Call for Proposals:
2019 Inclusive Excellence Symposium: “Disrupt”

Deadline for Proposal Submission: Monday, September 9, 2019

Mission
The Inclusive Excellence Symposium aims to empower USU students, faculty, and staff to advance equity and inclusion through education, collaboration, and research.

Background and Goals
Hosted by President Noelle Cockett and organized by Aggies Think Care Act, the Inclusive Excellence Symposium began in 2013, with a second symposium organized in 2018. The symposium is now an annual event with President Crockett’s strong support. Emphasizing the benefits of greater diversity in our communities, the symposium supports USU’s mission by cultivating diversity of thought and culture and creating pathways toward global citizenship. The event offers education and training to raise understanding and create discussion about the various experiences of underrepresented groups and thus to reduce barriers to academic and professional success. The symposium promotes networking, collaboration, and dialogue among all faculty, staff, students, and community members, in keeping with the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ recommendation to make excellence inclusive.

What is Aggies Think Care Act
Aggies Think Care Act is a campus-wide initiative to foster a caring community that elevates the academic experience for all Aggies and prepares students to become global citizens and leaders. Aggies Think Care Act embraces USU’s Principles of Community based on civic responsibility, respect for diversity, and human dignity. We believe all Aggies belong and encourage each individual to play a role in making USU an inclusive campus.

Proposals
Aggies Think Care Act invites proposals that examine the educational, cultural, and structural experiences of underrepresented members of our communities, on campus and beyond. Proposals may aim to increase cultural competence of the campus community or to help prepare underrepresented groups for academic success. Each proposal should address at least one area of Aggies Think Care Act themes: knowledge and awareness (Think), compassion and empathy (Care), or social and individual responsibility (Act). This year’s theme is “DISRUPT.”
All proposal should balance theoretical frameworks with application, emphasize concrete strategies or develop practical models, facilitate audience reflection and engagement, and foster critical thinking and creative problem solving.

Presentations will take place on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.** at the Eccles Conference Center on USU’s Logan campus. Presenters should plan to be available at the time their session appears in the conference program. (We will work with presenters’ teaching schedules).

**Developing and Submitting a Proposal**
The online proposal form includes the following fields (The sample blank form is available on the Aggies Think Care Act website):

- Name, title, discipline, institution/organization name, and email address of each facilitator
- Session format
- Proposal topic and subjects
- Session title (100-character limit including spaces)
- Learning objectives (minimum 3)
- Background and importance of topic (250-word limit)
- Program outline (include a plan for audience engagement)
- Previous experience on presenting this presentation
- Inclusion of this year’s theme “disrupt” (250-word limit)
- Relevant articles/references (minimum 3)
- Brief description of the presentation to be used in the conference program if accepted (50 words)
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae or resume of each presenter that highlights expertise in the presentation topic (two pages per presenter limit, and must be combined into one file)
- Suitability for distance learning (recording or broadcasting for Statewide Campuses)
- Suitability for Continuing Education credits for professional licensing

You can submit your proposal online by clicking on [this link](https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6iot0MW7azbtfxP) or copying https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6iot0MW7azbtfxP into your web browser.

**Proposal Review Criteria**
The symposium strives to empower USU students, faculty, and staff to advance equity and inclusion through education, collaboration, and research. The proposal selection committee will include experienced academic and higher education professionals of a diverse range of backgrounds and areas of expertise. Successful proposals will be empirically-based and focus on best practices or theory-to-practice models that advance diversity and inclusion in practice and thought. The committee will also consider proposals that are informed by experience and promote consciousness-raising.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which they will:

- Expand equity-minded approaches to teaching and learning at USU.
- Advance understanding across differences.
- Explicitly help attendees understand and apply the material through reflection, discussion, exercises, and other activities.
- Reflect diverse perspectives, innovations, disciplines, and strategies for change.
• Increase the cultural awareness, sensitivity, and multicultural perspectives of attendees.
• Empower underrepresented members of our community for academic success and advancement.
• Reflect this year’s theme: “DISRUPT.”

Session Formats

Workshops (50 minutes; 1–4 facilitators; room set in round tables; audiovisual available). Workshop facilitators should present scholarship and evidence related to the topic and engage participants in reflection, discussion, and application that advances diversity and inclusion. Facilitators should guide attendees in the critical thinking process, engage attendees in problem solving, and explore new ideas in a collaborative manner.

Poster Session (60 minutes during lunch time; 1–2 presenters; Posters set up in 2nd and 3rd floor lobby). Posters may present empirical research that is diversity-focused or work that bridges theory to practice. The poster session provides an opportunity for presenters to network with attendees and share ideas.

Questions?
Please contact Eri Bentley, the chair of Aggies Think Care Act at eri.bentley@usu.edu or 435-797-1012.

Aggies Think Care Act Inclusive Excellence Committee
Taylor Adams (Statewide Campuses)
Alison Adams-Perlac (Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office)
Scott Bates (Department of Psychology)
Eri Bentley (Chair –Aggies Think Care Act; Counseling and Psychological Services)
Michelle Bogdan-Holt (Inclusion Center)
Amber Rae Childers (Athletics)
Amanda DeRito (Marketing and Communications)
Krystin Deschamps (Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards)
Christopher González (Latinx Cultural Center; Department of English)
Kris Miller (Honors Program; Department of English)