**Faculty Learning Community**

**Assignment 1: Personal Educational Narrative**

**Assignment Overview**: Drawing on your own personal educational experience, please draft a 2-3 page educational narrative describing your thoughts about the purpose(s) of education in contemporary society.

**Key Points to Guide Your Narrative:**

Your reflection should address the three general areas of inquiry listed below. For each, we have offered a few guiding questions to prompt your thinking. Note that you do not have to answer all of these questions—they are provided as guideposts and brainstorming tools.

1. Personal Educational History

* How would you describe your own educational experience, broadly conceived (both inside and outside of formal schools)? Who have been your most important teachers? Pay particular attention to your experience in higher education, both as a student and as a faculty member.
* What role did your intersectional identities play in shaping your educational experiences, particularly in higher education?
* How do you assess education’s value and/or merit in your own life? In the lives of your family and/or community?

1. Shortcomings

* Where do you see gaps and shortcomings in your own education? What was missing from your educational experience? What was (or continues to be) silenced, erased, or overlooked? Why do you think this was?
* What are the implications of these shortcomings for your own life and work?
* What would you change about your own education, if anything?

1. Purpose(s) of Education

* Given your reflections on your own educational experience, what do you make of the purpose(s) of education (and higher education, especially) in contemporary society? Whom does education benefit? Whom does it marginalize? What is education supposed to *do* for you and others?