

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

ALL PEOPLE.
ALL VOICES.
ALL MATTER.
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

70
VALENCIA'S
PEACE AND
JUSTICE INSTITUTE
All People. All Voices. All Matter.

years





THE PJI PROMISE

By Patricia Ambinder
Peace and Justice Institute, Advisory Council Chair

Valencia College is truly a premier learning environment. The creativity and commitment of its student body, faculty, staff and administration have been essential to PJI's flourishing development. As PJI grew from an initiative to an institute in ten years, it faced obstacles and challenges as organizations dedicated to peace and justice often do. Valencia was a source of strength and guidance and continues to be a wellspring of renewal and promise.

"Affordable education, growing the knowledge economy, career training, and innovation and technology" are Valencia-directed assets that can be maximized with PJI's support. Valencia proudly shares this promise to students: "When students enroll at Valencia College, we make them a simple promise: to help them fully develop their promise, so they can achieve their goals. It's our purpose and our privilege to make this commitment today and every day. After all, Valencia's students are the promise of tomorrow."

Our community must align with its own promise to engage, develop and promote our culturally rich and diverse graduates once they leave Valencia and enter the workplace. PJI plays a vital role in fulfilling this responsibility.

Introduced to PJI principles and practices as they study to prepare for their future, we want to assure our graduates that PJI is dedicated to:

1. Teach the importance of social responsibility so that students work for the benefit of society as well as for themselves and their families.
2. Demonstrate why conflict should lead to growth and transformation rather than violence or aggression.
3. Educate and nurture a community schooled in the practice of inclusive excellence that is prepared to welcome a diverse group of workers and professionals.
4. Create a pathway for graduates to advance to the highest level of leadership within any organization they choose to work.
5. Prepare employers for the millennial employee who understands that profits rise when you care about your people and instill them with purpose.

It's been said "It is easy to make promises - it is hard work to keep them."

As I continue in my fourth year as chair of the PJI Advisory Council with the experiences this position provides (and the honor to work closely with Rachel Allen), I can say that the students, faculty, staff and administration involved in PJI are tireless in pursuit of peace and justice and Valencia College is truly a premier caring environment.

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE'S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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www.valenciacollege.edu/pji



peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu



www.facebook.com/valenciapeaceandjustice



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We extend a special thanks to all of our contributing writers.

Chief Editor:
Rachel Allen

Printing:
Craig Oberg

Photography:
Willie J. Allen Jr.
www.williejallenjr.com
(unless otherwise credited)

Editors:
Rachel Allen
Ann Persaud

Design and Layout:
Whitly Charles

PJI MISSION: All People. All Voices. All Matter: Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others and the earth.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rachel Allen

PJI is poised to make a significant impact in education, law, public safety, healthcare and our faith communities with the seeds planted over the last ten years.


A passionate group of individuals, working with the Principles and Commitments, has asserted an unyielding dedication to PJI. What was once a small group of twelve has evolved into a community of practitioners providing mutual support, honesty and encouragement in a time when doubt could creep in and undermine our intentions for change.

We would not be in this place without the foundation of Valencia College, which has allowed for innovation, creativity and the growth of such a dynamic program. A special thanks goes to the generosity of our individual donors. Through their steady financial gifts, we have been able to nourish a dream and watch it grow into a reality.

Personally and professionally, PJI has given me more than I could have dreamed of. To feel purposeful, to work in collaboration with such amazing people from throughout the region, to know that Central Florida is dedicated to building a thriving and sustainable community for all, is powerful. And, to feel a part of that work is priceless.

Thank you to every person, every participant in the vision of PJI. Together we are making a difference.

Yours truly,





THE INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS

Beverly Tatum, Ph.D.

Scholar and Author of

“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria”



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27TH
Community Conversation & Reception

Winter Park Community Center
721 West New England Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
6:00PM - Reception

7:00PM - Moderated Conversation
8:30PM - Book Signing

Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
(search Tatum Community Event).
Open to all.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28TH
8:30 – 9:45AM -Student Workshop

Special Events Center
West Campus Building 8
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando FL 32822
Open to all students.

Faculty, contact Michele Lima at
Mlima2@valenciacollege.edu to
register your class to attend.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28TH
2:00 – 4:00PM -Faculty/Staff Workshop

Special Events Center
West Campus Building 8
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando FL 32822
Register through the EDGE,
Locator Number 3354, Tatum Faculty
and Staff Workshop.
Open to all faculty and staff.

Copies of Tatum’s books are available as e-books with a Valencia ID:

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?

and *Can We Talk About Race? And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation.*

Books will be sold at each event.

This event is brought to you through the partnership of the Teaching and Learning Academy, Organizational Development and Human Resources, the Peace and Justice Institute, the Black Advisory Committee, Student Development and the Valencia African Heritage Committee.

For more information call the Peace and Justice Office at 407-582-6524
or contact Ann Persaud at Apersaud4@valenciacollege.edu
or Michele Lima at mlima2@valenciacollege.edu.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

SOWING PEACE GROWING PEACE THROUGH SERVICE





Paul Chapman, Ahmed Saleh, Quinn Wozniak, Penny Villegas, Saphronia Carson, Suhan Rosario, and Dawn Millings

One often hears a similar response from students who took Peace Studies with Penny Villegas at Valencia, “She changed my life – that course changed my life.” Penny, now Professor Emeritus, knew that the key to personal transformation involved not only theoretical but experiential learning, that places the student face-to-face with the “other” and provides an opportunity for empathy and compassion.

“My intention always is service,” shares Penny. “I believe that’s something that human beings need to do in life. I wanted to include service, so people don’t think it’s just, ‘Memorize this and study that, and look at that.’ No. You have to serve people who are in need.” Students in her classes were given the opportunity to serve, and Penny watched the transformations take place before her eyes.

Now, the Mother of Peace Studies, serving on the Advisory Council, and a founding member of PJI, Penny has built a program based on the study of peace, service and community engagement, a formula she knows all too well will transform lives and make a difference. Through her generous endowed gift to PJI and

the Valencia Foundation, “Sowing Peace, Growing Peace Through Service” expands Penny’s legacy at Valencia.

Penny’s vision to bring students into the community to meet face-to-face, eye-to-eye, those who are less fortunate has come to life through this new peace ambassador program.

When considering who could develop and facilitate the program, Paul Chapman, Professor of Humanities and Winter Park Campus Coordinator of PJI, was Penny’s first choice. Through Paul’s leadership and hard work, this new peace ambassador program for students was born.

Paul aligns with Penny’s thinking and philosophy: “You have to engage the learning from different places of knowing, both from the head and the heart. This type of experience allows a student to enter into situations that evoke qualities within them perhaps they never took time to nurture – like compassion, listening, and empathy. Connecting through technology can foster learning, and yet it is no substitute for the face-to-face listening,



Professor Paul Chapman



Click the image above to hear Ahmed's experience.



Ambassadors learning from Tim McKinney, CEO of Unite Global Outreach, as he discusses his work in Bithlo to support the needs of the community.



Penny hears student experiences at the final gathering of the group of Ambassadors.

feeling and seeing that is required of this program. That is where the courage really begins – when we are asked to be vulnerable and present with one another.”

“Sowing Peace, Growing Peace Through Service” consists of learning about community needs, both in and outside of the classroom setting, and working with local peace leaders who will help students build authentic relationships with the people who need help. Classroom and civic activities including readings, documentary films, journaling and field trips are at the core of the program.

This past semester, the group partnered with Zebra Coalition, United Global Outreach, IDignity and Judge Bob Leblanc, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. Saphronia Carson, Dawn Millings, Suhan Rosario, Ahmed

Saleh, and Quinn Wozniak were the first cohort of students to complete the program.

Reflecting on her learning, Suhan states, “I feel much more knowledgeable about what actually goes on in my community. It’s different when you hear about something and when you see it with your own eyes. I feel much more empathetic.”

Saphronia reflects on the value of experiential learning: “It has helped me see the reality of some of the things I have studied academically.” At IDignity she witnessed how quickly people can become homeless without an I.D., and meeting the children in Bithlo made a significant impact on her, recognizing the situation they live in. When asked if she would recommend this program to fellow students,

she said, “Definitely do it. It’s so good to have these real life experiences that show you what it is really like.”

Ahmed Saleh says, “Now I realize that I take a lot of things for granted. I grew up with all that I wanted. I had the nicest clothes, I had all of the toys that I wanted. I had the newest phone. Now after this program, it really makes me realize that people need those things more than I do. I feel like this program basically changes everything. I just want to give back.”

In lieu of earning course credits, students receive a stipend that can be applied to tuition and books. In Spring 2018, the goal is to have 10 students registered for the program who will each receive a \$300 stipend upon completion.

When discussing her vision, Penny goes on to say, “I think if we begin treating each other with love, tolerance, and compassion, we will have peace. And perhaps this program can do that, at least we can make a start at it.”

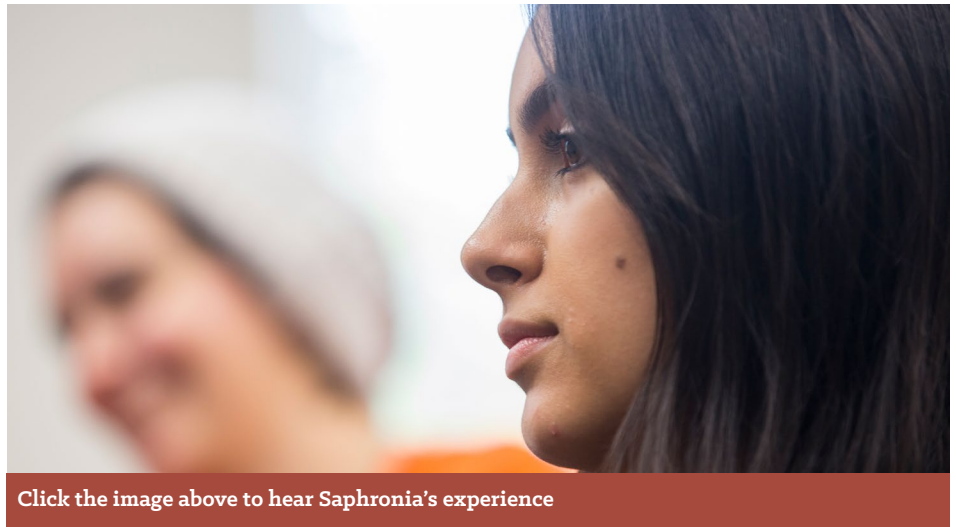
TO LEARN MORE

about Sowing Peace, Growing Peace Through Service, click here

<https://valenciacollege.edu/PJI/students/peace-through-service-program.cfm>

or contact Paul Chapman at pchapman@valenciacollege.edu

or 407-582-6819.



Click the image above to hear Saphronia's experience



Click the image above to hear Suhan's experience



Ambassadors spend the day at IDignity.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED with the **PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE**

The Institute is guided by its mission: All People. All Voices. All Matter. Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the earth.

PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES

The Peace and Justice Institute offers a variety of interdisciplinary courses centered around perspectives of peace, community building, multicultural interconnectivity, conflict transformation, and service learning. To read the full list of peace and justice courses, visit:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/PJI/students/curriculum.cfm>

PEACE AND JUSTICE DISTINCTION

The Distinction offers students an opportunity for a co-curricular focus in peace and justice to advance his or her personal and professional development. Through the Distinction program, the student will gain awareness, garner interest, and seek additional learning opportunities in Peace and Justice.

PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

The Peace and Justice Ambassadors program provides students with the opportunity to give back to Valencia and the greater Orlando community by assisting the Peace and Justice Institute with events, projects and activities. Peace and Justice Ambassadors complete 60 hours of service (3 credit hours of SLS 2940) through the Peace and Justice Institute.

SOWING PEACE, GROWING PEACE, THROUGH SERVICE

The Sowing Peace, Growing Peace, Through Service program provides students with the opportunity to become great peace leaders by exploring the nonviolent wisdom and practices of cultures past and present. In addition, over the course of 16 weeks, students will learn about our own community needs, both in and outside of the classroom setting, through working with local peace leaders. Students will attend 4 mandatory off-campus field trips to local organizations. After completion of all assignments, attending all meetings at the Winter Park campus, and fully participating in the 4 mandatory off campus field trips, students will receive a \$300 stipend.

LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

The Peace and Justice Leadership Fellow position offers students the opportunity to become more highly engaged with the work of the Institute by aiding in the development of programming, providing administrative support, and establishing the Culture of Peace. Fellows should be committed to the values and the teachings of the Peace and Justice Institute and have strong communication, intercultural, computer and organizational skills.

For more information, please contact the
Peace and Justice Institute at
PEACEANDJUSTICE@VALENCIACOLLEGE.EDU

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PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

Our Practice of Respect and Community Building

1. **Create a hospitable and accountable community.** We all arrive in isolation and need the generosity of friendly welcomes. Bring all of yourself to the work in this community. Welcome others to this place and this work, and presume that you are welcomed as well. Hospitality is the essence of restoring community.
2. **Listen deeply.** Listen intently to what is said; listen to the feelings beneath the words. Strive to achieve a balance between listening and reflecting, speaking and acting.
3. **Create an advice free zone.** Replace advice with curiosity as we work together for peace and justice. Each of us is here to discover our own truths. We are not here to set someone else straight, to “fix” what we perceive as broken in another member of the group.
4. **Practice asking honest and open questions.** A great question is ambiguous, personal and provokes anxiety.
5. **Give space for unpopular answers.** Answer questions honestly even if the answer seems unpopular. Be present to listen not debate, correct or interpret.
6. **Respect silence.** Silence is a rare gift in our busy world. After someone has spoken, take time to reflect without immediately filling the space with words. This applies to the speaker, as well – be comfortable leaving your words to resound in the silence, without refining or elaborating on what you have said.
7. **Suspend judgment.** Set aside your judgments. By creating a space between judgments and reactions, we can listen to the other, and to ourselves, more fully.
8. **Identify assumptions.** Our assumptions are usually invisible to us, yet they undergird our worldview. By identifying our assumptions, we can then set them aside and open our viewpoints to greater possibilities.
9. **Speak your truth.** You are invited to say what is in your heart, trusting that your voice will be heard and your contribution respected. Own your truth by remembering to speak only for yourself. Using the first person “I” rather than “you” or “everyone” clearly communicates the personal nature of your expression.
10. **When things get difficult, turn to wonder.** If you find yourself disagreeing with another, becoming judgmental, or shutting down in defense, try turning to wonder: “I wonder what brought her to this place?” “I wonder what my reaction teaches me?” “I wonder what he’s feeling right now?”
11. **Practice slowing down.** Simply the speed of modern life can cause violent damage to the soul. By intentionally practicing slowing down we strengthen our ability to extend non-violence to others—and to ourselves.
12. **All voices have value.** Hold these moments when a person speaks as precious because these are the moments when a person is willing to stand for something, trust the group and offer something he or she sees as valuable.
13. **Maintain confidentiality.** Create a safe space by respecting the confidential nature and content of discussions held in the group. Allow what is said in the group to remain there.

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Institute with considerable help from the works of Peter Block, Parker Palmer, the Dialogue Group and the Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education

PJI WORKS WITH THE ORLANDO FIRE DEPARTMENT





The Orlando Fire Department is regarded as one of the best departments in the country. Positions at OFD are sought after. In many areas, OFD sets the standards nationally. A department does not ascend to this level without a clear dedication to excellence.

To continue on this path of excellence, OFD and the City of Orlando partnered with PJI to bring a leadership workshop to officers from the rank of Lieutenant through Chief for six, two-day sessions in October and December.



Program outcomes aimed to increase personal wellness, strengthen professional and personal relationships, build a culture of inclusion, and develop leadership through the exploration of emotional intelligence and conflict skills.

Under the leadership of District Chief Marvin Francis, and facilitated by OFD’s Lieutenant Ken Rinaldi, and PJI’s Mordecai Dixon, Hank Van Putten, and Rachel Allen, the workshops invited participants to explore the strengths of the department through appreciative inquiry, discuss current challenges, and develop recommendations for creating a sustainable model for the work.

The fire service’s primary role is to protect lives and property. However, as noted by Greta Cooper, Ph.D, and Leila Karimai, Ph.D. in their paper, “Heroes at Risk: An

Overview of How Emotional Intelligence Can Reduce Death and Injury for Firefighters,” times have changed. Today, fire related incidents account for only that 3% of the firefighters’ work, the other 97% of incidents invite a different type of leadership than the “command-and-control” necessary during a fire. The two-day workshops focused on developing emotional intelligence, conflict transformation skills and Principles for How We Treat Each Other so as to strengthen positive leadership skills necessary for the 97%.

Honest dialogue and open discussion about current challenges, not only within the local department but with the firefighting profession as a whole, were a highlight for many attendees. Adjusting to a new normal in a world where fires are less common and emergency medical services are the bulk of the work, the workshops invited dialogue among leaders of different ranks, and opened channels of communication to allow for positive visioning for the future of the department.

Today, fire related incidents account for only that 3% of the firefighters’ work, the other 97% of incidents invite a different type of leadership than the “command-and-control” necessary during a fire.

Introducing PJI Principles for How We Treat Each Other allowed participants to consider such important leadership skills as listening deeply and asking open and honest questions. Many took the risk to speak their truth among colleagues, which is often a challenge in a work setting. Considering the role emotional intelligence plays in the success of a leader was also eye-opening for many. Following a self-assessment, deeper exploration of emotional intelligence (EQ), and using EQ to navigate conflict skillfully, the fire leaders began to connect the relevance of the topics to their field and their roles as leaders at OFD.

Role plays of conflict scenarios brought the workshop content to life, as leaders were able to practice how to handle challenging, real life situations that arise in a firehouse.



Workshop Feedback:

An example of one group's feedback from the two-day workshop:

When asked what firefighters liked most about the workshops, responses included:

- Made me self-reflect on my performance and re-evaluate how I am treating others (my values)
- I really enjoyed this – it made me open my eyes to some areas I need to grow in
- The ability to use self-evaluation to help me become a better leader and learn from my senior peers
- Good group discussion about relevant topics. Different opinions on subjects opened my eyes and sparked critical thinking

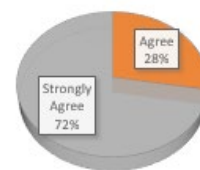
When asked how they might use what they learned in the workshop on their job, responses included:

- Too many to list - will use daily
- Prevention of potential conflicts among department members
- Learning to listen better, reaffirms the importance of knowing your people and building relationships with them
- Communication I thought I did well in however the perception of others might say I am not
- The knowledge of EQ will help with understanding our subordinates and growing ourselves professionally

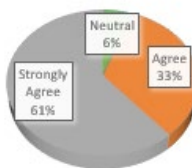
THE CONTENT OF THIS WORKSHOP WAS USEFUL AND RELEVANT



THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE SKILLS LEARNED WILL HELP ME IN MY JOB



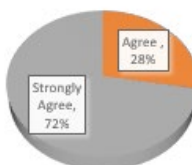
THE CONTENT AND FLOW OF THIS WORKSHOP WAS WELL DESIGNED



THE FACILITATORS WERE ENGAGING AND SKILLED



THE FACILITATORS WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE TOPIC



DEVELOP THE OPTIMAL ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES PERFORMANCE AND EMPLOYEES.



Leverage the diversity of your workplace by integrating practices of respect to strengthen your organizational capacity. Addressing issues of bias that might hinder workplace cohesion and introducing skillful means of navigating conflict, support human flourishing and better outcomes for your company.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Principles for How We Treat Each Other: Practices of Respect and Community Building - 3 hour course

Performance Objectives:

- Develop deeper and more meaningful relationships among colleagues
- Share lived experiences and speak their truth as it relates to personal and professional experience
- Identify assumptions and barriers that interfere with inter-cultural communication
- Experience personal growth through the practice of the principles in their daily lives
- Use tools of story and dialogue to enhance cultural capacity.



Conversations in Inclusiveness - 3 hour course

Performance Objectives:

- Develop intercultural awareness and communication skills
- Gain self-awareness through reflective practice
- Practice empathy and adaptability
- Foster positive interdependence
- Strengthen commitment to equity, justice and fairness



Working with Conflict - 4 hour course

Performance Objectives:

- Identify individual conflict frameworks and styles
- Reframe conflict as an opportunity
- Explore conflict's potential for constructive change
- Learn positive communication practices
- Show respect for the impact of identity and culture



Custom courses may be developed to address current workplace issues.

For more information, contact Rachel Allen at Rallen39@valenciacollege.edu or call 407-582-2709

What participants have said:

Very informative and thought provoking

Encourages us to be vulnerable which is key to growth.

Ideas that will help me be a better leader and a better person where it relates to helping others and myself.

I believe that this a great way to bring attention to many subject matters that are often brushed under the rug and avoided.
Great class!



Pictured: Lauri Lott, Dr. Mayra Holzer, Tina Tan, Dr. Angela Blewitt, Lauren Gibson, Marilyn Greaves, Jennifer Papoula and Aida Diaz. Not pictured: Dr. Marci Dial

COMMUNITY *of* SCHOLARS

A transformed teacher transforms students.

The Peace and Justice Practitioner Certificate is designed to support faculty members as they develop and/or refine their practice of peace and justice pedagogy for deeper learning in an inclusive environment. This fall PJI, in partnership with the Teaching/Learning Academy, launched the Community of Scholars, a faculty's first step toward earning the PJI Practitioner Certificate.

Under the guidance and facilitation of Michele Lima, Professor of Communication and Academic Coordinator of PJI, the Community of Scholars attended seven sessions over the course of the semester to explore the philosophical and theoretical foundations of PJI. Together they read three books including Michael Nagler's *Handbook for Nonviolence*, Howard Zehr's *Restorative Practices*, and *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams.

Articles were read exploring the topic of civil discourse, including Parker Palmer's *Politics of the Broken Hearted* and a handbook titled *Civic Engagement and the Restoration of Community*, which includes the ideas of Peter Block.

Our participants also explored ways of knowing, sustainability, belonging, and cultivating positive emotions through individual scholars including Brenè Brown, Diane Elizabeth Johnson, Polly Higgins, and Vandana Shiva.



Participants delved deeply into the content and considered implications for their educational practice through the 15 hours of face-to-face dialogue over the course of the semester. Each session introduced collaborative, learning-centered

pedagogy that facilitates a peaceable and just classroom environment.

Big ideas emerged:

- Belonging is essential for students' self-regulation and sense of autonomy.
- In conflict, we oppose the problem, not each other.
- Consensus building is preferred over majority rule.
- We need to be more proactive in promoting civil discourse.

Big questions were explored:

- How can we transform conflicts into growth opportunities?
- How can we bring nature into our learning environments?
- How do we teach compassion and empathy in an institution, in our classroom?
- How do we increase critical thinking and promote consensus in order to have a more vibrant democracy?



Lauren Gibson found that, “The conversations each week, coupled with practical application in the classroom, helped me gain so much knowledge about how to bring the PJI principles and themes for the weeks into my classroom. Through this group, I became inspired to create a peace and justice focused Comp 1 course one day, and can’t wait to share this work with my students.”

“These fifteen weeks offered a time of discussion and reflection realizing we are all a work in progress. Everyone should consider being a part of the Community of Scholars. It fulfilled a professional need to meet and connect with colleagues who had similar interests in topics that impact us, our students and our community. I look forward to continuing the discussion in the reading circles.”

As a result of participating in this cohort experience, where a sense of community and trust was established, participants proposed a reading circle to continue the work together. The reading circle will begin in the spring; newcomers are welcome to participate.



Following the Community of Scholars program, participants attend specific faculty development courses and create a Capstone Project in order to earn their PJI Practitioner Certification.

To learn more about the Peace and Justice Certification click here or contact Michele Lima at Mlima2@valenciacollege.edu

BRAVING THE WILDERNESS

SPRING FACULTY AND STAFF RETREAT: FEBRUARY 23-24, 2018
VENUE ON THE LAKE, 641 S. MAITLAND AVE, MAITLAND FL, 32751
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 8:30AM-4:30PM

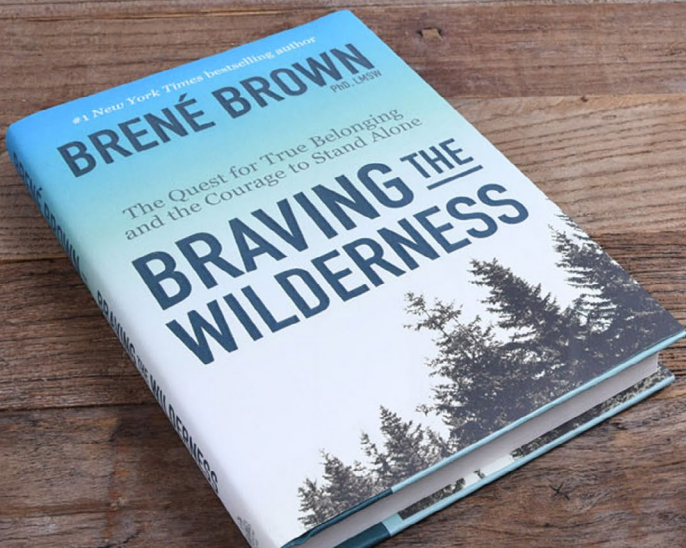
Register through the EDGE • For questions, please contact the Peace and Justice Office at x2291 or email peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu

Nationally acclaimed speaker and facilitator, Elaine Sullivan, from the Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education returns for a multi-day retreat on February 23-24. The retreat will be based on Brené Brown's book, *Braving the Wilderness*. Participants will:

- Explore the quest for true belonging and the courage to stand alone
- Explore with ways of knowing beyond the rational, including mindfulness and emotional intelligence
- Engage in conversations of commitment around the themes of social justice and ongoing work in Peace and Justice
- Practice the Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

ALL FACULTY AND STAFF ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Participants are required to attend all sessions. The fee for the two-day experience is \$100.00, which includes facilitation, a copy of Brown's book, and lunch and snacks on Friday and Saturday. SPD tuition reimbursement funds may be used for full time faculty and staff. Scholarships are granted for adjunct faculty and part time staff upon request. PD credit is available for faculty. Register through the EDGE • For questions, please contact the Peace and Justice Office at x2291 or email peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu.



VALENCIACOLLEGE

PEACE AND
JUSTICE INSTITUTE

All People. All Voices. All Matter.

1920 OCOEE AND BEYOND: PATHS TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Join the community as we learn about a tragic, local incident of racial terror, and explore its impact on Central Florida's race relations, voting practices, and economics then and now. The event includes the screening of an award-winning short film, community dialogue, and a panel including a local scholar, activist and historian. The events are part of a larger project led by the Equal Justice Initiative and their efforts to face the history of lynchings in America. The events intend to increase knowledge and create dialogue about our local history of racial terror and to consider our individual and collective response to these events moving forward.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LYNCHED MAN WHO WANTED TO VOTE: FLORIDA
The Chicago Defender (Big Weekend Edition) (1905-1966); Nov 6, 1920
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender
pg. 1

LYNCHED MAN WHO WANTED TO VOTE

Florida Election Officials Use
Gun and Rope to Kill
Voter

Ocoee, Fla., Nov. 5.—When James Perry attempted to cast a vote for Warren G. Harding for President of the United States he was confronted with a pistol by white election officials and told to leave the polls. Perry insisted that he be permitted to vote, stating that he had paid his poll tax.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29TH | 2:30-4:30 pm

Valencia College East Campus,
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail
Orlando FL 32825, Room 8-101

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Valencia College Osceola Campus, 1800 Denn John Lane,
Kissimmee, FL 34744, Building 1 Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST | 2:30-4:30 pm

Valencia College West Campus, 1800 South Kirkman Road,
Orlando, FL 32811, Room HSB-105

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST | 6:30-8:30 pm

Winter Park Community Center, 721 West New England Avenue,
Winter Park FL 32789

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH | 6:30 -8:30 pm

Tom Ison Center, 1705 Adair Street
Ocoee FL 34761

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH | 6:30-8:30 pm

Callahan Neighborhood Center
101 North Parramore, Orlando FL 32801

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH | 6:30-8:30 pm

Winter Park Women's Club, 419 South Interlachen Avenue,
Winter Park FL 32789

THURSDAY, MAY 24TH | 7:00-9:00 pm

Seminole State College in the Concert Hall, 100 Weldon
Boulevard, Sanford, Florida 32773

Events are free and open to the public. Presented by



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
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EJI
Orange County
Task Force

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VALENCIA COLLEGE

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PEACE BREAKFAST:

An Interfaith Gathering

Twice a year PJI welcomes faith and philosophy leaders from the community to increase interfaith understanding.

Faith Leaders represented at the breakfast on November 15th included:

Buddhism: Dr. Claudia Schippert

Hinduism: Dr. Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra

Islam: Bassem Chaaban

Humanism: David Williamson

Methodist: Reverend Joshua Bell

Paganism: Paula Despang

Sikhism: Jasbir Singh Bhatia

Unitarian: Reverend Kathy Schmitz

Unity: Reverend Alice Anderson



TOUCHSTONES

During the breakfast, each faith and philosophy leader offered a touchstone representing their tradition. These prayers, passages of scripture, or inspirations from sacred texts or writings transcend any one religion, thought or spiritual tradition and serve as a guide.

Leaders were invited to bring a touchstone relating to the idea of service to others.

BUDDHISM

Sentient being are numberless

- we vow to save them all.

Delusions are endless

- we vow to cut through them all.

The teachings are infinite

- we vow to learn them all.

The Buddha way is unattainable

- we vow to attain it.

HINDUISM

May you move in harmony, speak in one voice; let your minds be in agreement.

--Hymn from Rig Veda

ISLAM

They ask you, what they should spend.

Say, 'Whatever you spend of good for parents and relatives and orphans and the needy and the traveler.

And whatever you do of good—indeed, Allah is Knowing of it.

--Holy Quran, Chapter 2: Verse 215

CHRISTIAN

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

- Matthew 25:40

PAGANISM

The Orlando Pagan Collective (OPC) exists to establish a stronger sense of community within the Greater Orlando & surrounding Central Florida areas, by developing mutually beneficial community services to help all Pagans practice their particular path or tradition.

SIKHISM

The one who performs selfless service, gets to realize the Divine.

--Guru Granth Sahib page 286, line 19

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

UNITY

God is Spirit, the loving source of all that is.

God is the one power, all good, everywhere present, all wisdom. God is divine energy, continually creating, expressing and sustaining all creation.

We are each individual, eternal expressions of God. Our essential nature is divine and therefore inherently good. Our purpose is to express our divine potential as realized and demonstrated by Jesus and other master teachers.



PEACE NEWS

Celebrating peace news locally, nationally, and internationally



Danica Roem, Andrea Jenkins, and more: Is this election a moment for the transgender community?

Tuesday night, voters elected at least five transgender

candidates to government offices around the nation. It's not a large number, but it's a meaningful one.

"Last night was a victory for so many remarkable LGBTQ candidates, but it was also a victory for inclusion and acceptance," said Sarah Kate Ellis, President and CEO of GLAAD, on Wednesday. "

USA Today

Good News, Despite What You've Heard

Just since 1990, more than 100 million children's lives have been saved through vaccinations and improved nutrition and medical care. They're no longer dying of malaria, diarrhea or unpleasant causes like having one's intestines blocked



by wriggling worms. (This is a good news column, but I didn't say it wouldn't be a bit gross.)

"There are deworming campaigns now, so it's much rarer that we go

into surgery for obstruction and see a big mass of worms," explained Agatha Neufville, the nursing director at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital.

Nine out of 10 Americans say in polls that global poverty has been staying the same or worsening. So let's correct the record.

There has been a stunning decline in extreme poverty, defined as less than about \$2 per person per day, adjusted for inflation. For most of history, probably more than 90 percent of the world's population lived in extreme poverty, plunging to fewer than 10 percent today.

Every day, another 250,000 people graduate from extreme poverty, according to World Bank figures. About 300,000 get electricity for the first time. Some 285,000 get their first access to clean drinking water. When I was a boy, a majority of adults had always been illiterate, but now more than 85 percent can read.

New York Times



Women leaders tackle gender equality at Iceland summit

Over 400 women political leaders from around the world met in Iceland on Wednesday for an annual summit aimed at promoting gender equality inside and outside of the political sphere. The summit sponsored by the Women Political Leaders Global Forum comes amid the sexual misconduct scandal that has rocked the world of politics, as well as the entertainment and media industries. **ABC News**



Boston murals send message of love to immigrants

The murals, which began cropping up this summer, juxtapose real life Boston immigrants from past generations with more recent newcomers.



“It’s a very powerful message of welcome,” says Veronica Robles, the recent Mexican immigrant featured in one of the murals. “It makes people feel safe and appreciated. More than ever, that’s an important message to put out there.”

WCVB 5 Local News

Bipartisan background check improvement Senate bill announced

A bipartisan group of US senators announced a bill Thursday to improve reporting in the instant background system called the “Fix NICS Act of 2017”, in the wake of the Texas mass shooting perpetrated by a person whose violent criminal record should have prevented him from buying guns.

Two Senate sources told CNN on Wednesday that a bipartisan group of senators were likely to introduce legislation to ensure states and the federal government upload required background check information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System

CNN

New Zealand aims to go green with electricity, tree planting

New Zealand’s incoming government is hoping to make the nation greener by planting 100 million trees each year, ensuring the electricity grid runs entirely from renewable energy, and spending more money on cycle ways and rail transport. Jacinda Ardern, who takes over as prime minister this week, on Tuesday outlined agreements her Labour Party reached with other political parties joining them in the new government.

Ardern’s plan is for New Zealand to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by the year



2050.

Some of the targets will require only incremental changes. New Zealand already generates about 85

percent of its electricity from renewable sources including hydroelectric, geothermal and wind. Ardern plans to increase that to 100 percent by 2035, in part by investigating whether solar panels can be used atop schools.

She said the country will need to double the amount of trees it plants each year, a goal she said was “absolutely achievable” by using land that was marginal for farming animals. Her plans also call for the government’s vehicle fleet to be green within a decade.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

Tesla delivers solar power to Puerto Rico hospital

Earlier this month, Musk pledged to meet with the governor of Puerto Rico to work on ways to rebuild the island’s electrical grid with renewable energy. Puerto Rico was ravaged by two powerful hurricanes in September. Rebuilding Puerto Rico’s power grid could take months and cost as much



as \$5 billion.

SolarCity, which is also run by Musk, is to handle installing and selling the solar panels. The process involves pairing large batteries with solar panels and solar roof tiles.

“The Tesla team has done this for many smaller islands around the world, but there is no scalability limit, so it can be done for Puerto Rico too,” Musk said earlier this month.

USA Today

FALL 2017 EVENTS



HILLSBOROUGH SPEAKS

AUGUST 17TH | Dialogue between police and residents takes place in Plant City and hosted by Safe and South of Hillsborough County.



FREE SPEECH VERSUS HATE SPEECH

AUGUST 22ND | PJI Director Rachel Allen serves on a panel at an event hosted by the Holocaust Memorial and Education Resource Center. The event, attended by close to 500 community members, came in response to the White Nationalist events in Charlottesville, Virginia.



SEPTEMBER 21ST | International Day of Peace and Global Peace Week take place in September with workshops and film screenings in partnership with the Global Peace Film Festival.



September 25th - 29th | Global Peace Week features workshops on all Valencia campuses intended to build peace practices and raise the consciousness on campuses and within community.



The nursing students and faculty demonstrate how slowing down can reduce stress, as demonstrated by testing heart rates before and after mindfulness practice.



Students are taught nonviolent communication techniques by Kristin Lauria, a local peace builder and practitioner.



Faculty, students and staff learn meditation techniques to support them with mental clarity, openness and stress management.

FALL 2017 EVENTS



MAKING CONVERSATIONS

PJI facilitates the series titled Making Conversations with LeAnn Siefferman and The Dinner Party Project of Orlando.



HEALING RETREAT WITH IRON EAGLE

NOVEMBER 18TH | This annual fall retreat invites participants to connect with nature and one another through healing practices.



DINNER ON DIVISION

OCTOBER 24TH | Orlando Together invites PJI to facilitate their inaugural event, Dinner on Division.



SEED I

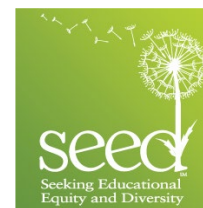


FALL FEST AT THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

OCTOBER 28TH | PJI, along with student clubs and organizations, hosts the annual Fall Fest at the Coalition for the Homeless.



SEED II



2017-2018 | SEED's yearlong cohorts explore ways of developing inclusive classrooms and campuses through group processes and reflective practice.



VALENCIA NIGHT AT THE SIKH SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 3RD | As part of PJI's interfaith program, the Sikh Society of Central Florida welcomes the community for Valencia Night at the Gurdwara, offering a program and delicious vegetarian meal for all.



2017-2018 | Valencia staff come together for an applied practice in Peace and Justice in this yearlong workshop series.



Conversation on Justice

January 29th - February 1st

Covering many of today's hot-button issues - ranging from gender violence, immigration and economic inequality to food insecurity, race and sexual orientation - each event, through the power of transformative stories, facilitated discussions, award-winning films, art projects, and more, will delve into critical conversations whose ultimate goal is to promote a culture of peace and understanding and mend the fabric of our humanity.

Valencia Campuses

For the full schedule of events visit valenciacollege.edu/PJI

For more information, call 407-582-2291 or email peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu

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PJI STAFF



Rachel C. Allen
Director



William Jefferson
Community Manager



Michele Lima
Academic Coordinator



Ann Persaud
Staff Assistant II



Nathan Daniels
Staff Assistant II

Kiki Grossman, Esq.
LEAP (Legal Education Action Project) Coordinator

Nicole Valentino
East Campus Coordinator

Aida Diaz
West Campus Coordinator

Paul Chapman
Winter Park Campus Coordinator

Kinyel Ragland and Ramona Kalicharan
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Jennifer Keefe
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With your generous help we continue to bring practices of respect and community building to Central Florida through community dialogue, workshops, speakers and peace education. Please give a tax-deductible gift today to support our work.

GIVE

Give online at valenciacollege.edu/pji

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