



Allstate[®]
Foundation



CENTER FOR EXPANDING
LEADERSHIP & OPPORTUNITY

A Return to Service:

(Re)Defining Youth
Empowerment for
a New Generation



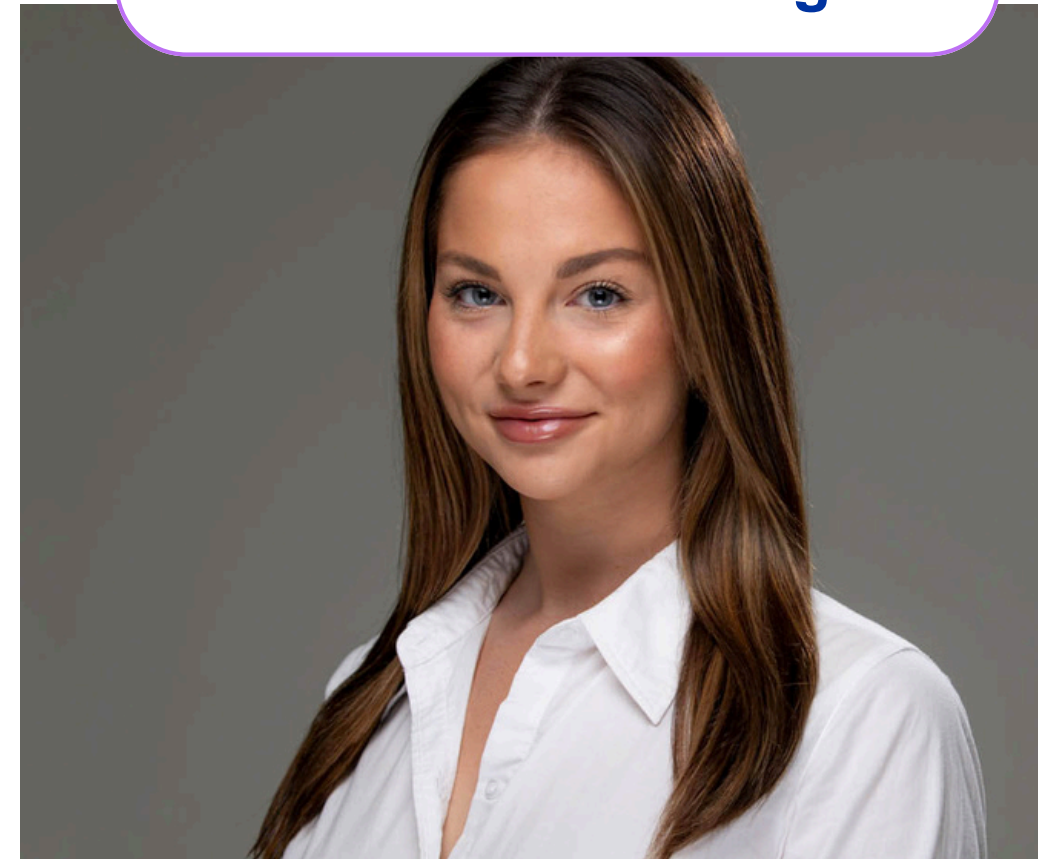
Presenters

Kristan Cilente Skendall



Chief Operating Officer
*Center for Expanding Leadership &
Opportunity*

Julia Van Steenberghe



Director of Student Success and
Recruitment
Maine Business School

Setting the Stage

Part One

A New Framework for Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Service

Part Two

A New Vision of Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Service

Part Three

Applying New Concepts of Service in Practice



PART ONE

A New Framework for Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Service

SUMMIT 24

Why Service?

Youth participate in service as a vehicle for building relationships, creating proximity to people who hold different worldviews, and finding ways to work together to address issues.

Impact of Service



Increased Character and Social Responsibility Outcomes



Gains in Academic Outcomes & Workforce Readiness



Sense of Belonging



Health & Mental Well-Being



Social Trust



Democracy, Justice, & Community Engagement



Economic Benefits

**Which of the following would
you consider a form of
COMMUNITY SERVICE?**

Is it service according to youth?

82% Worked with others to make the campus or community a better place

72% Participated in organizations that address the concerns of a specific community

81% Acted to benefit the common good

72% Acted to raise awareness about a campus, community, or global problem

78% Participated in organizations that address social and/or environmental problems

68% Worked with others to address social inequality

76% Engaged in everyday acts of kindness (mowing a neighbor's lawn, etc.)

54% Communicated with school and/or community leaders about a pressing concern

76% Acted in the community to address social and/or environmental problems

52% Participated in a protest, rally, march, or demonstration

*According to youth 18-25 years old
*Percentages indicate "yes" response

Rates of Participation in Service

23%

of youth ages 16 - 24
engaged in service annually
(US Census data)



28%

of youth 18 - 25 participated in
monthly service
(Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership)

Rates of Participation in Service

When we used the more expansive definition of service aligned with the polling we just walked through together, the numbers increased dramatically.

23%

of youth ages 16 - 24
engaged in service annually
(US Census data)



33%

of youth ages 16 - 24
engaged in service annually
when including informal helping
(US Census data)



28%

of youth 18 - 25 participated in
monthly service
(Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership)



70%

of youth 18 - 25 engaged in
monthly service
based on expanded definition

Reflection



To what degree do your responses overlap with those of youth 18 - 25? Where are there distinctions? To what degree is this surprising?



What, if anything, might the percentages that said “yes, it’s service” tell us about youth perceptions of service today?

PART TWO



A New Vision for Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Service

SUMMIT 24

A New Vision of Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Service

Based on existing and emergent research, design thinking with service-based organizations, youth, and stakeholders, and listening sessions with youth from around the country, we propose a new definition of service that reflects the expansive thinking of today's youth and creates more opportunities for youth to connect to service at younger ages.



WHAT

Act(s) intended to benefit people and/or communities

HOW

By enhancing connections and relationships

WHY

To address issues and strengthen communities

Our Approach

Youth-led, youth-driven service acknowledges and centers the powerful role of youth in influencing civic and community life.

Youth-led, youth-driven service cultivates:

- 1** A greater sense of agency, purpose, and interconnectedness
- 2** Valuable and transferable life and professional skills
- 3** The opportunity for increased intergenerational collaboration
- 4** An understanding of the reciprocal, generative value of working with others to improve civic and community life
- 5** Opportunities, motivation, dedication, and skills to engage in and lead service across a person's life
- 6** Collective interest and investment in community well-being





Reflection

What do these findings mean for your work?
For how you support youth service?

What opportunities can be leveraged from
these findings? What pathways into service
can you imagine leveraging?

What 1-2 questions would you ask a young
person about service and these results?



Applying New Concepts of Service in Practice

#1: Youth-Led, Youth-Driven

#2: Access

#3: Quality

#4: Reciprocity

#5: Change Strategy



Voices of Youth

My service experience gave me my voice and demonstrated the impact that anyone can have regardless of age. Although still a youth, I now mentor other students - passing the knowledge I garnered and sharing the networks I built. Together we can amplify our voices and couple our energies to make positive change for all.

- Sky H., Drexel University, Cobell Scholar

**View the Design
Considerations**



In Practice

What are immediate applications you can see for the design considerations?

What barriers might you envision along with potential solutions to overcome these?

What are core resources you or youth you work with can draw on to deliver against the design considerations?

What do we do now?

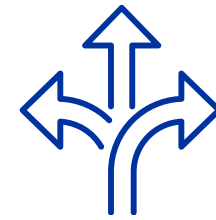
As we think about the path forward, we hope you will consider the following:



Amplify the voices of youth and let them lead.



Provide training for youth and adults most proximate to youth.



Ease on-ramps and pathways into service.



Engage with the design considerations to maximize the meaningfulness of service.



Reshape scholarship on service to address contemporary realities.

Innovating Youth Service: Resources & Roadmaps for the Future

View the Report



Allstate
Foundation



Explore Resources



info@expandingleadership.org



Allstate[®]
Foundation



CENTER FOR EXPANDING
LEADERSHIP & OPPORTUNITY

A Return to Service:

(Re)Defining Youth
Empowerment for
a New Generation

