

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
EAST CLEVELAND CITY SCHOOLS
PROVOST SCHOLARS

Intensive University Seminar
Session Twelve – Spring 2018

January 25, 2018
2:30 - 5:00pm

Guilford House, 11112 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, OH 44106

Seminar Title: *Bridging the Divide in a Polarized Society*

Purpose: The Provost Scholars will learn about the polarization of American Society. Dr. Mark Chupp will explain how the United States of America has become divided along three fronts: political campaigns, the news and related media, and social media. These divided fronts have resulted in a tear in the fabric of American society and eroded its social justice system and democracy. Lastly, Scholars will explore how narrowing social distance through relationship building and facilitated dialogue around personal stories creates opportunities for shifts in perceptions of the other.

Presenter Biography:



Dr. Mark Chupp, who serves as Chair of the Concentration in Community Practice for Social Change at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS), will be presenting to the Provost Scholars on social justice issues, community and civic engagement and global and cultural awareness. More specifically, he will examine how polarization in American society has led to divisions in politics, the media and online social networking. Apart from serving as a guest speaker for the Provost Scholars Program, Dr. Chupp teaches community development and directs the East Cleveland partnership, a multi-institutional initiative to support the revitalization of East Cleveland. He is also an international consultant and trainer and has worked in Northern Ireland, Egypt, Columbia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Dr. Chupp received his bachelor's degree in History and Peace Studies from Goshen College (Goshen, Indiana), his master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and his doctoral degree in Social Welfare from MSASS at Case Western Reserve University. For more information about Dr. Chupp, please visit <http://msass.case.edu/faculty/mchupp/>.

Objectives: At the end to the session, the Provost Scholars will be able to:

- (1) Examine the nature of the breakdown in society that has led to the current polarization.
- (2) Explore the strategies for bridging the divide on a community level.

Agenda

2:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.: Hors d'oeuvres will be served

2:40 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.: Tutoring

3:55 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Brief Intermission

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Dr. Mark Chupp, Assistant Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences

Faculty & Staff

- Dr. Faye Gary, Program Director
- Ms. Katrice Williams, Program Manager
- Mr. David Van Leer, Volunteer and Retired Principal
- Mr. Brandon Vu, Graduate Work Study Student, School of Medicine
- CWRU Tutors

Word of the Week:

- **Polarization:** a sharp division, as a population or group, into opposing factions.
- **Sentence:** As the debate continued, the union members were *polarized* into warring factions.

Concierge and Maître'd: Jalecia Claytor and Christian Thompson