

**Circles of Practice Learning Community**

Welcome to the circle, I am glad you are here!

Thanks to UNCG’s Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE) for supporting this import community of practice aimed at developing skills, knowledge, and abilities around the theory, practice, and use of circles. I envision this as a circle about circles (ever widening and inclusive).

**Goals:**

* To become familiar with various types and uses of circles in both pedagogy and practice;
* To build a learning community of practice, support, and co-learning with the shared interest in developing knowledge, skills, and ability around the use of circles in a wide range of social institutions;
* To explore the research and practice of circle process from educational and restorative perspective;
* To map the community and university assets with experience and expertise in circle processes;
* To develop sustained community engagement around the use of circle processes, restorative justice, and relational dialogue in our community;
* To meet regularly to pursue the above goals.

In short, this group will explore how can circle-based facilitated dialogue (also called Native American Council, Community Conferencing, Restorative Conferencing, Family Group Conferencing, or Circles of Accountability and Support, among other names) develop community? By community I challenge you to think both broadly (Greensboro, North Carolina, etc.) and more narrowly (UNCG, your neighborhood, your family).

Next meeting **March 1, 2018 (exact place and time TBD).**

We continue our work by discussing the articles passed out tonight and widening our circles…

Please be in touch with Dr. Jeremy Rinker if you want to learn more: jarinker@uncg.edu or 703-850-0765.