



IARSLCE

International Association
for Research on
Service-Learning &
Community Engagement

September 14, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the board of directors, welcome to Galway and the 17th International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement Annual Conference! We are delighted to be in Ireland this year and thank all of you who are participating in this most anticipated conference that brings together the rich diversity of engaged thinkers and scholarship from around the globe.

Please join with me and the IARSLCE board of directors in expressing our deepest gratitude to Lorraine McIlrath, conference program chair, National University of Ireland, Galway, and her dynamic team of planners for organizing a diverse and exciting array of plenaries, workshops, conference sessions, and networking activities. Our conference hosts have chosen a most appropriate theme, *Gateways – Charting New Territories and Forging Authentic Relationships*, which truly underscores the challenges and expectations associated with engaged work in the current global environment on one side of our collective path, but also opens the way to new and emergent opportunities for engagement research as we cross into new boundaries of exploration in a dynamic and highly networked field of scholarship.

We are grateful to all of the many sponsors and partners who have provided their time and much appreciated resources to enrich and energize our experience throughout the conference. Special thanks to NUI Galway and the Community Knowledge Initiative, the Higher Education Authority of Ireland, CampusEngage, Stylus Publishing, GivePulse, and Judy Greene Pottery for participating as major sponsors of the conference. Thank you also to the 2017 Engaged Scholarship Circle, who continue to make the Practitioner-Scholar Forum a robust and vital space for the development and growth of community engagement professional practice: DePaul University; Kansas State University; Michigan State University; and Tulane University. Our appreciation is also extended to our many regional partners and vendors in Europe, Asia, South American, Australia, Africa and in the U.S. and Canada, who have helped to advance our collective work and share our commitment to building and sustaining global partnerships on behalf of societies' intellectual, social and cultural needs.

On a personal note, I want to thank our hard-working board of directors and the dozens of members who comprise the many standing and ad hoc committees of the Association, without which, the work of IARSLCE would not be possible. I am deeply grateful for the guidance and wisdom of my executive committee colleagues – Marshall Welch, Burt Bargerstock, Agnieszka Nance, and our administrative director, Tara Luparello. Your

collegiality and collective leadership have been indispensable. I extend my heartfelt respect and thanks to each member of the board for your dedication and service this year – Glenn Bowen, Christine Cress, Tim Eatman, Andy Furco, Hunter Phillips Goodman, Patrick Green, Jeff Howard, Abby Kiesa, Lori Kniffin, Monica Kowal, Carol Ma, Brian O'Donnchadha, and Laurie Worrall. It has been my pleasure to serve our Association with all of you.

For those attending the conference for the first time, we hope you will find a welcoming space to forge new professional and authentic personal relationships that enhance your work in meaningful and perhaps, unexpected ways. And for all of us, may this conference, set in enchantingly beautiful Galway and the NUI campus community, serve as a gateway to chart new territories for advancing service-learning and community engaged research and practice.

Welcome all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katrina A. Norvell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katrina" being the most prominent.

Katrina Norvell,
Chair, IARSLCE Board of Directors