Project: Developing Effective Community Research Partnership

Supervisor: Jessica Sperling, Faculty Lead: Don Taylor

Role Description: This RA-ship is focused on supporting effective implementation of applied and community-engaged (CE) research. This builds on an active applied/CE project and associated Bass Connections team focused on collaboration with youth music education programs to address societal inequities (https://bassconnections.duke.edu/project-teams/youth-music-and-social-change-building-evidence-base-kidznotes-and-el-sistema-usa-2019). The RA-ship would include development of resources synthesizing models and best practices in research-practice partnership, intended for both an academic and applied (public/non-profit) audience, and accessible synthesis of standardized measurement processes used to assess a variety of outcome domains. It would also likely include involvement in the focal research study processes, including outreach to participant families and analysis of qualitative and/or quantitative study data. In addition, this may involve direct collaboration with our applied community partners (El Sistema USA, Kidznotes) and with complementary university entities aiming to foster CE research, such as coordination with Duke Office of Civic Engagement. Based on interest and timing, this student may use this experience to develop online modules or guest lectures on topics addressed. This could be done in 2020-21 (e.g., undergraduate courses, graduate courses, or Bass Connections teams addressing applied research), or, dependent upon timing, in online Summer 2020 instruction.

Desired Background: This would be most appropriate for a student with interest and/or experience in applied and community-engaged research, especially within the social sciences. An interest in inequality, a background in social science research methodology (qualitative and/or quantitative), and ability to synthesize resources and communicate to varied audiences would be additionally useful. The RA should be able to work well as part of a team and independently, as this role would require both.