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**McMaster Institute for
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RESEARCH ON TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE
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**Cultivating Collaborative University-Community Partnerships: Using The
IMPACT (*Interdisciplinary, Meaningful/Mentorship, Practice, Applied,
Collaborative/Community, Transformative*) Project Educational Model of
Teaching and Learning**

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WORKSHOP ABSTRACT:

The **IMPACT Project** (Interdisciplinary, Meaningful / Mentorship, Practice, Applied, Collaborative / Community, Transformative) provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from diverse disciplines (Engineering, Biology, Occupational Therapy) to apply their knowledge to address a problem identified in collaboration with a community partner. Throughout this project, teams of students work on open-ended problems to explore, create, and assess ideas with the goal of developing potential solutions. Students mobilize knowledge and hone their communication, critical thinking and teamwork skills. Our IMPACT Project model serves to catalyze student creativity, innovation, and community engagement. During our interactive workshop, we will demonstrate the steps required for implementation of our IMPACT Project model using a simulation of educator / student activities, and administrative logistics to connect and network with community partners. We will provide those in attendance with insights that will facilitate the use of IMPACT Project model for addressing the needs of community partners while engaging students in the learning process.