



Land-Grant Partners Summit

Denver, Colorado

October 12-13, 2023

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Agenda

(Meeting in Energy Ballroom)

Thursday, October 12

8:00 am Registration

9-10:00 am Welcome, Acknowledgements, Announcements, Expectations, etc.

10-12:30 pm **Strategic Doing – Session #1**

Opening Activity – The Power of Networks: Needs & Assets

Overview of Strategic Doing

Creating a Safe Space for Deep Focused Conversation

Framing Questions

Uncover Hidden Assets You Are Willing to Share

Link and Leverage Assets to Create New Strategic Opportunities

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch (by [Tocabe](#))

1:30-2:00 pm Presentation on Transdisciplinarity – Louis Swanson

2-4:30 pm **Strategic Doing – Session #2**

Rank all opportunities to find your “Big Easy”

Large Group Reporting

Convert “Big Easy” into an outcome with measurable characteristics

4:30 pm Wrap up; review goals for Friday

5:00 pm Adjourn Dinner on own, individually or in groups

Friday, October 13

8:00 am Registration

8:30 am **Strategic Doing – Session #3**

Define at least one Pathfinder Project with Guideposts

Draft a short-term action plan with everyone taking at least one small step

Set a 30/30 Meeting to Review Progress and Continue Planning/Implementation

Establish a “Chief Doing Officer”

Review how to practice effective “nudging” to build collaborative habits

11:00 am Wrap Up, identification of ongoing Leadership Team, next meeting(s)

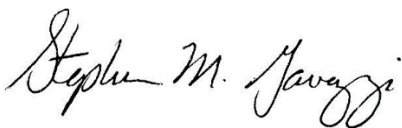
12:00 noon Adjourn Lunch on own

The “land grab” foundation of land-grant universities laid bare in the 2020 publication of the *Land Grab Universities Report* has generated significantly increased awareness of the enormous amount of wealth that has been transferred out of Native American communities and put into our nation’s institutions of higher learning. My own reckoning with what might best be termed the “original sin” of the land-grant universities began with an article I wrote for *Forbes* in 2020¹. From that publication forward, I have made the continuous call to strike a balance between the desire to be “land-grant fierce” and the need to reckon with the “land grab” foundation of these public universities.

Yes, you can be proud of everything that is good about the three-part mission of these land-grant institutions: teaching that provides economic and social mobility; research that creates new medicines, new technologies, and new ways of understanding the world; engagement that generates partnerships with communities in service to addressing their most pressing needs. At the same time, land-grant universities must respond to the call for justice not as some part of a long-forgotten past, but rather with the understanding that the consequences of these unjust actions continue to reverberate inside of contemporary society.

This tremendous transfer of wealth has led to specific damages among Native Nations that can be seen today in a variety of ways, including food insecurity and other issues related to hardship around basic needs; water crises; inadequate housing; shortage of employment opportunities (as well as underemployment concerns); inaccessibility of sacred places and burial grounds; fracturing of community ties; loss of language and identity; erosion of tribal sovereignty; and historical trauma resulting from violence, loss of life, and the psychological and emotional stress of being uprooted and pushed away from homelands.

And so, I call on everyone gathered today for this Land-Grant Partners Summit to figure out what next steps are needed both to acknowledge and to seek remedies for those present-day injuries that exist within Native American communities. I implore all of you to rely on the framework of the land-grant mission to figure this out. Continually ask yourself these core questions: What do we most need to teach? What high-impact research must we conduct? And finally (and perhaps most importantly), how best do we engage 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grants as true partners, with the goal of serving Native and non-Native communities in addressing the most pressing issues of the day?



Stephen M. Gavazzi, Ph.D., Director, CHRR at The Ohio State University, and Professor, College of Education and Human Ecology

¹ The Original Sin of Our Nation’s First Public Universities. S.M. Gavazzi (August 20, 2020) for *Forbes* at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stephengavazzi/2020/04/20/the-original-sin-of-our-nations-first-public-universities/?sh=68209eaf78e4>



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Mission, Purpose, Objectives, and Discussion Framing Questions

Overall Goal/Mission: Truth, reconciliation, and reciprocal efforts among land-grant universities to build a better future for everyone.

Our purpose is to build an expanding network of administrators, faculty, staff, students, and key community partners representing land-grant universities across the country. This team will collaborate to implement an action-oriented approach, looking beyond the past inequities and contradictions, towards meaningful interinstitutional partnerships for the betterment of society.

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness of the circumstances associated with the founding of the land-grant university system and stimulate positive steps toward making amends.

Imagine if the land-grant university system implemented a community-engaged approach which actively addressed the “land grant – land grab” histories and ongoing legacies. What would that look like?

2. To build collaboration that meaningfully addresses the historical wrongs and generates positive relationships aimed at appropriate reconciliation efforts providing opportunities for healing.

Imagine if we built collaborative teams which address social responsibility and dynamic reconciliation opportunities for healing. What would that look like?

3. To build strong partnerships between 1862 and 1994 land-grant universities that direct precious resources and collective wisdom toward solving some of society’s greatest challenges.

Imagine if we built powerful and diverse land-grant university networks which direct resources toward solving society’s greatest challenges. What would that look like?

4. To identify and engage groups, offices, and/or individual leaders within institutions who affirm these intentions and are willing to work toward implementation in the years to come.

Imagine if we expanded networks to include all potential partners, internal and external to universities, who are willing to implement these solutions in an organized way. What would that look like?

5. To generate necessary infrastructure and operating principles to support this work on an ongoing basis, including both organizational and financial components.

Imagine if we developed the essential infrastructure and operating principles (governance and financial) to sustain our efforts. What would that look like?



What happens at a Strategic Doing workshop?

A Strategic Doing workshop is a session in which a group takes on a question about their community or organization's future, and uses the [4 Questions](#) (see below) to explore, identify opportunities, and begin to take action on the most promising of those opportunities. Here's some things you'll notice at a workshop:

- **It's interactive:** in Strategic Doing, no one will tell you what your strategy should be. The process will lead you to sort that out for yourselves. There will be a short overview of the process at the beginning, but you'll quickly move right into discussion in small groups around tables.
- **There are no observers:** everyone in the room participates, even the facilitators (which we call "table guides").
- **It's realistic:** instead of dreaming about what would be possible if you had a big grant, more staff, or a new facility, the conversation will be centered on what you already have at your disposal. We call this approach asset-based.
- **It's focused on action:** there's a reason we call it Strategic Doing. You'll walk out the door at the end of the workshop with an assignment. The commitment will be small – usually around an hour over the next 30 days – but when everyone is making a commitment you'll be amazed at how much you can get done.
- **It's fun:** when did you last have a great time at a planning meeting? Participants at Strategic Doing gatherings consistently tell us it was enjoyable – both because of the approach and because of the sense of accomplishment you'll have at the end, knowing that you made tangible progress in just a few hours.

The Strategic Plan motto (4 Questions):

What *could* we do?

What *should* we do?

What *will* we do?

What's our 30/30?

(What did we do over the last 30 days? What will we do in the next 30?)

The workshop process ensures that you won't get "stuck" – you'll have a strategic action plan at the end to guide your future work, and you'll have already started on implementation together.

<http://strategicdoing.net/>

References on Disciplinary, Inter-Disciplinary, and Trans-Disciplinary Discussions

Current APLU Webinar Series on transdisciplinarity: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/about-us/events/transdisciplinary-approaches>

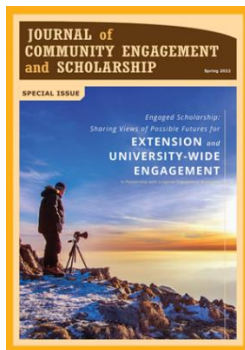
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Special Issue of the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* dedicated to Extension and University-wide Engagement featuring transdisciplinary opportunities (2022).

<https://jces.ua.edu/30/volume/14/issue/3>



Brian Kowalkowski, Lloyd Frieson, Jr., John L. Phillips. (2022). *Community Engagement at Tribal Land-Grant Institutions: A Tribal Approach to Reimagining the University-Community Relationship*. **Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship**.

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A. Scott Reed and Louis E. Swanson. (2022). *Transdisciplinary Engagement: Advancing the Community Engagement Mission for All*. **Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship**.

<https://jces.ua.edu/articles/10.54656/jces.v14i3.45>



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Collaborators

CHRR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHRR at The Ohio State University



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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FALCON

First Americans Land grant Consortium
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North Central Regional
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The Ohio State University
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