How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Alumni Reflections (Spring 2022)

Alumni from CIRTL programs go on to many different kinds of careers. This four-part event series features alumni from different career paths reflecting on their current work, how CIRTL prepared them for their career trajectories, and how their CIRTL experiences helped shape their professional interests and activities. We will give you a chance to submit questions when you register. Join us on:

- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 9, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing from Academic and Research Staff
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 16, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing from Teaching Faculty
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 23, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Experiences in Academia from Underrepresented Groups in STEM
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 30, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing about Positions beyond Academia
Imagining Post-PhD Career Possibilities: Advocating for your Professional Skills and Value (Spring 2022)

This four-part series supports graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at all levels, especially those nearing transitional phases, to articulate and build upon professional skills acquired within and outside of academic experiences. Participants will: identify skills and competencies developed in multiple settings; determine areas for additional development; and develop self-awareness and agency in pursuit of diverse post-graduate careers. In support of the professional development of equity-deserving communities, this series increases equitable and inclusive participation by uncovering the hidden curriculum of graduate education and by highlighting post-PhD career possibilities and diverse academic institutions and populations served. The first three sessions will emphasize strengths and skill development, and the fourth will be an opportunity for reflection and integration as part of a career plan. Participants will recognize and express their unique and marketable professional skills and value. In addition, they will gain self-awareness and agency regarding their employability.

- **1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 14, 2022:** [Graduate Skills and Competencies: What Have I Really Learned?](#)
- **1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 21, 2022:** [Mentoring and Advising Relationships: What Skills Am I Developing?](#)
- **1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 28, 2022:** [Building My Networks and Engagement in Communities: What Connections Am I Growing and Why?](#)
- **1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, April 4, 2022:** [Putting It All Together: How Do I Articulate and Implement a Career Development Plan?](#)


**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**

**12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, February 14, 2022**

The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, February 14th from 12 – 1 pm. The discussion will be virtual, so please sign up using the link below to receive the Zoom link. During this dB-SERC lunch discussion, Dr. Perry Samson from UMich will give his talk “Does a Backchannel for In-Class Questions Increase Students’ Sense of Belonging?”
Check [https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/] for updates.

**2022 Assessment and Teaching Conference**
*9:00 AM – 3:15 PM, Friday, February 18, 2022*
All Pitt faculty and faculty support specialists are invited to attend the tenth annual Assessment & Teaching Conference on Friday, Feb. 18. The day-long event will be held virtually and include multiple opportunities to engage and network with colleagues. The conference will begin with opening remarks at 9 a.m., then proceed with a keynote presentation, multiple moderated panels, and a faculty poster session.

**Best Practices in Online Teaching**
*12:00 – 1:30 PM, Tuesday, February 22, 2022*
Faculty who teach online or hybrid classes want to know how to design and teach courses that are pedagogically effective. This workshop will summarize and synthesize research about the most effective practices in teaching, learner-centered courses, and point to Canvas tools that can help you implement engaging teaching strategies. Topics covered will include strategies and tools for planning sequenced assignments and activities, managing the course, and evaluation. The workshop will be of interest to faculty who teach online or who are interested in incorporating online components into their traditional courses. Bring your questions, ideas, and experiences to share.

Check [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/] or [https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion] for updates.

**The Blue, Gold, & Black: A Reflection on Engineering Experience at Pitt**
*12:00 – 1:30 PM, Tuesday, February 15, 2022*
Join us for a panel discussion with Pitt Engineering alumni in celebration of Black History Month. Please register at the link. Featuring:
- Dr. Elayne Arrington BS MechE '61
- Dr. Brooke Coley BioE PhD '10
- Dr. Brooke Odle BSBioE '06
- Mr. Charles Toran MechE '82 MBA '91
The panel discussion will reflect on the experiences of our Pitt Engineering alumni who will share why they chose to attend Pitt; their experiences on campus and within the School; their path to graduation; and the contributions of Black engineers to engineering diversity.
**Dating While Black: Discrimination & Healthy Boundaries within Black Relationships**
3:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Pan African Graduate & Professional Student Association (PANAF) is hosting our first critical conversation panel series during Black History Month aimed at the third principle of Kwanzaa, Ujima. Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima) focuses on the collective responsibility for both achievements and setbacks in the community. This principle reminds folks that building each other up is the best way to truly solve problems.

**Overcharged and Undervalued: How Blackness Colors the Value of a Home**
12:00 – 1:15 PM, Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Home value estimates play an important role in property taxation system. However, throughout US history and up to present day, biased home evaluation practices and intentional price manipulation have produced a property tax landscape that favors the white and wealthy at the expense of all others. Join Artist Harrison Kinnane Smith, Economist Dr. Troup Howard, and Historian Dr. Andrew Kahr at noon on Wednesday, February 16th for a lunchtime discussion about home valuation disparities in Pittsburgh, PA. Panelists will discuss the barriers to equitable taxation, how we got here, and what we can do to repair the broken systems.

**Chasing the Silver Lining**
7:30 – 9:00 PM, Wednesday, February 16, 2022
In this memoir, Dr. Livingston Alexander, who served as Pitt-Bradford’s first Black president for 15 years, writes about growing up in Louisiana during the Jim Crow era, his years in Catholic seminary and as a professional in the world of higher education. Alexander will read from and discuss his work.

**Behind the Spotlight: America’s First Black Superstars and the Struggle for Civil Rights**
6:00 – 7:30 PM, Thursday, February 17, 2022
A talk focused on the some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry in America between the 1930s and 1960s and shine a light on some of the stories and challenges faced by singers who were household names but who were frequently the victims of discrimination.

**Virtual Book Talk with Dr. Brenda Berrian**
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Friday, February 18, 2022
The Tapestry of My Life: Discussions on "Race, Identity, and Privilege from the U.S. to the Congo"
In July 1961, five months after Patrice Lumumba’s assassination, 14-year-old Brenda F. Berrian’s consciousness was raised by her family’s move to the turbulent Republic of the Congo. Race, Identity, and Privilege from the US to the Congo traces Berrian’s experiences of subsequently traveling the United States, Canada, France, and three other African countries against the backdrop of emerging African independence and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Detailing the complexities she faced in her global identity as a Black woman, Berrian explores how the love and support of her parents and her developing racial, feminist, and political consciousness—strengthened by her embrace of literature and music of the African diaspora—prepared her to deal with adversity, stereotypes, and grief along the way.
**Black History Month: Taste of Culture**
7:00 PM, Friday, February 18, 2022
Please join the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Medicine Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the UPMC Graduate Medical Education Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee as we host Black History Month: Taste of Culture.

Bring your family and friends along to our virtual cooking class with Pure Grub, a minority-owned business that embodies the concept of "nutrition as medicine". Pure Grub uses locally sourced organic ingredients to create delicious food that is gluten-free, dairy-free, and plant-based infused with inspiration from African and Caribbean cuisine. Pure Grub aims to be a gateway towards lifestyle change and uses its cuisine to educate as well as bring communities together through nourishment.

**Blue, Gold, & Black: Reflections Of The Black Pitt Experience Through The Years**
6:00 – 7:00 PM, Monday, February 21, 2022
The University of Pittsburgh invites you to join us at the unveiling of the University of Pittsburgh’s Blue, Gold, and Black digital archive. We will also be bringing together a collection of voices from the Pitt community, in person and digitally, from current, active staff and students as well as alumni from across the decades. The event itself will be small and socially distanced. To reach the wider Pitt community, we will also be broadcasting it live on Zoom.

See [https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series](https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series) for more info.

**LinkedIn: Optimize Your Profile & Tap Into the Platform's Hidden Power**
3:30 - 5:00 PM, Wednesday, February 23, 2022
The universe of career options available to PhDs in the health sciences is widespread and exciting, but daunting to many who might not know which path to take. Join us as we guide you through an exploration of the vast array of career options available and help you to understand and develop the skills needed to achieve career success.

During this workshop, presented by Josh Henkin, PhD, attendees will learn about several resources to search and explore careers outside of academia. You will also be introduced to tools you can use to identify how your professional values, interests, and skills align with potential careers of interest.

We'll help you discover what macro and micro skills you possess, and discuss how to increase your confidence in articulating and demonstrating the value you bring to an organization.
**Additional Resources:**

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