

BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

FAMILY LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF COLORADO

LARIMER COUNTY (STATEWIDE)

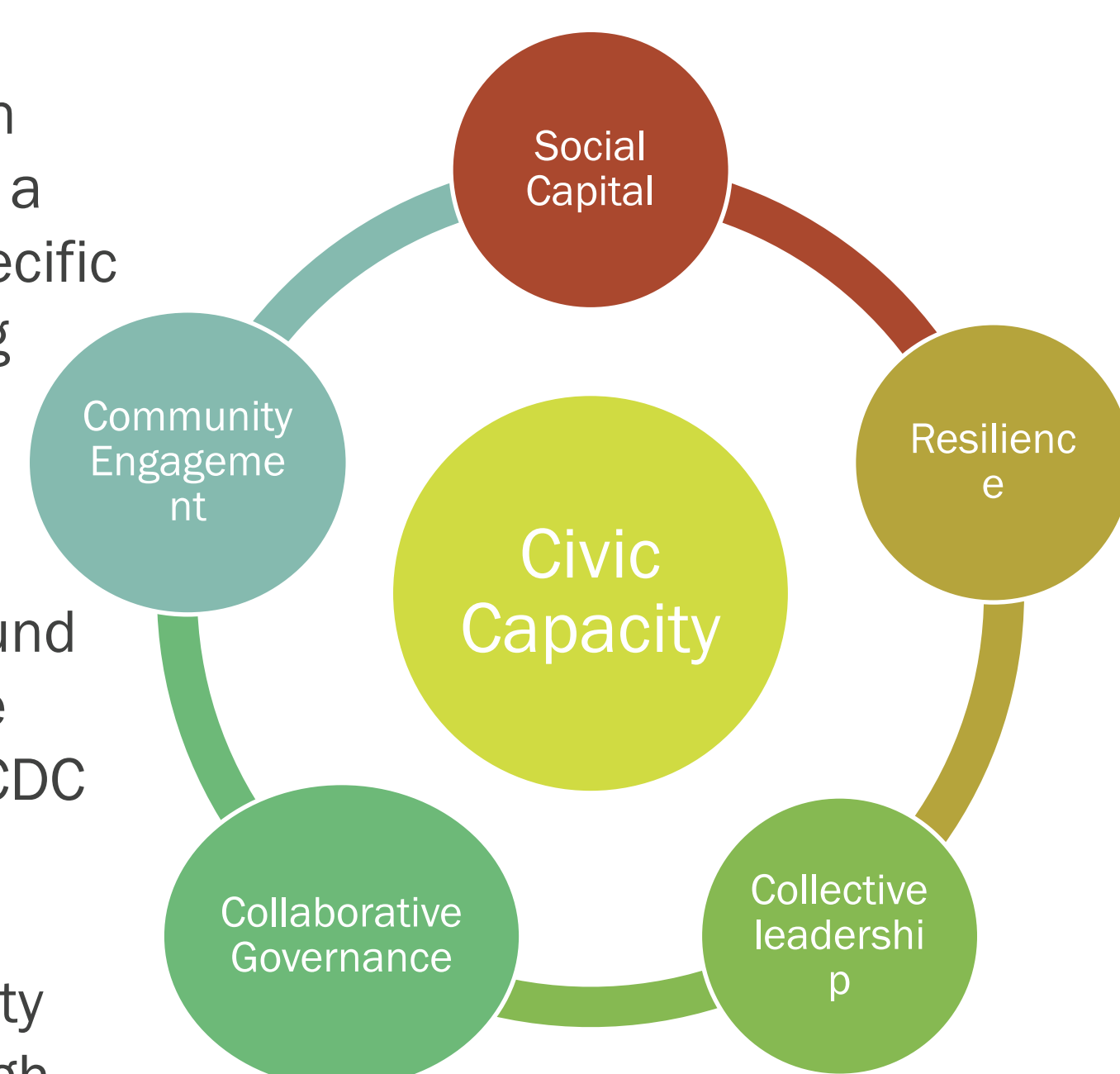
Milagro Nunez-Solis
PhD. Student
Dept. of Sociology

Patti Schmitt
Community Development Director
Director, Family Leadership Training
Institute of Colorado (FLTI)

David MacPhee
Professor emeritus
Prevention Research Center

Civic Capacity. A form to open spaces for diverse civic voices and action.

Civic capacity relates to the capability of neighborhoods, communities, and regions to plan, learn, and act together to solve problems in the public interest. It is as an amalgam of social capital, civic competence, civic enterprise, and the community-level experience of collective action (Shinn 1999, p. 117). As a capacity it becomes a shared resource that can be amplified for a specific purpose within a context and culture of working together.



The process of individuals and groups forming networks, working together to solve issues around public crises (health, education, economy), are examples of **community driven change (CDC)**. CDC are practices in which shared power, multiple perspectives, and diverse participation are the premise among decision makers and community members in decision-making processes. Through CDC, reached agreements are more equitable, authentic, and transparent.

Initiatives through which CSU Extension engages with CDC and Civic Capacity are:

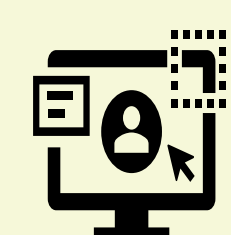
The **Family Leadership Training Institute**: a community training program focused on building individual and community capacity for inclusive collaboration and civic engagement by bringing diverse voices to the decision-making table.

Civic Capacity Index: a research-based measure of a community's civic capacity to respond to challenges and disruptions. The Index looks at 6 different domains that can assess civic engagement, civic leadership development, and community building. These are: leadership, coalitions, inclusion, collaborations, institutions, & civic culture.

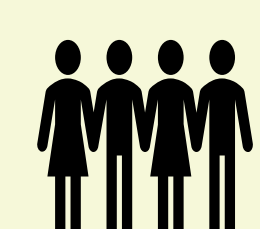
Internship Goals and Application



Increase knowledge of community-driven change and civic capacity and its relation to the creation of more equitable decision-making practices



Collaborate in informing design strategies and interventions for community level impacts



Work with multiple stakeholders (community groups, government leaders, nonprofit partners, and CSU faculty) to explore strengthening community civic capacity and the culture of collaboration in local communities

Internship products

1) CCI Elementary School Staff and Teachers Data base for Douglas County School District.

Potential CCI participants will answer a survey with the 42 CCI items and validation scales. Participants and cultural brokers are identified through online resources and snowball sampling. One group of interest is schools and college staff. One of the internship products was the inclusion of more than 2500 contacts of Douglas County School district staff to the contact data base.



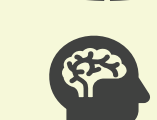

2) FLTI Facilitator Certification Training

FLTI has a certification for trainers, who will be ones in charge of implementing on site the 20-week FLTI curriculum or the 2Gen model 10-week curriculum. As an intern, I was given the opportunity to participate in the event and certify myself as a FLTI site trainer.

3) Wray County Youth Community-Building Curriculum Template

This is a collaborative initiative to create a Youth Community Building Curriculum for Wray Colorado. The curriculum planning team is a collaboration of FLTI, CSU Yuma County Extension, CSU Extension 4H, Rise Above Colorado, and CSU Community Literacy Center. While defining the curriculum is a work in progress, the template includes information about the importance and benefits of youth being civically engaged; key needs found around youth taken from the CSU Extension Needs Assessment information for the Golden Plains Area, and the CCI results for Yuma County. The template also includes a list of resources around different methodologies and approaches to work on civic capacity, community engagement, and social justice with youth populations.

Youth perceptions and needs in the Golder Plains Area and Yuma County

-  To develop youth life skills such as managing finances
-  Employment opportunities including entrepreneurship
-  Access to resources around mental health and stress management
-  Being prepared for college and choosing a career path

Tree Map Graph of Yuma County's CCI results per domain and item mean average scores



Key learnings and intakes

- FLTI expanded my vision and the applicability of frameworks related to social capital building, community development, and social justice at a local level.
- It showed me how collaborative, compassionate, and horizontal work is done within the complexity of diverse stakeholders.
- I was able to learn about the collaborative work and the different steps and techniques used in constructing the Civic Capacity Index
- To put into practice my skills on data visualization and information synthesis to effectively communicate the work of FLTI
- It allowed me to reflect around the Latin American realities, policies, and frameworks used for community development, and civic engagement.



- From the FLTI Facilitator Certification Training
 - How to teach and facilitate a curriculum with a racial justice approach
 - One leadership communication tool is to practice "passion with a purpose"
 - How powerful, strong and passionate Co. Latinx communities are in their work of creating inclusive and secure spaces for their people
 - How powerful it is to practice language justice in the context of a diverse training setting and creating an inclusive learning environment

Next Steps

- 1) Find spaces and groups in which I can practice and collaborate as a FLTI facilitator to implement the different curricula the program has.
- 2) Include the Civic Capacity Index, and frameworks around civic capacity and community-driven change, into my academic work with the Latinx community and in my home country Costa Rica.
- 3) Continue practicing collaborative work on my personal and academic projects.
- 4) Keep track of different CCI results and publications.