

Connection 2020:

An  **NCORE** Experience

Coffee & Conversation with a Community Leader

Morning Coffee & Conversation sessions are designed to engage participants in conversation with individuals who have been leaders around social justice issues in their various spheres of influence. Join these community leaders in conversation about their journeys and contributions to their communities, our nation, or the world.

We're all on a journey. We all have a story. We believe the stories of these community leaders can help you on your personal and professional social justice journey. Please come prepared with questions about these community leaders' stories to inform your own journey. These conversations are intended to be informal and inspirational.

Conversation Tips

- **Introduce:** Be sure to say your name and a few brief words of introduction when you ask a question, so the community leader will know at least a small bit about you.
- **Question:** Be prepared with one or two open-ended questions about these leaders' stories to inform your own journey.
- **Exchange Info:** Be prepared to capture contact information from the community leader if there are specific questions or topics on which you would like to follow-up later. Consider having your LinkedIn link, Twitter handle, or email address where you can copy and paste it into the chat quickly if requested by the community leader.

Open-ended Questions for Community Leaders

Here are some open-ended questions for you to consider asking the community leader.

1. Why are you involved in social justice work? What experiences have fueled your passion?

Our stories provide context for the events and experiences that are at the heart of why we are involved in social justice work. Understanding someone's journey into social justice work can provide motivation for others to commit to this field.

2. How long have you been coming to NCORE? How did you get connected?

Sometimes, less is more. This simple, easy-to-answer question can help community leaders dig into milestone moments that perhaps changed the trajectories of their learning, teaching, mentoring, and growing. It helps you get to know them a little better and gives you a hint about how long they've been interested, involved, or working within social justice.

3. What have been some of the most meaningful projects you've worked on during your career?

People like to talk about things they're passionate about. And asking them about their favorite projects or most meaningful contributions helps you get to know them better personally and professionally because you're learning about their interests *and* their experience.

4. What are some challenges you're facing right now? How are you considering tackling those challenges?

As much as we'd all like to pretend like things are going perfectly, the world is a challenging place and there's always room to do better. This relatively vague question opens the door for people to talk about challenges their organization is facing, challenges they're facing, or anything in between. By following-up with their approach to overcoming those challenges, you can learn about their resilience and problem-solving nature.

5. What are some of the challenges you have overcome in the past? How did you overcome them?

Challenges from our childhoods and early phases of our careers are often what shape us into the people and contributors we are today. Learning about the community leader's approach to challenges can provide concrete strategies you can use when you are faced with inevitable challenges of your own.

6. How have you held onto your integrity, values, and ethics throughout your life and career?

Watching so many other "leaders" follow status, fame, money, and fortune, you may have felt that holding onto your own sense of integrity, values, ethics, and fighting for what's right aren't worth it. How do long-standing community leaders continue to stand for what's right even when they fear they might lose everything?

7. How do you build coalitions and collaborations to bridge the divides evident in our society?

It seems as though all of society is dichotomous these days. How do you build bridges and coalitions for social justice when everyone seems to disagree on everything?

8. How do you hold the bigger good in view and look beyond yourself to do the heavy lifting with this work?

In a world focused on selfies, how do you keep the greater good at the forefront of your thinking? Understanding a community leader's strategies for staying focused on the ultimate benefits of the hard work associated with social justice may prove to be incredibly practical in your own journey.

9. What has surprised you the most about navigating this pandemic?

We know this disruption in our routines has had many unpleasant and challenging circumstances. But, giving people space to talk about good things may be a backdoor way to share tips and tricks with others that may prove useful.

Accessibility

Enabling Closed Captioning on Zoom

All Connection 2020 sessions will include real-time captions. To enable Closed Captioning on Zoom:

1. Click the Settings tab in the navigation panel.
2. Click the Meeting tab.
3. Verify that **Closed Caption** is **enabled**.
4. If the setting is disabled, click the toggle to **enable** it. If a verification dialog displays, click Turn On to verify the change.

Sign Language Interpretation

Some sessions will have sign language. In these sessions, the interpreter will be shown in a large video feed.

Break Out Sessions

Some sessions will require break out rooms for further discussion and session exercises.

Zoom only allows one captioner for every presentation. If you require Closed Captioning, please stay in or return to the main room so the Session Host can ensure you are in the correct room with the captioner.

Accessibility Information, Questions, and Concerns (Before CXN 2020)

For complete details regarding Connection 2020 accessibility, go to:

<https://ncore.ou.edu/en/webinar-series/webinar-accessibility/>.

Send questions or concerns regarding Connection 2020 accessibility to Josephine Stocks, Accessibility Coordinator (jstocks@ou.edu).

Accessibility Information, Questions, and Concerns (During CXN 2020)

Connection 2020 accessibility issues can be reported two ways:

1. Session Chat Box

- Click or tap **Chat**.
- A chat window will appear on the right if you are not in full screen or it will appear in a window you can move around the screen if you are in full screen.
- Select the “Host” from the **To** drop down.
- Type your message and press **Enter** to send it.
- A notification will appear at the bottom of your screen when you receive a chat message.

2. Connection 2020 Accessibility Slack channel:

<https://swchrs.slack.com/archives/C0153MS72QJ>

- This channel will be monitored during all Connection 2020 sessions. Staff and service providers will be included in all relevant communication for fast and efficient troubleshooting.

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