

# Catherine Wright

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## SUMMARY

Experienced social justice advocate, researcher, educator and public speaker with over ten years experience in the fields of sustainability, community engaged research, ecotheology, Catholic Social Teaching, and Christian and interfaith ethics. Proficient in coordinating impactful community-campus encounters and designing infrastructure to sustain these efforts (See: Collaborative for the Common Good). Keen to leverage teaching, leadership, research, and relationship building expertise to cultivate biospiritual moral imaginations and social change on and off Catholic campus communities.

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

### Wingate University, Wingate, NC

*Executive Director*, Collaborative for the Common Good | August 2019 - Present

*Department Chair* (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) | August 2020 – August 2022

*Associate Professor* (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) | August 2019 – Present

*Assistant Professor* (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) | August 2014 – August 2019

- Promoted to Executive Director of the Collaborative for the Common Good due to my oversight and leadership during research phase of development
- Awarded 2022 Finalist for AASHE Campus Sustainability Research Award
- Designed and implemented two ROOTS Summits for all Wingate campus and community stakeholders with over 120 participants
- Awarded over \$28,417 in grant money for 2022-2023 academic year and solicited over \$33,437 in in-kind donations for Paw Provisions and free snack program since Dec 2022.
- Created Paw Provisions to address post-COVID, student reported food insecurity and period poverty. Since Dec 2022, this weekly free store has served over 1763 students, has had two student managers and hosted six internships (Communications, Public Health, Human Services, and Finance)
- Generated new pathways for reciprocal partnerships with local stakeholders including a student managed weekly Farmers Market (2023) and virtual Farmers Marketplace (2024). Total number of Markets (14) with over 12 vendors saw over 1,527 attendees and Wingate Health Schools offered multiple services (e.g., Flu/ Vaccine Information & Surveys, Blood Pressure/ Sugar Checks, Proper Use of Tylenol & Sunblock, etc...)
- Seven service learning and community engagement (SLCE) courses have been supported, developed, implemented, and assessed for impact. Several demonstrated statistically significant improvements in the areas of Civic Engagement, Civic Skills, and 21st Century Skills.
- Initiated knowledge democracy between campus and community partners. See Website [LINK](#) for Project White Papers.

## **EDUCATION:**

### **2011- 2015 Doctoral Program, Ph.D**

Regis College, Toronto School of Theology  
Specialization in Christian Ethics

### **2000 – 2003 Masters of Divinity**

University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto  
Thesis: "Mysticism in the Film 'The Matrix'"

### **1996 - 1997 Bachelor of Education**

Faculty of Education, University of Toronto  
Junior / Intermediate / Senior Divisions, Science and Mathematics

### **1991 - 1995 Honors Bachelor of Science**

University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto  
Held With Distinction

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

January 2023 **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** Training, National Council for Mental Well Being

October 2023 **Faith & Health Network Gathering**, Interfaith America

August 2023 **Religion and Health Convening**, Interfaith America (Chicago Weeklong Seminar)

Summer 2021 **Leading for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education**  
U. Michigan Online Course

August 2021 **"Stop the Hate" Trainer Workshop** - Doing DEI Work in Higher Education Racial  
Equity Institute

Summer 2020 **Online Pedagogy and Teaching with Canvas (OPTC) Course**  
Wingate University

June 2018 **Professional Certificate in Campus Sustainability Leadership** Univ. of Vermont

## **SKILLS:**

- Building Infrastructure and Programming Centered on Student Learning Outcomes
- Educating in person and on multi-media platforms (Zoom, Canvas, Whova, Microsoft)
- Research and Scholarly Writing and Publishing
- Empowering mutually empowering Community-Campus relationships
- Assessment Tool and Training Development using Qualtrics, Google Suite, and Excel
- Construction of Effective Communication Aids Using Canva, Prezi, Smore, Adobe Spark, Google Suite, Audacity Podcast Software, RSS platform (for podcasts)
- Grant Writing and Implementation and Assessment of Grant Projects
- Designing and Facilitating Retreats and Spiritual Encounters directed at social change

## **PUBLIC LECTURES AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

### **Oct 2023 Public Research Lectures in Cincinnati Diocese**

*Lecturer* Title: "Following Our Francis's Faithfully"

Hosted by St Francis Seraph Catholic Parish & Bellarmine Chapel, Xavier University

### **Sept 2023 Tedx Talk, Wingate University**

*Speaker* Title: "The Extraordinary Power of your Ordinary Fork"

### **June 2023 C3 Conference Presentation**

*Keynote Speaker* Title: "Food and Faith: Embracing Our Vocation as Stewards of God's Great Creation"

Hosted by Christians Caring for Creation Non-Profit Organization and Sardis Baptist Parish

### **March 2023 Public Lecture**

*Speaker* Title: "Exploring Job as a Guide to Navigating Suffering in the 21st Century"

Hosted by Morning Star Lutheran Church, Matthews NC

### **Feb 2023 JustFaith Speaker**

*Lecturer* "Sacred Water" for JustFaith Educational Series

Hosted by Sisters of Mercy, Belmont, NC

### **Sept 2022 Public Lecture**

*Co-Presenter* Title: "The Heaven's Declare the Glory of God ... But for How Long"

Hosted by Care for Creation Ministry, St Peter's Catholic Church with Deacon Clarke

### **Mar & Apr 2022 Public Lecture Series**

*Presenter* Title: "In the Darkness Grows the Green: Standing Vigil at the Tomb"

Hosted by M2M, Charlotte, NC

### **Feb 2022 Webinar Series -- Why Catholics Care for Creation**

*Keynote Speaker* for Series Title: "Catholics and Creation Care"

Hosted by Arlington Catholic Diocese and St John Neumann Parish

### **Feb 2022 Public Lecture Series**

*Presenter* Title: "*In the Darkness Grows the Green: Lessons of the Solstice*"

Hosted by First Baptist Church, Wadesboro NC

### **Feb 2022 PACE Conference**

*Presenter* Title: "Community Gardens as Centers for Civic and Community Engagement"

Hosted by NC Campus Engagement

### **Nov. 2021 NetVUE Gathering on Religion and Justice Issues in the Undergraduate Classroom**

*Presenter* Title: "Environmental Justice and Religion in the Undergraduate Classroom"

### **Oct. 2021 Paulist Fathers - Faith and Life Series**

*Speaker* Title: "Integral Ecology as the Beating Heart of Catholic Discipleship"

Hosted by the Catholic Information Center, Grand Rapids, MI

**July 2021 Creighton University Conference: Laudato Si' and the US Catholic Church**

*Presenter & Designer of Multimedia Materials* Title: "Creation Care Teams"

See Website: <https://www.thewrightecoth theologian.com/creation-care-team-support>

**April 2021 Diocese Creation Care Team Meeting**

*Speaker* Title: "Leadership Conversation for Creation Care Teams"

Hosted by Catholic Diocese of Arlington

**Mar 2021 Gulf South Conference**

*Presenter* Title: "COFIL: SLCE Practitioner-Scholars Building Healthy Communities and Common Ground through Co-Inquiry"

*Presenter* Title: "Implementation of High-Quality Service-Learning Courses to Improve Health & Wellness in the Rural South, USA"

**Mar 2021 North Carolina Religious Studies Association**

*Presenter* Title: "Engaging Religious Diversity in Undergraduate Classrooms via High Impact Practices" Co-presented with Dr. Paige Rawson and undergraduate Rania Badran

**Jan 2021 Catholic Climate Covenant Webinar**

*Panelist* Title: "Environmental Justice and Catholic Social Teaching"

**Jan 2021 Spirituality and Creation Care Retreat**

*Facilitator* Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Belmont NC

**Jan 2021 Caring for Our Common Home: A Practical Guide to Laudato Si'**

*Facilitator* Online 4 Week Book Group with a Blog series

**Sept 2020 Season of Creation Lecture**

*Speaker* Title: "Environmental Racism and Laudato Si'"

Hosted by Catholic Social Teaching Ministry, St Philip Neri Catholic Parish

**Oct 2019 AASHE National Conference & Expo**

*Presenter* Title: "How a Small, Rural University in NC is Helping to Co-Create a Sustainable Economy"

Hosted by American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

**Nov 2018 American Academy of Religion Conference**

*Panelist* Title: "Doing Religion and Ecology in the Bible Belt: A Roundtable Session on how the Cross Pollination of Religion and Ecology in a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Rural town in North Carolina is Bearing Much Fruit"

**April 2018 Health Equity Conference: Tale of Two Union Counties**

*Presenter* Title: "Growing Food, School, and Faith Partnerships"

**Sept 2017 International Service Learning and Community Engagement (IASLCE) Conference**

*Presenter* Title: "Harnessing the Synergistic Effect of Conjoining SLCE and Sustainability in Higher Education"

**June 2015 Catholic Theological Society of America Conference**

*Presenter* Title: "The Promise of a New Cosmological Horizon of Meaning for the Theological Concept of the Sensus Fidelium"

## GRANTS AWARDED

April 2023

**Hosting NetVue Gathering** -- Budget of over \$16,000

2020-2022

**Carolina Farm Credit Grant** (EUMS Ag. Immersion Grant) \$5000

**Food Council Grant** -- Shared Gifting Microgrant Community Food Strategies \$4519

**NC Community Health Mini Grant** Blue Cross Blue Shield & AHA \$6250

Jan. 2019 **Jessie Ball duPont Green Revolving Loan Fund** \$125,000

Green Energy Renovations & Curriculum

April 2018 **NC Resourceful Communities Food and Faith Grant** \$14,000

Aquaponics at local United Methodist Church

## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

**August 2023**

*Food and Faith: From Dirt to Dessert*

Kendall Hunt Publishing \*Core text for Community Engaged General Education Course

**June 2020**

*A Practical Guide to Creation Care: Living Laudato Si'*

Paulist Press

**Fall 2017**

*Creation, God, and Humanity: Embracing the Mystery of Suffering in the Sacred Cosmic Story*

Paulist Press

## RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Jan 2022 **Peer Reviewed Article**

Cultivating a Collaborative Culture for Ensuring Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education: An Integrative Case Study

*Sustainability*, MDPI Open Access Journal [LINK](#)

\*2022 AASHE Campus Sustainability Research Award Finalist

Feb 2021 **CEE Primer: NC Campus Compact**

*Civic and Community Engagement in Higher Education* [LINK](#)

Co-Author/Researcher

June 2020 **AASHE Publication**

*Exploration of Creation Care and Sustainability Among Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Members*

Fellowship with DANS/HEASC under the direction of Dr. Debra Rowe PhD.

April 2019 **Book Reviews** in Modern Believing Journal (UK Liverpool Press)

Reviewed texts: D. O'Murchu, *Incarnation: A New Evolutionary Threshold*. T. E. Hosinski, *The Image of the Unseen God: Catholicity, Science, and Our Evolving Understanding of God*.

**Fall 2018 Peer Reviewed Article**

Wright, Catherine, Melanie Keel, Allison Kellar, "A New Alliance for Service-Learning and Community Engagement: Cultivating Citizens with an Ecocentric Vision of Justice" in *Partnerships: A Journal of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement* (Vol. 9, No. 2, 2018)

**Fall 2018 Book Chapter**

"Social Justice in Service-Learning And Community Engagement: A Conversation About Meanings, Practices, And Possibilities" In Jewett, Laura, Freyca Calderon Berumen, and Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, eds., *The Critical Intersections In Contemporary Curriculum & Pedagogy*. Curriculum and Pedagogy Series

**Fall 2017 Peer Reviewed Article**

"Connecting SLCE with Sustainability in Higher Education: Cultivating Citizens with an Ecocentric Vision of Justice" *Michigan Journal for Community Service Learning* (Vol. 23, Issue 2, 2017 pp.165-169)  
Co-Authored with Dr. M. Keel and undergraduate T. Fleurizard

**Summer 2017 Peer Reviewed Article**

"We Are Stardust: Towards an Ecological Theological Anthropology" *The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology and Culture The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology*  
<https://theotherjournal.com/2017/08/28/stardust-toward-ecothological-anthropology/>  
\*Selected to be published in a special printed edition: Fall, 2018.

**Fall 2017 Special Journal Article**

"In the Darkness Grows the Green: The Promise of a New Cosmological Horizon of Meaning within a Critical Inquiry of Suffering and the Cross" in *The Ecozoic Reflections on Life in an Ecological-Cultural Age: Thomas Berry's Work: Development, Difference, Importance, Applications. Journal of the Center for Ecozoic Societies* (No. 4, 2017): 465-480.

**Spring 2015 Book Review in Toronto Journal of Theology** (31, no. 1 (Spring 2015): 149-151)

Reviewed Text: Jonathon R. Wilson, *God's Good World: Reclaiming the Doctrine of Creation* (2013)

**Spring 2014 Book Review in Toronto Journal of Theology** (30, no.1 (Spring 2014): 161-162)

Reviewed Text: Stephen Scharper's *For Earth's Sake: Towards a Compassionate Ecology* (2013)

**Spring 2013 Book Review in Toronto Journal of Theology** (29, no.1 (2013): 207-208)

Reviewed Text: Robin Ryan, CP. *God and the Mystery of Human Suffering: A Theological Conversation Across the Ages* (2011)

**Fall 1997 Co-Authored Peer Review Article**

"The Effect of Water Surface Tension on Feather Wettability in Aquatic Birds" in *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 74 (1997): 288-294. Dr. Richard Stephenson and Catherine A. Andrews (maiden name)

**REFEREES: Upon Request**