

# Cari Bec-Love

## “The Community Based Learning Leader”

### Faculty



*“First and foremost it’s to capture the experiences . . .you can search them, limit them, expand them, learn about them at a granular or expanded level . . .then the portal will be a success.”*

#### Personal Profile

Cari teaches Capstone courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She is a researcher and a current Ph.D. candidate in her department. Her first priority is her students. She is always looking for new opportunities for them to engage in meaningful learning experiences. Since PSU holds community based learning in such high regard, she would love to work together with other capstone faculty to share ideas, stories, and best practices. However, such research and collaboration takes time that she doesn't always have. Having a central location where she could find all this information would be an asset.

Cari would access the portal to connect with potential community partners and develop resources for her capstone students. She would also like to share sample assignments, activities, and projects among other CBL faculty at PSU. She is passionate about looking out for the underdog. She wants to make sure PSU's programs to touch all populations. A mapping feature would make this possible. She worries about the maintenance such a tool would require, and would need assistance to make sure her information was accurate and up to date.

#### User Goals

*Cari comes to the site to ...*

- Share stories about her student's CBL experiences.
- Search the site to gain teaching resources and work collaboratively.
- Locate underserved areas where Community Partnerships could be developed.

#### Value User Sees in the Portal

- Capture and share PSU partnership experiences.
- A place for connection among CBL faculty, students, and community partners.
- A place to ensure equity.
- A place to inspire meaningful learning and working experiences.

#### Personal Information

**Profession:** Assistant Professor in Urban and Public Affairs

**Age:** 36

**Home life:** Married, no children, 3 dogs.

**Interests:** The Outdoors, Biking, Hiking with her dogs, community activism

**Affiliations:** Assists with a non-profit dog rescue  
Member of 1000 Friends of Oregon's Land Use Leadership Initiative

Community Activist

**Personality:** Dedicated, caring, pragmatic

#### Relevant Portal Features

**The Portal must have:** A storytelling feature to share CBL experiences and inspire connections for other portal visitors.

A mapping feature to indicate where partnerships are occurring and where there is a need.

A place where connections between faculty, students, and partners can be made.

**The Portal should have:** A dedicated portal facilitator or manager.

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### A Tool that Fosters Connection

With spring term coming to a close, it is time for Assistant Professor Bec-Love to find new connections and prepare curriculum for the following year. With the new school year in mind, she is determined to make time for more collaboration with her fellow CBL instructors—she has always joked about her new year's resolutions coming every September rather than every January, but she is going to adhere to her goal this year. She isn't teaching over summer term and this will provide her with a bit more time than she normally has. Bec-Love has always longed to have a way to look at the experiences of her fellow professors, both the success stories and the cautionary tales. Not only that, a centralized place for this information provides the floor for conversations about potential assignments and projects for her students. Bec-Love has always planned her best projects when she had someone to bounce ideas off of, and the portal gives her the opportunity to do so with faculty that have been at PSU longer than her and inquire about community partners that she wishes to involve herself and her students with.

Using a website that centralizes this information gives Professor Bec-Love the opportunity to browse a community map, searching for underrepresented areas to discover a good fit. She can also find other CBL faculty members that have worked with those community partners as well as ones she has already worked with. Searching up a community partner that she has located on the map that is of interest to her, Bec-Love finds stories of the work this particular community partner has done with PSU in the past, and this cements her desire to have her class work with that partner. Bec-Love has also found a few names of fellow faculty members that have worked with the partner in the past. With this information, she is able to email those faculty members and talk about potential projects to give her students as well as comparing best practices.

With these suggestions Bec-Love goes back to the portal to contact the community partner and initiate the partnership process between her course and this new partner. The information the portal has provided her with and connection with both faculty and community partners that Professor Bec-Love has developed through the portal has given her a head start on the new school year.