the resources of organizations and community stakeholders.

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Educational Policy and Leadership October 2015

Dissertation: Examining 21st-Century Skill Acquisition as a Result of Democratic Engagement within a Side-by-Side Community-Based Learning Course

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- National Distance Education Award 2011
- Dr. Mark L. Greenberg Distinguished Faculty Award for Community-Based Experiential Learning 2012
- Drexel University Assessment and Pedagogy Award 2014
- Drexel President's Award for Civic Engagement 2016
- Elected Narberth Borough Council Member 2016-present
- Pennoni Honors College Outstanding Faculty Award

CONTACT INFORMATION

208 Iona Avenue Narberth, PA 19072 |
610.905.4028 | cyndirickards@gmail.com
Professional portfolio:
<https://cyndirickards.weebly.com/>

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Associate Teaching Professor of Criminology and Justice Studies

Drexel University. (2009 - Present)

- Develop and execute student and faculty technology program and pedagogy
- Assist in recruitment and curriculum initiatives
- Develop and teach community-based learning and online courses
- Direct department pedagogy and community engagement

Director of Justice Studies Program

Drexel University (2020 - Present)

- Analyzed market research to create a new community-engaged academic program
- Organized relationships with community partners and stakeholders in the creation of a new learning program
- Created marketing approach to a new program
- Mentor students and faculty interested in a program where learning and co-curricular activities occur inside the classroom and with community

Senior Assistant Dean for Community Engagement

Drexel University (2015 - 2019)

- Developed and supported faculty in community-based learning course development
- Initiated, developed, and coordinated training workshops for faculty internal and external to the university
- Supported community partnerships and centers
- Organized engaged scholarship circles, provide faculty space and support publishing in non-discipline-specific journals
- Served as a liaison to the Dornsife Center and coordinate curricular and co-curricular initiatives
- Represented CoAS and community engagement and scholarship efforts externally and internally
- Co-developed UConnect and obtained a competitive service year grant to support program

Lindy Center Senior Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement and Development,

Drexel University (2015-2021)

- Develop and support strategic pathways within the institution and community partners
- Support programmatic development with faculty, administrators and community partners
- Identify and develop a civic identity within academic programs
- Coordinate and offer community engagement workshops
- Create and advance university Side-by-Side and Inside-Out program

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CONTINUED

College of Arts and Sciences Coordinator of Community Outreach 2012- 2015

- Developed and supported Faculty Community Based Learning Experiences
- Coordinated projects and relationships across the University and Region
- Established relationships with community partners
- Liaison to Lindy Center and Institute
- Managed CoAS Community-Based Learning budget

Director of Online, Department of Culture and Communication 2009-2013

- Developed online criminal justice program from the point of inception
 - Coordinated marketing with Drexel E-Learning
 - Supported faculty in course development
 - Initiated student virtual community
- Certifications: Quality Matters Peer Reviewer; November 2010 and Master Reviewer; June 2011

St. Joseph's University, Visiting Professor of Criminal Justice 2002-2009

- Taught multiple criminal justice courses
- Pioneer faculty member to be trained and develop online courses

Director of Lincoln Academy for Children and Youth 1998-2002

- Lead elementary, middle, and upper school educational programs with a staff of 10-15 teachers and counselors
- Maintained relationships with area school districts and criminal justice professionals
- Developed a transformational educational model in underserved school-aged populations
- Managed budget and personnel with center directors

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Fostered the first plastics legislation in Pennsylvania via local and state political and non-profit partnership development
- Manage relationships with local correctional facilities and university
- Worked with Philadelphia elected officials and nonprofits to develop Side-by-Side partnerships
- Forged an international relationship with Amsterdam University of the Applied Social Science to create Project Just Cities and was awarded a grant from the Ministry of Education to support a global tool kit

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

- Created a three-day community-engaged training for faculty, staff, and community partners
- Build relationships with community partners and faculty to co-create projects
- Leverage the anchor institution resources to partner with surrounding community partners
- Secure philanthropic and grant funding to support engaged projects and partnerships
- Develop co-curricular activities such as living-learning community and volunteer outreach
- Piloted Self-Assessment Rubric for the Institutionalization of Community Engagement with national leaders

PROGRAM AND LEARNING ASSESSMENT

- Developed, disseminate, and analyze multiple quantitative and qualitative tools to assess learning outcomes
- Created an online tool kit for faculty and administrators for courses and program level outcomes assessment
- Research desired labor market skills and measured attainment in courses

COMMUNICATION

- Presented locally, nationally, and globally on teaching, learning, and community engagement
- Engaged with a diverse community and institutional partners and stakeholders in a variety of formal and informal circumstances to promote the strategic plan of the institution
- Actively listen and represent the voices of citizens in my councilmember role

LEADERSHIP

- Developed and supported an educational culture shift in the College of Arts and Sciences by supporting faculty in the creation of courses while strategically partnering with community organizations and leadership stakeholders
- Appointed and served on several engagement committees by leadership
- Leads budget and communication in the role of chair of Finance and Administration of Narberth Borough Council

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Rickards, C., McNeese, J., Speer, H. (2023). Mapping data to reveal and reflect upon our history of injustice in an undergraduate criminology course. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. March 1t, 2023. Alexandria, Virginia.
- Rickards, C., Behr, E. (2022). The 21st-Century Citizen Police Academy: Our responsibility to create spaces of shared learning with students, community, and police. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. March 18, 2022. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Pompa, L., Rickards, C. (2021). Turning Law Enforcement and Public Health Inside-Out: Moving Beyond the Systems that Divide Us. Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health. March 22, 2021. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rickards, C., Hoffman, M., (2021). Global is Local: Developing community-engaged partnerships during the pandemic. Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. October 15, 2021. Virtual.
- Rickards, C., Kevelier-Williams, A., McFarlane, K. (2021). Using SIM City to Enhance Community Engagement. Engaged Scholar Consortium. September 13, 2021. State College, Pennsylvania.
- Rickards, C., Eve, N. (2018). The Imagination Prescription: Preparing the next generation of medical professionals with 21st-century skills through democratic engagement, civic learning, fiction, film, and fun. Guni: Global University Innovation Network. November 12. Barcelona, Spain.
- Rickards, C., Saltmarsh, J., Janke, E., Hooper, C., Gestland, B. (2017). Self-Assessment Rubric for the Institutionalization of Community Engagement at the level of the College/School within a University. International Research Association of Service-Learning and Community Engagement. September 16. Galway, Ireland.
- Rickards, C., Kerman, L., Kebea, J., & Peterson-Magnum, C. (2017). Learning Side-by-Side: Co-creating new knowledge together within today's modern universities and the community Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting, January 23. San Francisco, CA.
- Rickards, C. (2016). Impacting Your Community: Neighborhood & Community Service. Girls Scouts of Pennsylvania's Real Girls: Next Generation Leaders Conference, October 30. Philadelphia, PA.
- Rickards, C. (2016). Equity and Diversity in Experiential Learning. Colonial Academic Alliance Pedagogy Summit on Experiential Learning, October 27. Philadelphia, PA.
- Rickards, C. (2016). Recovering Inside: Ethical Challenges in Correctional Mental Health Care. University of Pennsylvania's Bioethics Scattergood Program, October 20. Philadelphia, PA.
- Rickards, C. (2016). Equity and Diversity in Experiential Learning. Colonial Academic Alliance Pedagogy Summit on Experiential Learning, October 27. Philadelphia, PA.
- Rickards, C. & Destillio, L. (2016). Carnegie Classification: Strategies for Measuring and Documenting Impact. Pennsylvania Campus Compact Service-Learning Consortium of Northeast PA, June 28. Carlisle, PA.
- Rickards, C. (2016). Assessing Community-Based Learning through the Lens of 21st-Century Skills. Pennsylvania Campus Compact Service-Learning Consortium of Northeast PA, April 14. Dallas, PA.
- Rickards, C. (2015). Examining the Acquisition of 21st-Century Skills through Democratic Engagement within a Side-by-Side Community-Based Learning Course. Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), October 10-12. Omaha, NE.
- Rickards, C. (2015). Examining the Acquisition of 21st-Century Skills through Democratic Engagement within a Side-by-Side Community-Based Learning Course. International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE), November 16-18. Boston, MA.
- Johnson Kebea, J. & Rickards, C. (2014). Drexel University's Community-Based Learning Framework and Faculty Support. International Association for Research on Service-Learning Annual Conference, September 29 – October 1, 2014. New Orleans, LA.
- Rickards, C. (2014). Changing our Culture through Active Reflection, Alternative Assessment, and the E-Portfolio. Drexel University Annual Assessment Conference, September 10-12. Philadelphia, PA.
- Johnson Kebea, J. & Rickards, C. (2014). Faculty Engagement in West Philadelphia. Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) Annual Conference, April 24-25, 2014. Philadelphia, PA.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE COMMITTEES

- Lindy Center Faculty Fellow 2011-2021
- Assessment and Evaluation Steering Committee, CoAS 2012-2017
- University School Steering Committee, President's Office 2012- 2018
- Teaching and Learning Center Envisioning Committee 2018- 2019
- Provost Office University Advisory Committee on Curricular Innovation 2016
- CoAS-Evidence-Based Teaching Committee 2016
- Urbanism Curriculum Committee: University-wide advisory board to create a new graduate program 2015- 2017
- University Committee of Curricular Innovation 2017-2018
- Presidential appointment to strategic planning committee 2018-2019
- Pennoni Honors College advisory board, 2019
- Drexel Teaching and Learning advisory board, 2019
- Dornsife Advisory Committee, President's Office 2013- 2015
- University Assessment Steering Committee; Provost Office 2012- 2017
- Drexel University Online Learning Council 2010-2012
- Quality Matters Peer Review and Training Committee 2010-2012
- Quality Matters Pilot Study Committee 2011-2012
- Culture and Communication Middle States Representative 2012
- Truman Scholarship Nominating Committee 2012-2013
- Provost Portfolio Committee: Co-Chair of Non-Academic Portfolios
- Science Leadership Academy Advisory Committee 2014
- Philadelphia Action Collaborative for Creating More Civic-Minded Institutions: Leadership meeting with Senior Scholar and Director of Civic Learning and Democracy Initiatives Association of American Colleges and Universities- Faculty representative 2014

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Josh Romalis, Former LIFT Philadelphia Executive Director: jgromalis24@gmail.com
- Dean Paula Martz- Cohen, Pennoni Honors College: cohenpm@drexel.edu
- Dr. Jennifer Johnson Kebea, President of Campus Philly: Jennifer@Campusphilly.org
- Dr. Donna Murasko, Emeritus Dean Drexel College of Arts and Sciences: contact information available upon request
- Michelle Paninopolous, Vice-President of Narberth Borough Council: mpaninop@gmail.com
- Student and community partner references are available upon request