

Governors State University

## OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

---

GSU Research Day

Research Week April 5-9, 2021

---

Apr 9th, 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

### Storytelling as Inclusive Teaching Strategy

Novia Pagone

*Governors State University*, npagone@govst.edu

Kerri Morris

*Governors State University*, kmorris2@govst.edu

Deborah James

*Governors State University*, djames@govst.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://opus.govst.edu/research\\_day](https://opus.govst.edu/research_day)



Part of the [Other Film and Media Studies Commons](#), [Reading and Language Commons](#), and the [Rhetoric and Composition Commons](#)

---

Pagone, Novia; Morris, Kerri; and James, Deborah, "Storytelling as Inclusive Teaching Strategy" (2021). *GSU Research Day*. 5.

[https://opus.govst.edu/research\\_day/2021/friday/5](https://opus.govst.edu/research_day/2021/friday/5)

This Panel is brought to you for free and open access by the University Events, Conferences, and Workshops at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSU Research Day by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact [opus@govst.edu](mailto:opus@govst.edu).



# Storytelling as Inclusive Teaching Strategy

Dr. Novia Pagone

Dr. Kerri Morris

Dr. Deborah James

# Overview and Introduction

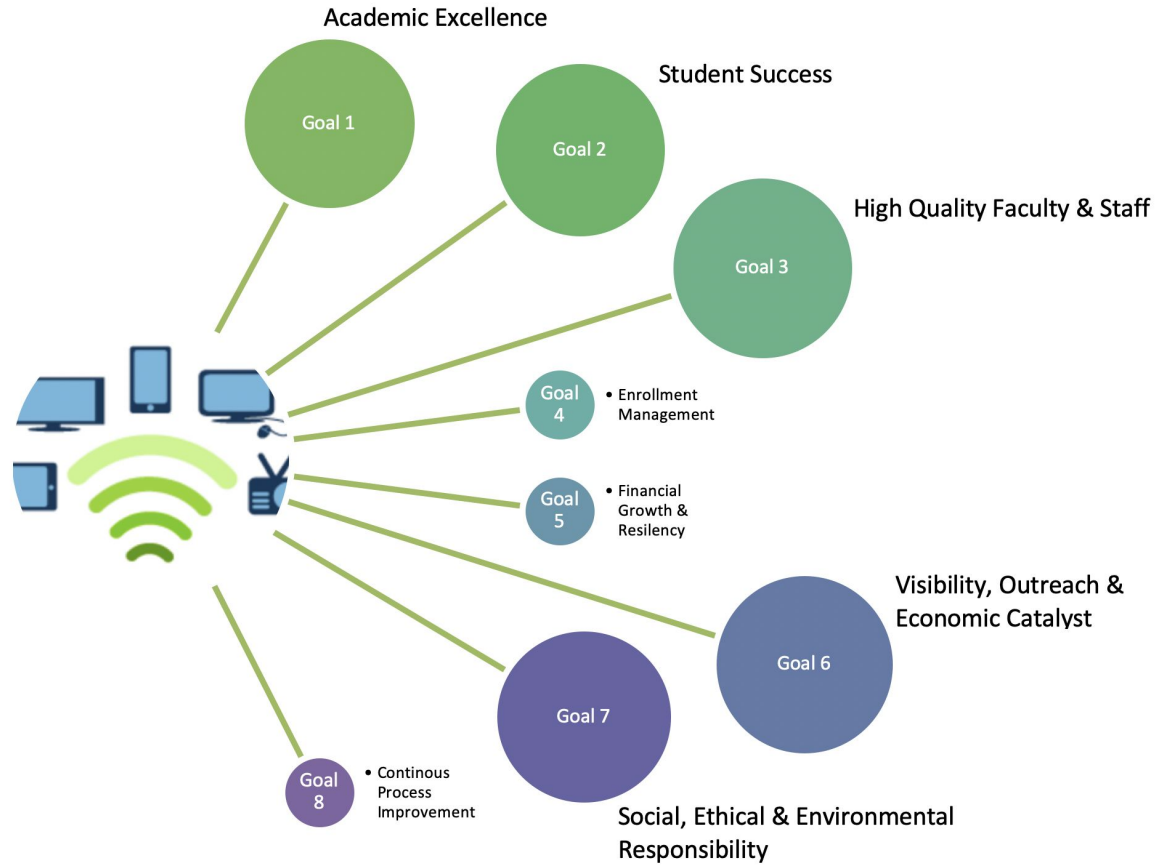
- Project integrates media and storytelling into a first semester, first year learning community
- Organized around a media project with support from the Center for Community Media
- Shared goal is to support our most vulnerable students and create stronger pathways to persistence and retention.

# Center for Community Media

Purpose: Aligned with the vision and mission of GSU, the CCM is a production, teaching and research center that aims to promote, develop, and foster community access broadcasting to serve the digital information needs of the campus and the Southland.

Goals: Deliver programming to unite people, support democratic engagement, increase civic awareness, and amplify the diverse voices of our community.

Connects our scholarship and teaching to the development of new media-focused initiatives; work with students, faculty, staff and the broader community.



# Freedom of expression and the pursuit of knowledge

Consisting of three complementary and collaborative units, the CCM promotes faculty research and teaching, and media projects and initiatives that foster curriculum-based, student-focused community media.

Media Across Curriculum is a model learning community that serves as “clear evidence demonstrating ...the pursuit of knowledge through research and creative activity” (Higher Learning Commission Mid-cycle Report, 2020, p.17).

# Space to meet students where they are: “First Voice”

By reconfiguring media production processes we put professional tools of production and storytelling in the service of first year students.

Media Across Curriculum, as envisioned by Drs. Pagone and Morris promotes First Voice, a learning community that makes space for our most vulnerable students, amplifying their stories and leveraging their perspectives into mainstream campus and community media spaces.

# First Year Seminar: Interdisciplinary Humanities

## Goals

- Examine storytelling techniques and what makes a good story
- Explore differences between written and performed stories through analysis and practice
- Tell autobiographical story to a live audience
- Create community for faculty and students



# First Year Seminar: Interdisciplinary Humanities

## Process

- Critical literary analysis helps students understand storytelling within the genre of autobiography
- Co-curricular activities introduce them to community-based storytelling events and demonstrate variety of styles and content
- Collaborative practice and story rehearsal in class and in the studio

# Telling Our Stories

Elijah H.



# First Year Seminar: Interdisciplinary Humanities

## Outcomes

- Connect processes of reading, analysis, writing, performance
- Gain confidence in the value of their voices and stories
- Cohort building/Learning Community

# First Year Seminar: Interdisciplinary Humanities

## Student Comments

- “I think I was able to learn how to stop underestimating my own capabilities as a storyteller and just do it.”
- “something that i learned about the writing process is that it takes times you have to do things over and over to make it right”
- “Getting to see the project in two different ways essentially, I was able to get a better understanding of how to tell a story, whether it was for writing purposes or for speaking it.”
- “Do not be afraid of judgment, the focus on the class is not about that. Your story is yours, you should embrace it.”
- “Don't forget that you do have a support system even when you feel as if you don't have one.”

When asked if we should continue the storytelling project in future years:

- “At first, I was extremely angry because presenting in front of other people about my own life is something I don't like doing. But then, I really started enjoying it and could feel myself growing as person, because I was becoming more comfortable with being uncomfortable.”
- yes, absolutely, because in college we take the time to really figure out who we are and story telling really helps you along the way.”

# Everyone has a story to tell. What's your story?

Tim Miller



# English 1000, Writing Studies 1

## Goals

- To form a learning community
- To offer students real audiences
- To create a habit of revision
- To provide insight/knowledge about writing

# English 1000, Writing Studies 1

## The Process

- Pilot
- Literacy Autobiography: Deborah Brandt, *Literacy and Learning*, “Introduction: Writing at the Speed of Change.”
- Revision
  - Essays to scripts
  - Storyboards and Photographs

# English 1000, Writing Studies 1

## Outcomes

- Learning Community (Faculty and Students)
- Revision
- Knowledge about Writing--Audience, Genre, and Rhetorical Situations



# Conclusion: High-Impact Practices

- Projects should help you accomplish disciplinary goals
- Link across classes with some shared (echoed) messages and with some context-specific messages
- Consider resources at your institution.
  - Link students to their community
  - Physical and psychological spaces
  - Experts

# First Voice

LaShawndra “Lala” Williams



# Questions?

Novia Pagone, [npagone@govst.edu](mailto:npagone@govst.edu)

Kerri Morris, [kmorris2@govst.edu](mailto:kmorris2@govst.edu)

Deborah James, [djames@govst.edu](mailto:djames@govst.edu)

## Links to Project

Complete Collection of Telling Our Stories Videos - <https://youtu.be/YvFOk7Pqi9s>

Center for Community Media - <https://www.govst.edu/ccm/>