

Social Equity LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



JUNE 5 - 7, 2013 - NC STATE UNIVERSITY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Inclusive Excellence

Higher Education as a Mediator for Philanthropic Investment in an Urban Neighborhood: Evidence of a Managed Ethic

Friday 9:30 am; Panel 1

Elizabeth Hudson

Abstract: This study explores a partnership process as higher education aims to uphold its civic mission through a community-based partnership. Framed in the work of Jane Addams and other progressive era communitarians, this paper explores how the social ethic is manifest in as higher education partners with community organizations to improve education access. I employ a qualitative case analysis from four-years of partnership with data from email exchanges, interviews, meeting minutes, selected video, and grant proposals and reports. This study finds communitarian values to be live and well in the discourses of partners. However, communitarianism operates primarily at an organizational level. We have entered an era that embraces a 'managed ethic,' which privileges the role of authentic connections, but risks neglecting a fully realized social ethic that would operate to connect organizations to citizens, as well as cultivate connections among them.