Recognition of Exemplary Contributions through Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement

Distinguished Career Recognition
Edward Zlotkowski

Edward Zlotkowski, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of English and Media Studies at Bentley University where he founded the Bentley Service-Learning Center in 1992. He has written and spoken extensively on a wide range of service-learning and civic engagement topics, and he served as general editor of the American Association for Higher Education’s 21-volume series on service-learning in the academic disciplines (1997-2006). He also served as editor of Successful Service-Learning Programs (Anker, 1998) and Service-Learning and the First-Year Experience (University of South Carolina, 2002) and as co-editor of Students as Colleagues: Expanding the Circle of Service-Learning Leadership (Campus Compact, 2006). In 2011, Temple University Press published Higher Education and Democracy: Essays on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, which he co-authored with John Saltmarsh. He is a Senior Associate at the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. His non-service-learning work includes publications on English and German romanticism and the poetry of Denise Levertov. Edward is currently helping develop literacy initiatives and arts programs for underserved children.

Dissertation Recognition
Cynthia Toms

Cynthia Toms, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of global education at Westmont College and specializes in the intersection of higher education, student volunteerism, and sustainable community development. Cynthia brings the experience of living in Uganda and China to her research and writing. She previously served as Assistant Director of the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns, where she oversaw academic immersion courses for over 1,000 graduate and undergraduate students annually. Along with a recently edited book, Transformations at the Edge of the World, her published work appears in the Journal of Higher Education, Christian Higher Education, and Higher Education. Her dissertation is titled Global Development through International Service-Learning: Who’s Serving Whom? Cynthia is an investigator for the Advancing International Service in Higher Education’s project supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Global Engagement Survey. She serves on the Board of Child Family Health International (CFHI) and on the research committee for globalsl.org, a web-based initiative of scholars amassing evidence-based tools and peer-reviewed research to advance best practices in global learning.

Dissertation Recognition: Honorable Mention
Michelle Sterk Barrett

Michelle Sterk Barrett, Ph.D., is the Director of the Donelan Office of Community-Based Learning at the College of the Holy Cross since 2012. She earned her master’s degree in higher education administration from Boston College and recently completed her Ph.D. in higher education administration at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she wrote a dissertation entitled Fostering the Spiritual Development of Undergraduates through Service Learning. From 2009-2012, Michelle worked as a research assistant on a $1.4 million Lumina Foundation grant investigating state remedial/developmental education policies, which led to her co-authoring the 2014 book, The State of Developmental Education: Higher Education and Public Policy Priorities. As a doctoral student, she also established a supplemental instruction program at Framingham State University and coordinated a one-day NERCHE seminar on civic engagement, diversity, and the postsecondary success of underserved students. Prior to beginning doctoral education, Michelle spent over a decade in service-learning and community engagement at Simmons College’s Scott/Ross Center for Community Service, Boston College’s PULSE Program for Service Learning, and City Year Boston.