

## CARA MARIE DIENNO

### EDUCATION

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**Colorado State University, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department** 2004-2009

*Doctor of Philosophy*

- Specialization: Environmental Communication
- Dissertation: A Case Study of Social Capital and Collaboration as a Communication Process in an Urban Community-Based Ecological Restoration Project

**Colorado State University, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department** 2002-2004

*Master of Science*

- Specialization: Environmental Communication
- Thesis: Enhancing Environmental Knowledge: An Active Approach to Environmental Education with High School Students

**Western Michigan University** 1996-2001

*Bachelor of Science – Majors in Environmental Studies and Biomedical Sciences, Minors in Art and Chemistry*

- Lee Honors College Graduate

### PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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**University of Denver** Denver, CO 2011-present

*Associate Director, Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning*

- Lead trainings and provide consultation to faculty to support community-engaged work including service learning and engaged scholarship. Assist in managing DU's \$100,000 Public Good Fund, which provides grants to DU faculty. Provide oversight of all of the Center's student civic engagement programs.

**Colorado State University** Fort Collins, CO 2002-2011

*2007 – 2011: Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Forest, Rangeland & Watershed Stewardship*

- Coordinate all aspects of the undergraduate program including advising for four majors, teaching and serving as a liaison between faculty and students. Organize special department events and maintain department programs and processes. Curriculum Committee member
- Member of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability "Women, Population & Environmental Sustainability" working group contributing communication expertise
- Co-Advisor, Natural Resource Management Society student club

*2005 – 2007: Instructor, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources*

- Teach and advise students in the Natural Resource Recreation & Tourism major with concentrations in Environmental Communication, Park & Protected Area Management and Natural Resource Tourism

*2003 – 2005: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department*

- Assist through grading, teaching, and mentoring students in Fall & Spring semesters

*2002 – 2003: Education Coordinator, Environmental Learning Center*

- Coordinate and facilitate various environmental programs for K-12 and adult audiences

**Denver Botanic Gardens** Denver, CO 2006-2007

*Partners for Colorado Native Plants Coordinator*

- Coordinate diverse community partners to conduct plant restoration in the Denver metro area. Responsible for all organization communication and project management including developing volunteer recruitment materials, trainings, manuals and organize restoration work days

**AmeriCorps** Fort Collins, CO 2006-2007

*Coordinator – Office of Student Leadership, Involvement & Civic Engagement*

- Coordinate over 250 Colorado State University students participating in the regional UCAN Serve AmeriCorps education awards program. Students participate in community service activities at non-profit and government agencies serving the public through education, public health and safety, and/or community strengthening

- Develop communication plans, print and online media for the National Park Service including individual parks, regions and special units through the Natural Resource Program Center's Office of Education and Outreach

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Current

#### *BACP 3400, Civic Engagement, University of Denver*

- Because education has social as well as personal benefits, it carries with it opportunities and obligations for civic engagement. Most people have some desire to be of help to others, but knowing how to help without interfering or being condescending often requires cultivated sensitivity. The Civic Engagement project provides students with an opportunity to identify a community need, learn how that need is or is not being addressed, and get engaged in a particular set of service activities for an agreed upon duration of time. Students may receive help with finding appropriate settings through DU's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (<http://www.du.edu/ccesl>). Students will receive help in how to identify service-learning opportunities in their local communities or through their employers. Students will be expected to keep and submit a reflective log on the nature of their activity and the learning they have derived from it.
- Class size: 5-20 students
- Format: Online (asynchronous) & Hybrid sections

#### *AH/SS 2580, Community Organizing, University of Denver*

- A strong democracy depends on its citizens to use their power, knowledge, ethics and strength to identify problems and work with others to build stronger, healthier communities for all people. In this course students learn about the history of community organizing in the United States and learn about and apply public skills to conduct a collaborative organizing project. The first half of the quarter is focused on learning the community organizing model through presentations, activities, critical reflection, guest speakers, and discussion. During the second half of the quarter, students in the class lead the class and create their own assignments in a workshop style environment as they collectively develop an organizing project.
- Class size: 15-30 students
- Format: Traditional

#### *AH/SS 2582, School Based Civic Engagement, University of Denver*

- This course provides opportunities for students to engage with an urban youth organization that challenges students to think about how our public schools are preparing students to be effective citizens. We also examine the role that universities and communities can and should play in the education process. Students take a critical look at their own education experience and compare this with the education experience of those with whom the students work with for the quarter. This course is arranged as a 10-week community learning project. Classes include group discussions and activities based on the assigned class topic and readings along with service learning experiences in Denver Public Schools.
- Class size: 15 students
- Format: Traditional

#### *WELL 2014, Community & Social Wellness, University of Denver*

- This course helps students explore their own perspectives and identities in terms of community and social wellness. Students explore different facets of the community from a development approach to analyze critically what determines the relationship between community wellness and social wellness across time, the life cycle, socio-economic boundaries, cultures and communities. There are both research and service components to the course. An emphasis is placed on informed discussion, working together, sensitivity to others' perspectives, and creating greater awareness of our power to effect change in our community and our world.
- Class size: 30 students
- Format: Traditional

### Previous

#### *NRRT 360, Group Decision Making in Natural Resources, Colorado State University*

- This class provides an overview of communication processes involved in small group interactions and collaborative decision-making. Students develop an understanding of group dynamics, decision-making, and problem solving. Students develop competencies for future group decision-making experiences through (1) exposure to theory, (2) engaging in group processes through the course service-learning component, and (3) identifying and evaluating behaviors that facilitate and/or impede group decision-making.

- Class size: 20 students
- Format: Hybrid

*NR 400, Public Relations in Natural Resources, Colorado State University*

- Through exposure to communication theory as well as real world examples, students develop an understanding of the ways in which public relations can be utilized to convey natural resource and environmental issues to diverse audiences. Additionally, students are encouraged to cast a critical eye on the use of public relations techniques including the ethical and legal responsibilities of PR practitioners. Through the semester long service-learning component, students complete a public relations campaign for their community partner.
- Class size: 20 – 45 students
- Format: Traditional

*NRRT 330, Social Aspects of Natural Resource Management*

- Through readings, lectures, and guest panels on social theory and management frameworks, students dissect current natural resource management issues. Guest panels are created in collaboration with the CSU Student Diversity Programs and Services and the International Programs Office to present students with diverse perspectives on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.
- Class size: 45 students
- Format: Traditional

*NRRT 231, Principles of Park & Protected Area Management*

- By the end of the semester students are able to demonstrate an understanding of the structure and organization of the land management agencies in the United States and internationally; demonstrate a working knowledge of the history, principles and philosophy of the agencies involved; and demonstrate an understanding of the variety of current and past issues associated with park and protected area management.
- Class size: 110 students
- Format: Traditional

*NRRT 487V, Internship, Colorado State University*

- Students participate in the “Partners with Professionals” program allowing them to connect classroom theory with practical application.
- Class size: 80 students
- Format: Traditional

## **PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

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**DiEnno, C. M. & DePrince, A. P.** (October 2017). Advancing Public Good Collaboration: Values, Frameworks, and Strategies. Presentation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coalition of Urban & Metropolitan Universities Conference: The Urban Advantage. Denver, CO.

**DiEnno, C. M.** (October 2017). Community Voice & Design: Using the Community Organizing Process to Create Powerful Projects. Presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual University of Denver The Social, Social Entrepreneurship Summit. Denver, CO.

**DiEnno, C. M.** (September 2017). Moving From Serving Individuals to Engagement Programs Seeking Collective Impact. Presentation at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference, This is Engagement: Best Practices in Community-Engaged Scholarship. Birmingham, AL.

**DiEnno, C. M. & Kleinhesselink.** (April 2017). Work on Purpose. Workshop at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuums of Service Conference: Elevating Higher Education for the Public Good: Commitment | Action | Impact. Denver, CO.

**DiEnno, C. M., Abdullah, S., Polley, D. & Oyakojo, M.** (April 2017). From Serving Individuals to Creating Community Engagement Programs Focused on Collective Impact: The Evolution of Collaborating for the Public Good. Presentation at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuums of Service Conference: Elevating Higher Education for the Public Good: Commitment | Action | Impact. Denver, CO.

**DiEnno, C. M. & Powers, K.** (February 2017). *Public Narrative for Community Transformation: Using stories to motivate social change.* Presentation at the University of Denver 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Conference. Denver, CO.

- DiEnno, C. M.** (February 2017). *Using Reflection as a Tool for Learning*. Discussion facilitator at the University of Denver, Office of Teaching & Learning 'Unconference.' Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (October 2017). Practicing What We Teach, Practitioner Reflections: Understanding the Impact of Service Learning on Those Who Teach It. Poster presentation at the Mountain West Engaged Scholars Summit. Greeley, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M. & Plummer Taylor, S. R. G.** (2017). Practicing What We Teach, Practitioner Reflections: Understanding the Impact of Service Learning on Those Who Teach It. In C. R. Crosby & F. Brockmeier (Eds.) *Community Engagement Program Implementation and Teacher Preparation for 21st Century Education*. (pp. 238-263). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (July 2016). Using the Community Organizing Framework to Create Powerful Projects. Invited presentation at the International Baccalaureate World Student Conference: From Farm to Fork: Ethics of Food Sourcing, Production and Consumption. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (November 2015). Using the Community Organizing Framework to Create Powerful Projects. Invited presentation to the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M. & Buchanan, C.** (November 2015). Impact Research for Service-Learning Practitioners: Instructor Reflections of Inquiry & Engagement. Invited webinar presentation hosted by Campus Compact of the Mountain West and California Campus Compact.
- DiEnno, C. M., Romero, D., Julian, B., Epperson, A. & Wellman, M.** (October 2015) Carnegie Engagement Classification - Why We Did It, How We Use It: Three Colorado Experiences. Presentation at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium – Engaged Scholarship: Advancing Rigor, Elevating Impact. State College, PA.
- DiEnno, C.M. & Plummer Taylor, S. R. G.** (April 2015). The Impact of Service Learning on Practitioners: Instructor Reflections of Inquiry & Engagement. Presentation at the 18th Annual Continuums of Service Conference. Long Beach, California.
- DiEnno, C.M.** (March 2014). Critical Reflection in Service Learning Courses. Invited presentation at the Campus Compact of the Mountain West's Engaged Faculty Institute. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C.M. & DePrince, A.P.** (April 2014). Developing Students' Ability to Address Complex Social Problems through the Public Achievement Program. Presentation at the 17th Annual Continuums of Service Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (January 2014) Using the Community Organizing Framework to Create Powerful Service Projects. Invited workshop presenter for the Campus Compact of the Mountain West's Veteran Leader Corps program. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (May 2013). How Do We Create Sustainable Dialogues on Campus? University of Denver Cross-Talk: A Social Justice Colloquium. Invited discussion facilitator. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C. M., Hanschen, R. J., Salley, M. & Gibson, C.** (March 2013). Using the Community Organizing Framework to Empower Youth and Create Social Change. Presentation at National Service Learning Conference. Denver, CO.
- DiEnno, C.M.** (March 2013). Critical Reflection in Service Learning Courses. Invited presentation at the Colorado Campus Compact Engaged Faculty Institute. Denver, CO.
- DePrince, A.P., **DiEnno, C.M.**, & Kleinhesselink, K. (April 2013). Building Campus Service Learning Capacity Within a Community Organizing Framework. Presentation at the Continuums of Service Conference. Portland, OR.
- Hanschen, R. & **DiEnno, C. M.** (May 2012). *Innovative Community Organizing Strategies to Develop Inclusive, Socially Just Communities*. Workshop presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Summit on Inclusive Excellence at the University of Denver.

- DiEnno, C. M.** & Thompson, J. L. (February 2013). *For the Love of Land: How Emotions Motivate Volunteerism in Ecological Restoration*. Emotion, Space and Society. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.emospa.2012.02.002>.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (April 2010). *Building an Environmental Ethic Among Urban Residents*. Presentation at the Metropolitan State College of Denver Environmental Ethics Conference sponsored by the Metro State Philosophy Department, Women's Institute of Studies and Services, and the Feminist Alliance, Denver, CO, USA.
- DiEnno, C. M.** & Thompson, J. L. (March 2010). *Communication and Community-Based Collaboration: A Case Study of the Partners for Native Plants*. Paper Presentation at the Western States Communication Association. Anchorage, Alaska.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (June 2009). *Social Capital and Community-Based Ecological Restoration in an Urban Setting*. Paper Presentation at the International Conference on Human Ecology. Manchester, England, United Kingdom.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (February 2009). *Social Capital in an Urban Community-Based Riparian Restoration Project*. Poster Presentation at the Front Range Student Ecology Symposium, Fort Collins, CO, USA.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (January 2007 & 2008). *Campus Step Up: A Social Justice Retreat*. An invited group facilitator. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA.
- Melena, S., Mayer, C., Ernst, T. & **DiEnno, C. M.** (2005). *Colorado State University graduate students improve awareness of Heartland Network's inventory and monitoring activities*. National Park Service: Natural Resource Year in Review – 2005.
- DiEnno, C. M.** (August 2005). *Interpretation: An Approach to Getting Your Message Across*. Invited workshop presenter for the International Seminar for Protected Area Managers, Kalispell, Montana, USA.
- DiEnno, C. M.** & Hilton, S. C. (2005). An Exploration into High School Students Knowledge, Attitudes, and Levels of Enjoyment of an Environmental Education unit on Non-native Plants. *Journal of Environmental Education*, 37(1), 13-25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3200/JOEE.37.1.13-26>
- DiEnno, C. M.** & Hilton, S. C. (April 2004) *Constructing Knowledge on Invasive Plant Species: An Exploration into High School Students Attitudes, Knowledge, and Levels of Engagement*. Poster Presentation at the Front Range Student Ecology Symposium, Fort Collins, CO, USA.

## **PROGRAM, TEACHING & RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED**

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- Engaged Scholarship Grant, Campus Compact of the Mountain West** **January 2015**
- Recipient of a \$1,500 grant to support original research on the impacts of service learning on practitioners
- Martin Luther King Jr. Challenge Grant, Montana Campus Compact** **January 2014**
- Recipient of a \$1,000 grant to support the University of Denver Public Achievement program. Grant monies were used to support college and high school student participation in the Denver MLK Marade (march and parade), which will kick off a semester of service.
- Training Ground Grant, Campus Compact of the Mountain West** **November 2013**
- Recipient of \$1,500 grant to support professional development and training of college mentors participating in the Public Achievement Program.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Challenge Grant, Montana Campus Compact** **January 2013**
- Recipient of a \$1,000 grant to support the University of Denver Public Achievement program. Grant monies were used to support college and high school student participation in the Denver MLK Marade (march and parade), which will kick off a semester of service.
- Semester of Service, Youth Service America & State Farm** **Spring 2013**
- Recipient of a \$1,000 grant to support the University of Denver Public Achievement program. Grant monies were used to support college and high school student participation in a semester of service.

**Semester of Service, Youth Service America & State Farm****Spring 2012**

- Recipient of two \$1,000 grants to support the University of Denver Public Achievement program. Grant monies were used to support college and high school student participation in a semester of service.

**Service Learning Mini-Grant, Colorado State University****Spring 2009**

- Recipient of an \$800 grant to revise NR 400, Public Relations in Natural Resources. Grant money was provided to student groups to develop their PR campaign for their community partner.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuums of Service Conference****2016-2017**

- Proposal Reviewer

**University of Denver****2011-present**

- Social Sustainability Committee Chair, University of Denver Sustainability Council
- Committee Member, Intercultural Global Studies Minor, University of Denver
- Advisory Design Team Member, collaboration with Denver's George Washington High School to develop partnership to support One George Initiative
- Committee Member, Pedagogy of Privilege Conference 2013

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuums of Service Conference****2014-2015**

- Advisory Committee Member

**Colorado Civic Health Network****2014-present**

- Advisory Committee Member

**Landscape and Urban Planning****2013**

- Invited Peer Reviewer for the International Journal of Landscape Science, Planning and Design

**Campus Compact of the Mountain West****2012-present**

- Advisory Committee Member

**Colorado Service-Leaning Council****2012-present**

- Coordinating Constellation Member

**Native Plant Network****2008**

- Invited Peer Reviewer for the Native Plants Journal

**National Association for Interpretation****2006**

- Invited Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Interpretation Research

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

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**Outstanding Service Award, University of Denver****2015**

- Award recipient chosen for exemplary service and is the highest honor presented by the Staff Advisory Council.

**Pioneer Award, University of Denver****2015**

- Award recipient chosen for exemplary dedication and contributions to, and on behalf of, the University of Denver.

**Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University****2008, 2009**

- Recognition in the College Graduation Survey as a staff member who has had a positive influence on the college career of graduating students

**Colorado State University****2008**

- Recognition in the University Senior Survey as a staff member who has had a positive impact on students

**Fort Collins Community Civility Award****2007**

- Award recipient in recognition of significant acts that have helped promote civility and neighborliness within the larger Fort Collins community

**Northern Colorado Delta Gamma Stellar Award****2007**

- Award recipient for outstanding commitment to the National Delta Gamma Foundation