

2025

ACE

AKRON COMMUNITY  
ENGAGED SCHOLAR

DIRECTORY



THE EX[L]CENTER for Community Engaged Learning

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# WHO ARE THE ACES?

**Akron Community Engaged Scholars** (ACE Scholars or ACES) is a way to formally affiliate with the EX[L] Center for Community Engaged Learning for those full- or part-time faculty who demonstrate a commitment to public impact by connecting campus and community through their teaching, scholarship, and/or significant service. ACES are mindful of best practices, striving to create partnerships based on mutual benefit, reciprocity, authenticity, trust, and equity. They actively support a culture of engagement on campus and contribute to telling UA's community

engagement story by being active users of the Collaboratory data system. ACE Scholars are connected by a shared passion, and convene for professional development, to share best practices, to mentor others, and to innovate in community engagement.



ABOUT US

**Lifetime ACE Scholar** is a title reserved for faculty when they move on from UA. Throughout their career, these ACES were instrumental in building and supporting a strong culture of community engagement through their support of The EX[L] Center and with their teaching and scholarship. **Emerging Scholars** are faculty who are early in their journey who are paired with mentors as they develop their work. Together, the ACES represent some of the very best of UA as we work to fulfill our vision as a public research anchor institution with an unsurpassed commitment to community engagement.

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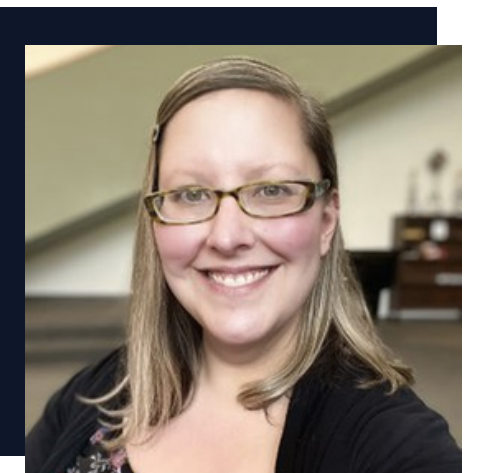
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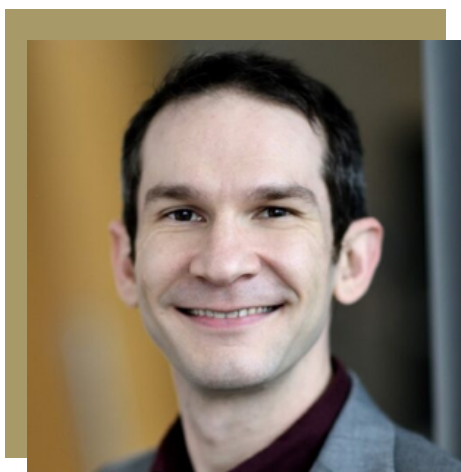


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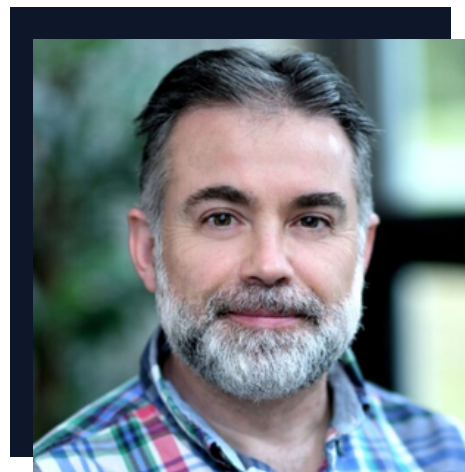
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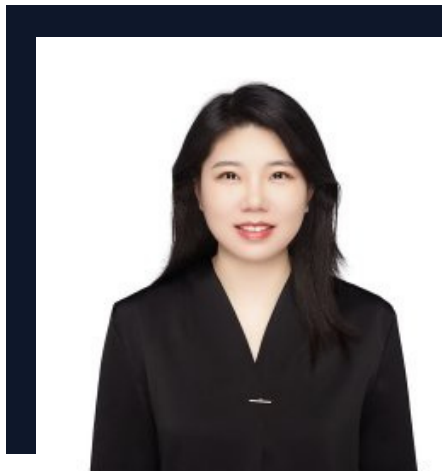
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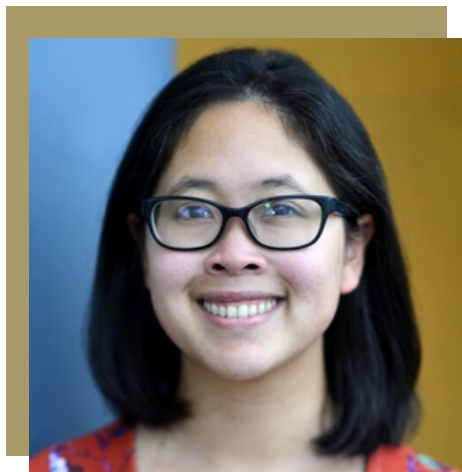
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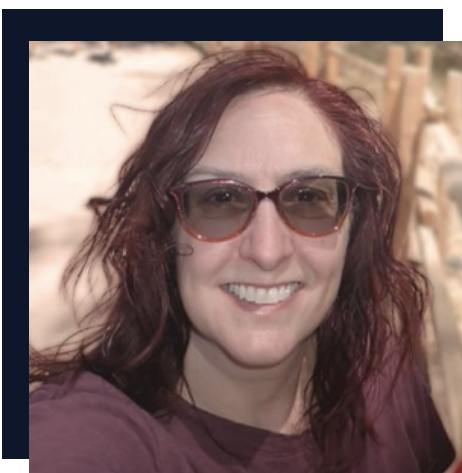
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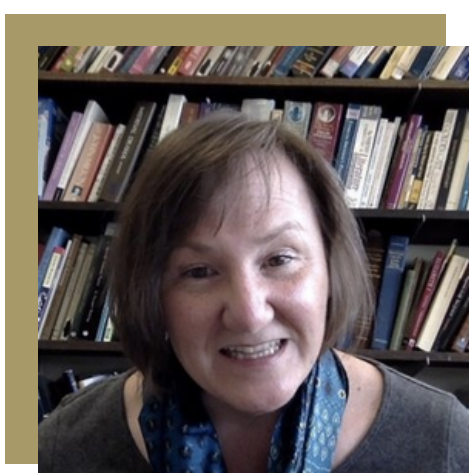
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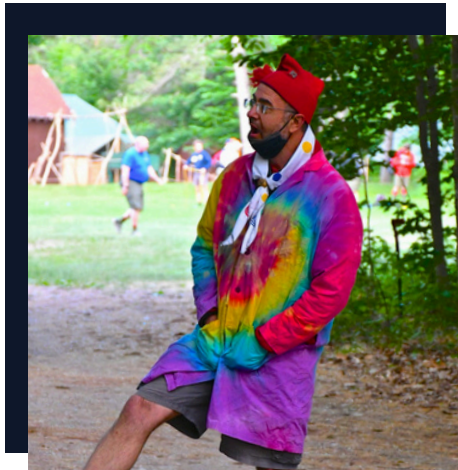
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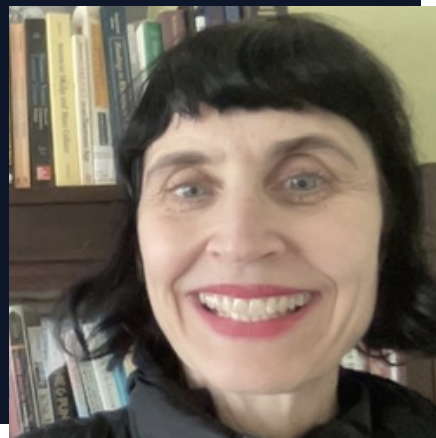
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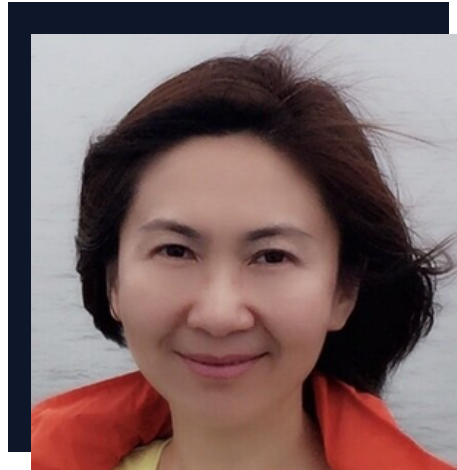
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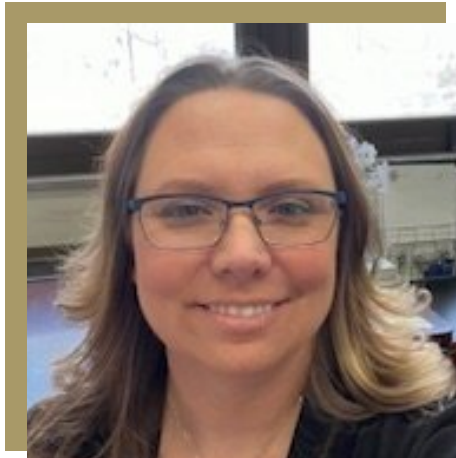


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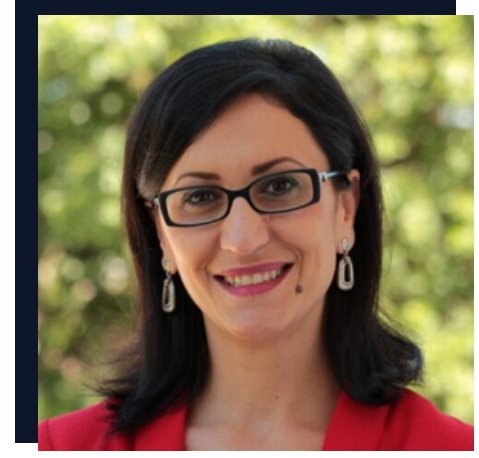


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**Dr. Elena Popa**

Assistant Professor of  
Instruction

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*Migration, Displacement,  
Marginalization*



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health, disability, health equity,  
environmental ethics, sustainability*



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*health inequity, incarceration,  
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conflict, medical uncertainty*



**Dr. Melanie Kautzman**

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School of Counseling

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*mental health, wellness,  
counseling, supervision, advocacy*





## DR. BILL LYONS

Bill Lyons is a brother and son, husband and father, dog lover and gardener. In his spare time, he is also a Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean for Faculty Support in BCAS. His first book, *The Politics of Community Policing: Rearranging the Power to Punish*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in 1999. In 2006, (with Julie Drew, same press) he published *Punishing Schools: Fear and Citizenship in American Education*. In 2010, (with Julie Drew and Lance Svehla) he published *Sound Bite Saboteurs: Public Discourse, Education, and the State of Democratic Deliberation* with SUNY Press. His final book was a seven-year collaborative effort (with Carolyn Behrman, Jim Slowiak, Donna Webb and Pat Hill) resulting in the *Akron Story Circle Project: Rethinking Race in Classroom and Community*, UA Press, 2016.

Bill is a life-long Red Sox fan, who loves to play pickleball, volleyball, ping-pong, basketball, ultimate frisbee, card games, body surf, garden, hike and bike, juggle, and cook (because of the direct connection to eating). He was selected by students as Faculty of the Year for 2003 and by his peers as Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2009.

Bill worked with Ian Swarber, Jeff Hoffman, and more than a dozen UA faculty from across campus to create the EX[L] Center and serve on its initial Faculty Advisory Council. Bill also served as the Director of the Center for Conflict Management (CCM) for twenty years. Working with amazing colleagues at the CCM and the EX[L] Center has been the absolute highlight of his career. He is deeply appreciative to have had these opportunities.

He earned a BA in Economics and Chinese Language from the University of Massachusetts, an MALD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a PhD from the University of Washington. After completing his doctorate he was hired as Director of the Research & Grants Division at the Seattle Police Department. In 1980 Bill was part of the first cohort of Americans to study in China after the US recognized Beijing and he ended up staying for three years in the 1980s, living in Beijing, Xian and Nanjing and playing two years of college basketball! In 1992 Bill taught in Pecs, Hungary as a Soros Fellow and in 2000-2001 he spent a fourth year in China with his wife and two teenage sons at Beijing Foreign Studies University as a Fulbright Scholar.



# LIFETIME ACE SCHOLARS



**Dr. Carolyn Behrman**

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**Dr. Parizad Dejbord**

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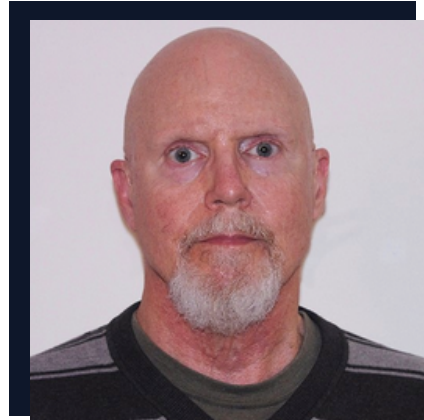
**Dr. Kathryn Feltey**

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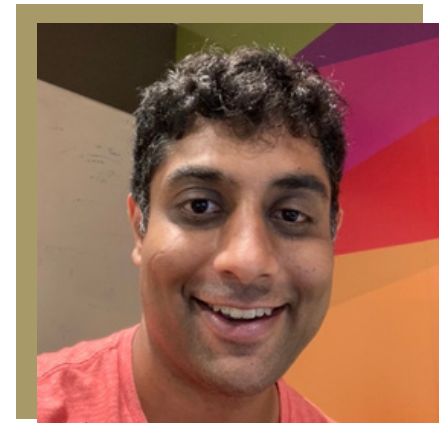
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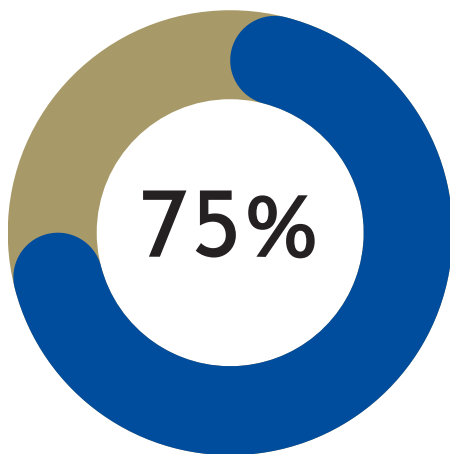
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**Dr. John Green**

Past Interim UA President  
Professor Emeritus, Political  
Science, Director Emeritus,  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Of 48 academic units at The University of Akron, **more than half** have at least one ACE Scholar (36/48) and **every College** is represented. Our cohort includes part-time instructors, non-tenure and tenure-track faculty, staff & contract professionals, and university administrators.

# GET IN TOUCH



All of UA's ACE Scholars have consented to sharing their interests and contact information. Feel free to reach out to them directly, or you can contact [Dr. Christin Seher](#) to facilitate an introduction at:

## THE EX[L] CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING



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