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Exchange 4 Change Reading Group

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Proposal:

Getting Started with Community Engagement: Exchange 4 Change Reading Group

Living in a country where mass incarceration is a way of life, humanities faculty have the opportunity and responsibility to change the narrative around incarcerated folk to increase empathy and awareness of inequity. This proposal serves as a narrative of my beginning experiences to take action around this issue. In Fall 2019, I had the opportunity to participate in a letter exchange between FIU faculty and Dade Correctional Institute inside teachers. Organized by Nicholas Vagnoni and Kathie Klarreich and facilitated by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, this letter exchange program allowed faculty, like me, who had never been involved in university/community partnerships to dip a toe into community work. I am a member of the Community Writing Committee, serve as the assistant editor of the *Community Literacy Journal*, and attend conferences and read scholarship about community engagement, and yet I have never participated in community engagement in a “real” way. This divide between university life and community engagement, I gather, is more common than many of us interested in community work would care to admit. In this presentation, I plan to tell the story of my experiences participating in this exchange and explain how this letter exchange, held on campus, moved me to extend this work beyond the university and enter the community.

Presentation 3 Slides:

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Bio:

Cayce Wicks earned her M.A. in English with an emphasis on Composition Studies from Florida International University. She specializes in first-year writing, student success/retention, and community literacy. She regularly teaches ENC 1101 and ENC 1102, ENC 2304, and ENC 3501 and is the Student Success Coordinator for the FIU English Department. She serves on the Community Writing Committee, mentors new instructors and teaching assistance, mentors for the Fostering Panther Pride organization, and conducts ongoing research in student success initiatives. She is also the assistant editor for the *Community Literacy Journal*.