



## VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

### INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (SL/CEL) IN HIGHER EDUCATION

#### I. Introduction:

2021 is a challenging year when the pandemic has impacted many aspects, from mental health to physical health, economic issues, culture, social life of many people. However, besides those challenges, the pandemic is also an opportunity for higher education institutions to make positive changes and come together to connect and creatively solve common problems. It can be seen that during the past year, universities/colleges are making more efforts than ever to transform teaching and learning, as well as carry out another very important mission: serving the community. This spirit is clearly demonstrated with many initiatives in the SL/CEL model that have been implemented in national and international universities. Thereby, once again SL/CEL is proven to be an effective method in 3 important missions of higher education: Teaching – Research – Community Service.

Also in 2021, with an effort to connect universities to participate in community activities, VNES - Vietnam Network of Engaged Scholars - organized by Vietnam Campus Engage (VCE) was founded with coordination from the Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS), funding from Irish AID and the cooperation of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Office in Hanoi, has been very effective in capacity building and SL/CEL development. Up to now, the network has attracted the participation of more than 300 members who are lecturers, researchers, leaders and higher education personnel related to SL/CEL at 120 universities and colleges, research centers and institutes in Vietnam. This shows the growing interest of Scholars in community service.

To close the year 2021 with many imprints, the Virtual Workshop on *Institutionalization of Service Learning/Community Engaged Learning (SL/CEL) in higher education* will be held on January 14, 2022 with the aim:

- Connecting, enhancing exchange, discussion, sharing of academics and practical models of SL/CEL domestically and internationally;
- Sharing experiences in bringing the SL/CEL model into the training system of international universities (from the US, Ireland and Hong Kong);
- Honoring the achievements of Vietnamese scholars in community service activities;
- Announce the results of activities in 2021 and discuss the implementation plans in 2022 of VNES.

#### II. Board of organizers:

- Vietnam Campus Engage (VCE)



**VNES**  
Vietnam Network of Engaged Scholars



**CSDS**  
Learn & Inspire



**CELC DAU**  
TRƯỜNG TẠM HỌC TẬP QUẢN LÝ CÔNG HỒNG

- Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS)
- Danang Architecture University (DAU)

### **III. Sponsors:**

- IrishAid

### **IV. Attendees:**

- University leaders and educational managers, lecturers and university staff involved in community activities.
- Members of VNES - Vietnam Network of Engaged Scholars
- Community organizations that are interested in and have partnerships with universities

### **V. Format of Conference:** Online via Zoom platform

### **VI. Date:** January 14, 2022

### **VII. Time:** 8.30 am – 16:00 pm Indochina time on

In Portland, OR, USA: January 13, 2022. 17.30 pm - January 14, 2022 01.00 am

In Dublin, County Dublin, Ireland: January 14, 2022. 1.30 am - 9.00 am

In Hongkong: January 14, 2022 9.30 am - 17.00 pm

### **VIII. Contact:**

VNES – Vietnam Network of Engaged Scholars

([engaged.network@vietnamcampusengage.org](mailto:engaged.network@vietnamcampusengage.org))

## AGENDA

### VNES 2021 Closing Conference – Vietnam Network of Engaged Scholars (Chairs: Tran Thi Thanh Huong, Phan Tran Kieu Trang)

8.30 – 8.40	Opening Ceremony
8:40– 8:50	- Representative of the Embassy of Ireland - Ms. Tran Thi Thanh Huong: Vietnam Campus Engage (Vietnam Campus Engage) - Mr. Don Tuan Phuong: Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS)
8:50 – 9:35	<b>Keynote Speaker 1:</b> Associate Professor Kevin Kecskes (Portland State University) <i>Teaching &amp; Learning SL/CEL</i> (30 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for Q&A)
9.35 – 10.55	<b>Keynote Speaker 2:</b> Dr. Stephen Chan & Dr. Grace Ngai (Service-Learning and Leadership Office - Hong Kong Polytechnic University) <i>Institutionalizing SL/CEL in Hongkong Polytechnic University</i> (45 minutes for presentation, 45 minutes for Q&A)
10:55 – 11:00	Summary of morning session
<b>11:00 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:30 – 13:40	Introduction to Afternoon Session
13.40 – 14.25	<b>Keynote Speaker 3:</b> <i>Dr Claire McDonnell (Technological University Dublin)</i> <i>Implementing SL/CEL with sciences and chemistry</i> (30 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for Q&A)
14:25-14:40	Report on VNES activities for the last 6 months of 2021
14:40-15:00	Introducing funded projects in 2021
15:00-15:15	Introducing VNES Board of Consultants
15:15-15:30	Announcing the results of the Engaged Achievement and Engaged Scholar Awards
15:30-15:50	Discussing VNES plans and proposals in 2022
<b>15:50– 16:00</b>	<b>Closing ceremony</b>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS

### DR. KEVIN KECSKES



*Dr. Kevin Kecskes,*

*Associate Professor of Public Administration  
Mark O. Hatfield School of Government  
College of Urban and Public Affairs  
Portland State University*

Kevin Kecskes, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Public Administration in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University (PSU). He teaches graduate students on global leadership, management and ethics and is one of the original founders and lead faculty members for PSU's undergraduate program in civic leadership. He is an active Faculty Fellow at PSU's Institute for Sustainable Solutions. For over a decade, Dr. Kecskes provided university-wide leadership at PSU as Associate Vice Provost for Engagement and Director for Community-University Partnerships where he was charged with helping campus and community constituents live the university motto: "Let Knowledge Serve the City." In this role, he founded and led PSU's "International Institute on Partnerships."

Prior to arriving at PSU, Dr. Kecskes was Regional Program Director for the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium from 1997-2002. Over more than two decades, Kecskes has consulted with over 100 universities in the U.S. and internationally and published multiple journal articles and book chapters along with *Engaging Departments: Moving Faculty Culture from Private to Public, Individual to Collective Focus for the Common Good* (2006). Dr. Kecskes annually takes students to Cuba for immersive study tours and, along with his continued research focus on departmental engagement strategies, he has an active research agenda with young leaders and their universities in the Middle East/North African region. He lives in Portland, OR, USA.

## DR. GRACE NGAI & DR. STEPHEN CHAN



*Dr. Grace Ngai*

*Head of the Service-Learning and Leadership Office (SLLO)*

*Associate Professor at the Department of Computing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)*

*Dr. Stephen Chan*

*Founding Head of the Office of Service-Learning (subsequently renamed SLLO) at PolyU from 2011 to 2020 and is currently the Consultant at SLLO.*

Grace Ngai is the current Head of the Service-Learning and Leadership Office (SLLO) and an Associate Professor at the Department of Computing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Stephen Chan is the founding Head of the Office of Service-Learning (subsequently renamed SLLO) at PolyU from 2011 to 2020 and is currently the Consultant at SLLO.

Grace and Stephen have been at the forefront of PolyU's academic service-learning programme since its inception in 2012. Stephen was part of the task force helping university management to conceptualize service-learning as an integral component of the PolyU undergraduate curriculum, and Grace was the first coordinator of the subcommittee that oversees the academic service-learning programme. In their separate and complementary roles, they have thus been pivotal in transforming the learning experience of thousands of PolyU students and supported the development of many academic colleagues. Over the past ten years, PolyU has gone from having six service-learning courses enrolling 200 students to almost 70 courses enrolling 4,500 students annually. PolyU's service projects have also expanded in scope from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Vietnam; and the Service-Learning and Leadership Office has been critical to this expansion.

Grace and Stephen have also pioneered innovative pedagogical practices such as multicultural student teams through partnerships with local NGOs, SL exchange and internship programmes, and innovative 'global SL classroom' initiatives etc. Their achievements in SL education are well recognized and made them the recipients of the Hong Kong University Grants Committee Teaching Award in 2016. They have been invited to share SL experience in many local, national, and international academic activities, and have published a number of book chapters and papers on international journals about service-learning.

## DR. CLAIRE MCDONNELL



*Dr. Claire McDonnell*

*Assistant Head at the School of Chemical and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences in Technological  
University Dublin, Ireland*

*Founding member of the Chemistry Education  
Research Team at TU Dublin*

Dr Claire McDonnell is Assistant Head at the School of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Technological University Dublin, Ireland. Her interests include facilitating learner transition to higher education and the application of technology to support student learning and collaboration. She has implemented several approaches to embed enquiry and transversal skills in the curriculum, including community engaged learning and context- and problem-based learning. She spent a 3-year secondment with the TU Dublin Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre from 2013 to 2016 where she was programme coordinator for their MA in Higher Education. Claire is a founding member of the Chemistry Education Research Team at TU Dublin, which won a DELTA award from the Irish National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in 2018. She has been implementing community engaged learning with chemistry students since 2007 and is a member of the national Campus Engage Working Group for Community Engaged Learning and Teaching who recently developed an [online course for staff in higher education on embedding community engaged learning](#).