Join a peer-led cohort to explore a specific justice topic in community with others. Be challenged to reflect deeply and transform your learning into advocacy and action.

Teaching Enhancement Workshop
September 1, 2021
Welcome!

- **Bmore Engaged** is a CCSJ program launched in 2020 that organizes peer-led cohorts that allow students to explore a specific justice topic in community with others over the course of the semester. This panel will highlight the success of the program’s first year and offer faculty ideas for their courses might be enhanced through student participation in Bmore Engaged.

- We are:
  - Pat Cassidy, Associate Director, Programs @ CCSJ
  - Carolyn Barry, Associate Dean for Social Sciences and Graduate Programs + Professor of Psychology
  - Jill Snodgrass, Associate Professor of Theology
Introducing Bmore Engaged

- Response to COVID-19
- 8 Topic Areas: Race & Racism, Immigration & Migration, Education & Youth Development, Food Access, Civic Engagement, Queer Identities, Environmental Justice, Workforce & Employment
- Head, Heart, Spirit, Hands PLAs & sessions
- Participation
  - Total of 121 students; 70 service-learning students
  - 1,330 total participation hours
  - All class years though predominantly juniors and seniors
- Outcomes: Diversity, Justice, & Leadership
  - 95% said their overall awareness of structural inequality, cultures, and perspectives not their own was very strong or strong
  - 90% said their understanding of how power and privilege operate was very strong or strong
  - 93% said their understanding of strengths and capabilities to act as an agent for positive change in society was very strong or strong
Bmore Engaged: Psychology

- Course: Life Span Development (PY 244D.01)
  - Spring 2021
  - Syllabus PY 244

- Assignments for BE track:
  - Head, Heart, Hands, Diff Perspective Papers- see Bmore Engaged Paper Guidelines

- Topics: Education/youth development, civic engagement and race/racism initially but allowed all ultimately
Gains/Takeaways

1. Semester-long structure of Bmore engaged
   * activities, individual reflection and then meeting as cohort

2. Student individual benefits
   *served as intro to SL which got folks excited about doing SL/CS in future
   *synthesis of direct service experience to reflect, solidify, and take action on beliefs and values about social justice issues.

3. Assignments in my course ensured deeper reflection than just peer experience

**Student input:** Students overwhelmingly valued Bmore engaged.
   ~14% SL or Lit Review
   ~14% SL or Bmore Engaged
   ~71% SL, Bmore Engaged, or Lit Review
Bmore Engaged: Theology

• Courses:
  • **Fall 2020** - TH 391/680 Class and Poverty in Bible, Theology, and the Real World (TH 391 Syllabus)
  • **Spring 2021** – TH 393/677 Theological Foundations of Social Justice (TH 393 Syllabus)

• Assignments:
  • Weekly Reflections on Flipgrid or Moodle Forums
  • Advocacy Learners, Research Learners, & Service Learners

• Topics: Immigration & Migration; **Food Access**; Education & Youth Development; Workforce & Employment
- Campus-Community Partnerships in Knowledge Mini-Grant from CCSJ - $500
- Spring 2021 – TH 393/677 Theological Foundations of Social Justice - emphasis on Food Access
• “How comfortable did you feel expressing your opinions with your group?”
  • 5/5 → Extremely comfortable

• “How was it to create a learning community with your Bmore Engaged cohort?”
  • 3/5 → Extremely easy
  • 1/5 → Somewhat easy
  • 1/5 → Somewhat difficult

• “In what ways, if any, did BMore Engaged help you to feel connected to other Loyola students?”
  • “It provided the chance to talk to students who had the same views as me, and to learn from them.”
  • “Having a community that meets regularly, even if over Zoom, is nice because I was able to get to know more students that shared a common interest of justice.”
  • “As an online learner and graduate student who lives off campus I really appreciated this chance to meet Loyola students and actually be able to talk to them.”
Gains/Takeaways

• “In what ways, if any, did BMore Engaged help you to feel connected to Baltimore?”
  • “We specifically talked about Baltimore every meeting so that was helpful.”
  • “I was able to leave the Loyola ‘bubble’ for just a bit and see what kinds of problems residents of the city face and discuss why they may be facing them. It allowed me to ground myself to the city and feel more a part of the greater Baltimore community. I reflected on my privilege and empathized with others who may not have the same privilege as me.”
  • “It reminded me of the ways in which I have a personal stake in what we were researching.”
Gains/Takeaways

• “In what ways, if any, did BMore Engaged help you to think theologically or think about issues of justice from a theological perspective?”
  • “One week we focused on how the issue connected to our own faith/spirituality and that time for reflection was very helpful.”
  • “There was a week that was specifically about how we think about Food Access spiritually. We were encouraged to pray with the issue and think about the messages our faith gives us about food access. I thought about how churches do a lot of charity work but struggled to see how faith communities could advocate for justice on a greater scale (similar to the conversation we had in our last class). I thought what does my faith require of me in this moment? How is the Holy Spirit moving within me when I think about the issue of food access?”
  • “It helped me see that there are many different ways to answer a question, even if everyone starts from roughly the same place (politically, theologically, etc.). I found this helpful because it is so important for churches to work on the ground and to be able to reach out to many different kinds of people.”
Changes in Bmore Engaged for AY2021-2022

- **CCSJ Education & Integration Program Overview**
  - Bmore Engaged curriculum will serve as foundation for weekly service participants
  - 4 Topic Areas based on Community Partnerships
    - York Road Schools
    - Immigration & Refugee
    - Youth Development
    - Adults & Seniors
  - Moodle dashboard for resources, learning, and reflection