

Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACADEMY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP TO INDUCT 24 NEW MEMBERS

July 7, 2025

The Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) is pleased to announce the names of twenty-four exceptional scholars and community leaders who have been elected to membership in the Academy. Each of the new members has a track record of accomplishments related to the advancement of scholarship that serves the public good. Such scholarship is characterized by mutually beneficial collaboration between institutions of higher education and communities of place, practice, interest, action, or circumstance that results in the co-creation of new knowledge.

New members will be inducted into the Academy during an online ceremony convened in their honor on July 30th, 2025.

The 2025 inductees include:

Catherine Alum Odora Hoppers

Canadian Research Chair in Pluralistic Societies: Transdisciplinarity, Cognitive Justice, and Education
University of Calgary

Jorge Horacio Atilés

Associate Vice President, Division for Land-Grant Engagement, and Dean, Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and WVU Extension and Engagement
West Virginia University

George Ayala

Deputy Director, Public Health Department
Alameda County, California

Jo Barraket

Professor and Director, Melbourne Social Equity Institute
University of Melbourne

Stephen Chi Fai Chan

Consultant and Former and Founding Head, Service-Learning and Leadership Office
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Ronald B. Cox, Jr.

Professor, Extension State Specialist, George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Child and Family Resilience, and Director, Center for Immigrant Health and Education
Oklahoma State University

Henry R. Cunningham

Assistant Vice President for Engaged Scholarship
University of Louisville

Lisa M. Dorner

Professor and Director, Cambio Center
University of Missouri - Columbia

Robert J. Jones

Chancellor and Professor
University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign

Mario Magaña Álvarez

Associate Professor and Oregon 4-H State Outreach Specialist
Oregon State University

Pilar Mendoza

Professor and Founding Director, International Research Center for Development
University of Missouri - Columbia

Robin Lin Miller

Professor
Michigan State University

Donald Eugene Neese

Professor and Director of Community Engagement, Colorado Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute
University of Colorado - Anschutz Medical Campus

George Ladaah Openjuru

Vice Chancellor and Professor
Gulu University

Jini Elizabeth Puma

Associate Professor and Associate Director, Rocky Mountain Prevention Research
Center
University of Colorado - Anschutz Medical Campus

Kathay Campbell Rennels

Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Rural Programs
Colorado State University System

Alan N. Richmond

Executive Director
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Jacqueline D. Shannon

Professor and Founding Chair
Brooklyn College - City University of New York

Norbert Steinhaus

Senior Project Manager
Bonn Science Shop - University of Vechta

Laurie A. Van Egeren

Vice Provost for Public Engagement
University of Minnesota

Elaine Ward

Professor
Merrimack College

David John Weerts

Professor and Associate Vice Provost for Public Engagement
University of Minnesota

Shawn Wilson

Associate Professor and Coordinator, Indigenous Knowledges Theme
University of British Columbia

Patricia Ann Zahn

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach
University of Missouri - St. Louis

Founded in 2013, ACES is an organization of leading community engagement scholars and practitioners who are recognized for advancing scholarship that serves the public good. ACES highlights scholarship that has direct societal impact on complex societal needs and issues. ACES provides a non-partisan, transdisciplinary, research and practice-based voice for community engagement scholarship through its cultivation of partnerships with national and international associations, groups, and initiatives that promote high quality community engagement scholarship.

Through its members, ACES leverages the learning, discovery, and engagement capacity of higher education institutions and communities to influence private and public leaders to solve societal problems and recommend innovations needed by society. Communities, institutions, and their representatives benefit from ACES through its broader promotion of scholarship that directly impacts communities and addresses society's most intractable issues.

ACES works to expand access to local, national, and global partnerships for funding opportunities on issues that lead to informed public policy on community engagement scholarship. It also offers a forum for publishing best practices on community engagement scholarship and international workshops and think tank opportunities focused on addressing societal issues by linking scholarship and community engagement. Learn more about the Academy at: <https://academyofces.org>.