

What's New

Issue 1

September 3, 2021

Next Commission-wide Meeting

Thurs., Sept. 16, 4:00 EDT

New Logo

Thanks to Claire Sigworth, we have a logo that will appear on our official communications and on our upcoming website.

Slogan Contest

To complete the logo, we challenge you to come up with a *short*, pithy tagline capturing the relevance, importance, and spirit of the Commission's work. Send in your ideas by September 8 to elizabeth.briody@gmail.com and rwnolan@purdue.edu.

Winning tagline gets a special prize!

New Website

Matt Artz has generously offered to create a Commission website. It will include our goals, current projects, and



CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

Moving Ahead

Since the Career Readiness Commission's launch in May 2021, much has been accomplished:

Vision established: Anthropology programs embrace practice in their teaching and preparation of students for future careers.

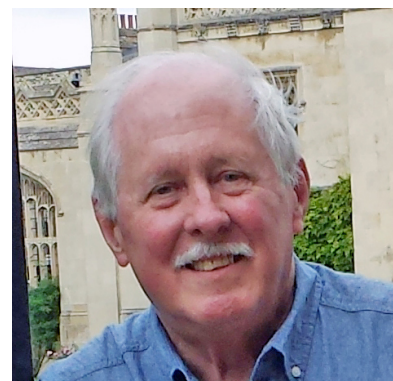
Objective set: Improve career readiness for *all* anthropology students.

Rationale in place: Practice is growing, academia is shrinking, and anthropological training is not keeping pace. Students get little training in professionalization skills and career-relevant experiential opportunities.

Commission Leaders



Elizabeth K. Briody



Riall W. Nolan

Volunteers solicited: Leaders from all U.S. anthropology associations, practitioners from all subfields, students, and anthropology faculty; more than 70 volunteers involved to date.

Workstreams launched: These efforts will result in frameworks, recommendations, and resources that can help infuse practice into curricular and co-curricular activities in anthropology programs.

Audience targeted: Anthropology teaching faculty and instructors, and students.

Timeframe specified: One year (May 2021-May 2022).

Summertime Work

We are right on schedule having just completed the Brainstorming Phase. The six workstreams have been collaborating in their work groups and developing final reports. These reports answered two key questions:

1) What information should we collect, and 2) How should we collect it?

resources for faculty and instructors, students, and practitioners, among other content.

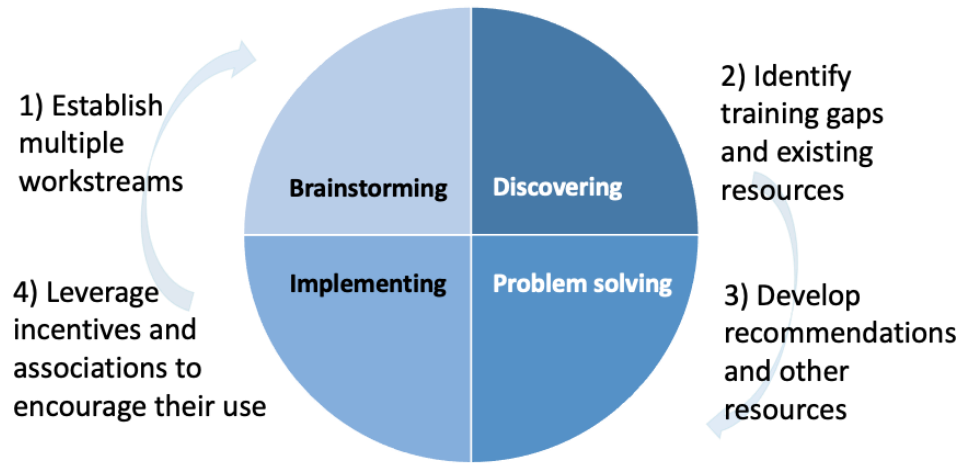
Stay tuned!

New Perspectives

We plan to add a “different voice” each time the Commission meets. Practitioners, students, and faculty will offer us their insights, reminding us of the value of our work.

New Pecha Kucha

We are participating virtually in WWNA 2021: Why the World Needs Anthropologists (Sept. 10-12, Prague, Czech Republic), providing an overview of the Commission’s work to date.



The Four Phases of the Commission’s Work

Workstream Updates

Group 1: Delphi Practitioner Survey This group wants to know what might be improved in academic training that will equip anthropologists to 1) find a job in practice, and 2) be able to do that job effectively. It designed a Delphi survey and identified a large group of practitioners for its sample, completing the Phase 1 work. It has since distributed the survey and is collating the responses.

Group 2: Compilation of Existing Training Materials This group seeks to identify and collect existing resources that are oriented to practice (e.g., articles, syllabi, podcasts). Some pertain to the research and other types of work that anthropologists do in business, non-profits, and government. Other resources explore patterns related to academic anthropology programs, experiential learning opportunities, job search preparation and beyond.

Group 3: Work Sector Differences This group has two focus areas: 1) practitioner experiences and 2) hiring practices. It plans to collect practitioner narratives attending to their work sector, job search, tools and methods used in their jobs, and career paths. Information on organizational hiring practices will be gathered primarily through online research.

Group 4: Departmental Practice Initiatives Members of this group will gather stories of both successful and unsuccessful efforts to introduce an emphasis on practice into departmental offerings. Initially, their plan targets undergraduate programs that have shown an inclination toward applied training. Separately, a University of North Texas course will collect narratives from a cross-section of graduate programs.

Contact Us

If you are interested in contributing or simply in knowing more, reach out to us via email:

elizabeth.briody@gmail.com

rwnolan@purdue.edu

Group 5: Organizations with Potential to Influence Practitioner Training

The focus of this group is three-fold: 1) college and university anthropology clubs, 2) concurrent education programs teaching anthropology in high schools and colleges, and 3) potential funders of applied anthropology research and work. Their plan is to survey and/or hold discussions with relevant individuals.

Group 6: Charting the Future of Practice This group wants to ensure as much inclusivity as possible in Commission membership and in crafting future scenarios of anthropological work. It plans outreach to academic departments to identify selected graduates to assist with the Commission's tasks. It also intends to establish a team to envision future worlds of work for anthropologists and the kinds of training and support that will be necessary.

Time to Sign Up for New Groups

Since the groups have essentially finished the Brainstorming Phase, we will now shake things up a bit. There will be some new group leaders. In addition, each of us can join whichever workstream appeals for the Discovering Phase; if you liked your previous group, then stay put. Here is the google drive link to the **sign-up sheet**:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mXTdK2qODBoUhHWpOY9zyBy6-wHOu6H6/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106281216147884196404&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Seeking Your Help!

If you know an anthropologist and/or anthropologist-in-training who might like to play a role in

- Improving the career readiness of BA, MA, and PhD anthropology students
- Learning from anthropology faculty and instructors about practice resources that would be useful to them
- Developing frameworks, materials, problem-solving exercises, and modular trainings
- Connecting anthropologists in business, non-profits, and government to anthropology programs, and
- Shaping the future of anthropology...and the world of work,

we would welcome their participation in the Career Readiness Commission. Since we are a network, please invite them to join us. Simply email their names/contact info to: elizabeth.briody@gmail.com.

Next Issue

Look for our next issue in November.