

# SERVE HERE AMERICA

## Learning Module Week 1: Introductions

During the first meeting, focus on getting acquainted. Participants should conduct interviews of their peers. Please see below for a list of open-ended questions to start the conversations and then participants can ask follow up questions as they see fit.

1. Why did you choose to go into your particular field of study?
2. Who do you admire most and why?
3. Do you have a mentor you consult with on professional and/or personal matters?
4. What are you most proud of?
5. What social problem keeps you up at night? Do you have any thoughts on how you might address just one component of that social problem?
6. What brought you to your current community?
7. Do you frequently talk to your neighbors? Describe your relationship. Would you feel comfortable ringing the doorbell and asking to borrow something or asking for help?
8. What was the first club/organization that you remember joining? Why did you join? What did you like about it?
9. Were you involved in any organizations in college? What did you find to be most meaningful about your involvement?
10. Do you currently have any formal or informal memberships in any organizations?
11. What is your favorite social networking site? How often do you use it?
12. What was your favorite course in college? Why?
13. What did you like most and least about college?
14. Why did you go to college? Are you satisfied with your education? Are you connected to your former academic institution now? If you had to do it over again, would you have majored in the same field and attended the same college?
15. Have you ever had an idea for any sort of an invention? Have you acted on that idea?
16. What's the last book that you read? What's the last article that you read that is worth noting?
17. Where do you presently work?
18. Do you live close to family members?
19. What's an example of a social problem that you solved? Did you solve this problem alone, or with others?
20. What do you know about social capital? Can you provide an example of a time when you benefited from your own social capital?

### Learning Objectives:

- Share a brief history of the Serve Here America program
- Discuss the major objectives of the Serve Here America program
- Discuss the purpose and efficacy of the Serve Here curriculum
- Discuss current social issues in participants' communities
- Share contact information of participants and instructor(s)

### The Serve Here America Text

The dedicated Serve Here America text, *Social Capital and Community Well-Being: The Serve Here Initiative*, contains valuable resources on the concepts and benefits of social capital. The text, published

by Springer International, was edited by Serve Here America founders Alva G. Greenberg and Thomas P. Gullotta, and Martin Bloom. The text is available here:

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319332628>

### **Recommended Reading**

For the first week's class, the following resources from the Springer text are recommended:

- "The Role of Social Capital to American Democracy and the Creation of Serve Here CT" by Alva G. Greenberg, Thomas P. Gullotta, Martin Bloom, and Kevin Graff
- "What is Social Capital" by LaShaune Johnson

### **Additional Suggested Resources**

- Dan Rosenberg's (August 2015) "Stop treating networking like a round of speed dating"  
<http://fortune.com/2015/08/10/dan-rosenberg-networking-tips/>
- Bouree Lam's (June 2015) "The Danger of Picking a Major Based on Where the Jobs Are"  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/06/college-major-job-hottest-industry/395570/>
  - Lam's article underscores the importance of the *emotional quotient* (EQ) and how the subject matter that one studies is not necessarily what matters in the job market.