

Salisbury University's Re-envisioning Ethics Access and Community Humanities (REACH) Initiative: Integrating Community and Curricular Ethics is grant-funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Connections Program. REACH, led by Co-Directors Michèle Schlehofer, Timothy Stock and Jennifer Nyland, focuses on ethics, ethics literacy and ethics agency through new curricular and co-curricular resources, and connecting with the community.

Announcing Our Community Advisory Board

We are pleased to announce the members of our Community Advisory Board, whose one-year appointments begin on July 1. Community Advisory Board members provide guidance and input to the REACH planning team on both short- and long-term REACH initiatives. Their feedback will be critical as we develop ethics resources for our area.

- **Kevin Lindsay**, director of strategy and alignment for the YMCA of the Chesapeake, has a strong passion for helping youth to be productive young citizens.
- **Ron Pagano**, JD, attorney and activist in the disabled community, has worked on housing, education, transportation, employment and recreation equity, and serves as a member of the City of Salisbury Mayor's Disability Advisory Committee.
- **Julie Peters**, chief communications officer of SHORE UP!, strives to always do what is right rather than what is easy.

- **Jaime Riley** is responsible for targeting where gaps in services and needs exist in Wicomico County and collaborating with other agencies, nonprofits and local businesses in order to bridge those gaps through her role as executive director at the Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children.
- **Libby Weisner**, fourth-generation property manager of a family-owned rental company and a licensed real estate agent, believes that ethical business practices are but the minimum standard that we should expect from the housing industry.
- **Theresa Young** serves our community through her local work with the American Red Cross and in the services of deployment on disasters throughout our country as command and control in operations.

Learn more about our Community Advisory Board on our website:
www.salisbury.edu/reach



Tim Stock Appointed to Ethics Council

Congratulations to REACH team member Dr. Timothy Stock, who was appointed to serve a five-year term on the City of Salisbury Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission reviews disclosure forms and advises the mayor on any complaints regarding the city's ethics ordinance.

Visit Our New Webpages!

We are pleased to share that the REACH webpage has a new home on the Salisbury University website under Academic Affairs, and expanded content. On our **new webpages**, you can learn more about our activities, watch presentations and read short papers summarizing our work, request an intern, and learn more about what resources are available to you. Thank you to Todd Smith in the Web Development Office for his work on these pages.

Academic Affairs | REACH

- Re-Envisioning Ethics Access and Community Humanities (REACH)
- Building the Network
- Listening Sessions
- Summarize Findings
- Develop Resources
- Community Distribution
- Meet the REACH Team
- Meet the Community Advisory Board



Re-Envisioning Ethics Access and Community Humanities (REACH)

The REACH Initiative is a multi-year collaboration between the departments of Philosophy and Psychology at Salisbury University.

We envision a community in which decisions are grounded in a robust ethical practice which centers trust and mutual accountability.

The mission of the REACH Initiative is to facilitate community-engaged conversations about ethics in a manner which fosters collaboration, transparency, accountability, and meaningful community-informed transformation.



ETHICS PROFILE: Ron Pagano

Tell us about your organization and what you do.

I have been a community activist since 1969, first and foremost, working to advance the rights of people with disabilities. Over the years, I also have worked in the areas of homelessness and violence against women. I see the fights in all of these to be two-pronged:



1. There is the argument that relates to justice and civil rights;
2. Beyond that, however, there is the ethical/moral questions of right and wrong, as exemplified by the way in which the elderly and people with disabilities were treated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I currently am focused on the ongoing fight to integrate people with disabilities into our community, by combining pragmatism and ethical/moral arguments.

What drew you to being a part of the Community Ethics Network?

When I first heard about REACH and the Community Ethics Network, I felt that this would be an excellent way to introduce ethical and moral perspectives into the discussion of inclusion. We have always been looking at inclusion from the perspective of equal rights, the law and justice; however, we fail to recognize (or refuse) that it is as simple as “the right/moral/ethical thing to do!”

How do ethics improve the work that you do?

Bringing ethics to the discussion adds a new dimension to arguments for more inclusion. If I ask someone if they would like having their child kept from attending school with their friends, the answer they provide comes from their heart, not based on the law or equality; it comes from the moral imperative that they give their child every advantage. Using ethics as a foundation for convincing someone of the righteousness of your position, you are reaching them through their soul, their emotion, their understanding and interpretation of what is right and wrong in the world. I believe that people are basically good (another discussion), and when confronted with options that are presented from a moral perspective, they will make good choices.



REACH at PACE Showcase

On May 4, the REACH team helped to kick off the nonprofit “speed networking” event at the Lower Shore Nonprofit Summit 2023: Together, for Good, hosted by Salisbury University’s Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE), the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, and the United Way. Dr. Jennifer Nyland, REACH project co-director, greeted attendees and offered some initial questions as conversation starters. Examples included “What are our community’s top concerns, and do we have what we need to address them? Do you feel as if all of your partners, clients and stakeholders have trust in your organization? What are your best strategies for building trust when addressing topics that have been divisive in the past?” Approximately 100 attendees participated in the pre-conference and conference activities.



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