

ROOTS meeting notes 10/28/2020, 12-1 pm

In Attendance

Students: Taryn Burns, Wes Smith, Enrique Galvan, Sophia Oliverez, Samantha Gonzalez, Luanne Peitz

Staff/Faculty: Courtney Farrell, J Pouwels, Cynthia Daley, Emily Sheffield, Patrick Newell, Cheri Chastain, Brandi Aranguran, Laura Sparks, Hayley Stone, Megan Kurtz, Lindsey Nenedal, Lori Miller, Kimberly Guanzon, Amber Noel-Comancho, Rachel McBride Praetorius, Matt Thomas

Partners: Jared Caylor, Heidi Mendenhall, Tanja Ramming, Melissa?

I believe several people connected in the chat, but I've noted in bold below some tasks going forward.

⇒ Welcome remarks –

- Brightspots shared about the weather, about health, and connection.
- We listened to [What is Rural?](#)

⇒ Heard from our students what's been an unexpected benefit of being virtual?

- Being able to keep their job from last year, being able to go home to care for ranch animals for longer periods of time, connection to family, slower pace in some cases.

⇒ Rodgers Ranch update: Jared Caylor, Corning Supt.

- Grant: interpretive trail for building supplies; pedestrian bridge – potential project for **construction management or engineering (Ann will pursue)**; upper parcel development with table olives for retail; high tech greenhouse. Cindy Daley connected over some regenerative ag ideas.

⇒ Laura Sparks (ENGL) made the Rodgers Ranch Storytelling Project one of two options for the Engl 338 final project and students are just starting to work on those.

⇒ J Pouwels (ARTS) planning a mural class in the spring with potential outside projects.

- Other regional partner requests or questions – **Taryn Burns** will work on a **panel of students** to talk to Modoc High students about going to college. Tanja reported on Surprise Valley schooling option that is project-based. (send Teton Place Network info.)
- Ann Schulte (EDUC) spring MA Rural and Small School Education class open for projects
- Update on Chico State, Civic Engagement [Strategic Priority](#) and course designation work
- Database update: [AASCU initiative](#) with [Collaboratory](#)
- America Reads money: workstudy tutors, TCDE and BCOE partnerships **underway**, request from Rachel to connect tutors with 4 Winds School, Patrick connected Shasta County literacy coordinator with potential partnership.

⇒ **Requests to engage and promote:**

[Wildcat Connect](#) is a platform to connect our **Chico State alumni professionals in the North State** with students on campus. These connections can support our students in seeking professional opportunities or academic advice.

Potential projects for 2021 and additional resources

⇒ Some type of intentional rural/urban shared experience

[Eastern Oregon University](#) The Rural Engagement and Vitality Center (REV) creates partnerships between Eastern Oregon University and organizations in eastern Oregon which enhance the vitality of the region and develop tomorrow's rural workforce and leaders. They have a Rural/Urban Ambassadors [Institute](#). Read/watch about it in this [TIME story](#).

⇒ Some type of internship credit for work at home during the summer

[Home to Texas](#)[™] is a **summer internship** program that encourages University of Texas undergraduates to work in their hometowns by providing well-paid internships and experiences designed to help them understand the underlying values of their home communities. This type of program at Chico State might be a really great option for Summer 2021, especially for those who are still living at home during this virtual year. (Also see workstudy tutors above)

Rural Assembly's [Rural Resilience Forum*](#)

Shirell Parfait-Dardar, traditional chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe; Dr. John T. Cooper, director of Texas Target Community's program and assistant vice-president of public partnership and outreach at Texas A&M; Steve Wilensky, president of Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions and former supervisor of Calaveras County, California. **Cheri Chastain agrees this is a good watch.**

Also watch the [Rural Assembly Everywhere sessions](#) from Oct. 26-30. A significantly diverse set of perspectives on living rurally.

Yours Rurally [Conversation with Heidi Heitkamp](#) (D-ND) founded the [One Country Project](#).

Chico State Today: The [Digital Divide](#)

Retired Ag faculty, Dave Daley story in the [LA Times](#)

Resources related to rural racial justice and equity:

- [Red Bluff Alums for Justice speak out about racial inequality](#). "Red Bluff has swelled to take in refugees from fires, and to include people seeking a life closer to the natural beauty all around us. We take pride in being a tight-knit community where people show up for their neighbors, new and old; where we give back and reach out to those in need. But who needs our help and support the most? Whose stories are ignored, experiences devalued, and identities stifled?"
- [Paradise Alums letter](#) Paradise Alums communicate similar requests to their district admin.
- [Our Mayor's Racist Comments Don't Define Luray](#)

A thoughtful essay on the complexity of rural places. "Luray is not a sound bite or a clickbait on rural racism. It is a town figuring out how to move from its racist past to a place of understanding. As we love our Nannys, so too can we love such a place."

- [The Rural Educator Editors' Statement](#) and [Rural Schools Collaborative Statement](#) on as it relates to BLM. There are several examples related to the rural response to racism (e.g. Rednecks for Black Lives, Black Farmers Association, etc.). Let me know if you'd like to talk more or want more resources.
- Kendall (Enns) Smith, alumni, wrote this about [teaching in her hometown](#) of Willows.

[Hillbilly](#) The movie (Not Hillbilly Eligy)

Try accessing at <https://vimeo.com/427413159> password: mountains or available on [Hulu](#)

It introduces audiences to a nuanced, authentic Appalachia that is quite conscious of how it has been portrayed and the impacts of those portrayals. The documentary deconstructs mainstream representations while asking crucial questions: Where did the hillbilly archetype come from and why has it endured on-screen for more than a hundred years? How does it relate to the exploitation of the land and people who live there? How do Appalachian and rural people view themselves as a result of these negative portrayals, and what is the impact on the rest of America?

<https://100ruralwomen.org/>

100 Rural Women sees a future where more rural women lead positive change for themselves, their families and communities, the nation and the world. We are committed to building leadership through networks, mentorship, education and civic engagement. Our organization is non-profit and non-partisan.