Institutionalizing Community Engagement in Higher Education

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University of Minnesota

East Carolina University
February 21, 2011
To serve as a national model for public service and regional transformation by:

• Preparing our students to compete and succeed in the global economy and multicultural society,
• Distinguishing ourselves by the ability to train and prepare leaders,
• Creating a strong, sustainable future for eastern North Carolina through education, research, innovation, investment, and outreach,
• Saving lives, curing diseases, and positively transforming health and health care, and
• Providing cultural enrichment and powerful inspiration as we work to sustain and improve quality of life.

Approved by the UNC Board of Governors - November 13, 2009
Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Community Engagement

## Preferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity</td>
<td>Serve food to the homeless on Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment Service</td>
<td>Educate the homeless about social services available to them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Work</td>
<td>Facilitate the opening of a homeless shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participatory Democracy</td>
<td>Work to secure legislation and citizen support that will secure rights for persons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Action</td>
<td>Students organize a camp out on campus to raise awareness about homeless</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Change</td>
<td>Work to reduce the number of homeless persons; train homeless persons for jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>Secure legal assistance for a homeless person who was denied health services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE SCHOLARSHIP OF ENGAGEMENT

“The Scholarship of Engagement is a term that captures scholarship in the areas of teaching, research, and/or service. It engages faculty in academically relevant work that simultaneously meets campus mission and goals as well as community needs. In essence, it is a scholarly agenda that integrates community issues [into the disciplinary work of faculty]. In this definition community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the campus that are part of a collaborative process to contribute to the public good.”

2001, National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement
Clarifying Terms

Scholarship of Engagement (Engaged Scholarship)
Scholarly work that is drawn from
• Community-engaged research
• Community-engaged teaching
• Community outreach or service initiatives

Scholarship on Engagement
Scholarly work that seeks to advance understanding of the impacts of and best practices for:
• Community-engaged research
• Community-engaged teaching
• Community outreach or service initiatives
Traditional Scholarship vs. Scholarship of Engagement

**TRADITIONAL**
- breaks new ground in the discipline
- answers significant questions in the discipline
- is reviewed and validated by qualified peers in the discipline

**ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP**
- breaks new ground in the discipline and has direct application to broader public issues
- answers significant questions in the discipline which have relevance to public or community issues
- is reviewed and validated by qualified peers in the discipline and members of the community
Traditional Scholarship vs. Scholarship of Engagement

**TRADITIONAL**
- is based on a solid theoretical basis
- applies appropriate investigative methods
- is disseminated to appropriate audiences
- makes significant advances in knowledge and understanding of the discipline

**ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP**
- is based on a solid theoretical and practical bases
- applies appropriate investigative methods
- is disseminated to appropriate audiences
- makes significant advances in knowledge and understanding of the discipline and public social issues
- applies the knowledge to address social issues in the local community
Measuring Impact of Engaged Scholarship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholary Impact</th>
<th>Community Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Scholarly Impact</td>
<td>Low/Indirect Community Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Scholarly Impact</td>
<td>High/Direct Community Impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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What does institutionalization mean?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AN INSTITUTIONALIZED PRACTICE IS:</th>
<th>A MARGINALIZED PRACTICE IS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>Isolated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legitimized</td>
<td>Unaccepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>Temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilient</td>
<td>At-Risk</td>
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Kramer, 1998
INSTITUTIONALIZING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Levels of Institutionalization:

- Critical Mass Building
- Quality Building
- Sustained Institutionalization
Campuses are more likely to report a higher level of community engagement institutionalization when the following components are in place:

1. clear definitions and purposes for community engaged work;

2. long-term vision for community engagement’s role at the institution;

3. ties to the institutional mission;

4. used as a vehicle to accomplish other institutional goals;
INSTITUTIONALIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)

5. strong faculty involvement, buy-in, and support;
6. seen as a legitimate scholarly pursuit for faculty;
PROMOTION AND TENURE

“Scholarly research must include significant publications, and as appropriate, the development and dissemination by other means of new knowledge, technology, or scientific procedures resulting in innovative products, practices, and ideas of significance and value to society.”
“Teaching is not limited to classroom instruction. It includes extension and outreach education, and other forms of communicating knowledge to both registered University students and persons in extended community, as well as supervising, mentoring, and advising students.”
INSTITUTIONALIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)

5. strong faculty involvement, buy-in, and support;
6. seen as a legitimate scholarly pursuit for faculty;
7. student awareness of community engagement opportunities on campus;
8. active student involvement in advancing community engagement in their academic programs;
9. equal status for community members in community engagement partnerships;
10. presence of appropriate coordinating entities for community engagement programming and activities;
COMPONENTS OF SERVICE-LEARNING INSTITUTIONALIZATION (continued)

11. policy making entity for community engagement advancement;
12. adequate and appropriate staffing and funding for community engagement coordination and advancement;
13. the administration values community engagement;
14. ongoing assessments that monitor and progress for continuous improvement; and
15. departments community engagement as a valuable component of their academic program.
**DIMENSION 1: PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A primary component of community engagement institutionalization is the development of a institution wide definition for community engagement that provides meaning, focus, and emphasis for the engagement effort. How narrowly or broadly community engagement is defined at the institution will affect which constituents participate/do not participate, which units will provide financial resources and other support, and the degree to which community engagement will become an integral part of the institution’s work.

**DIRECTIONS:** For each of the four categories (rows), place a circle around the number in the continuum that best represents the CURRENT status of the development of a definition, philosophy, and mission of community engagement at the institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</th>
<th>Critical Mass Building</th>
<th>Quality Building</th>
<th>Sustained Institutionalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(circle one)</td>
<td>There is no institution-wide definition for community engagement. The term &quot;community engagement&quot; is used inconsistently to describe a variety of service and outreach activities.</td>
<td>There is an operationalized definition for community engagement at the institution, but there is some variance and inconsistency in the application of the term.</td>
<td>The institution has a formal, universally accepted definition for high quality community engagement that is used consistently to operationalize many or most aspects of community engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(circle one)</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>4 5 6</td>
<td>7 8 9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC PLANNING</th>
<th>Critical Mass Building</th>
<th>Quality Building</th>
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<td>The institution does not have an official strategic plan for advancing community engagement.</td>
<td>Although certain short-range and long-range goals for community engagement have been defined for the institution, these goals have not been formalized into an official strategic plan that will guide the implementation of these goals.</td>
<td>The institution has developed an official strategic plan for advancing community engagement at the institution, which includes viable short-range and long-range institutionalization goals.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALIGNMENT WITH INSTITUTIONAL MISSION</th>
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<td>While community engagement complements many aspects of the institution’s mission, it remains on the periphery. Community engagement is rarely included in larger efforts that focus on the core mission of the institution.</td>
<td>Community engagement is often mentioned as a primary or important part of the institution's mission, but community engagement is not included in the institution's official mission or strategic plan.</td>
<td>Community engagement is part of the primary concern of the institution. Community engagement is included in the institution's official mission and/or strategic plan.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ALIGNMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL REFORM EFFORTS</th>
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<td>(circle one)</td>
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<td>Community engagement stands alone and is not tied to other important, high profile efforts at the institution (e.g., institution/community partnership efforts, establishment of learning communities, improvement of undergraduate teaching, faculty research, etc.)</td>
<td>Community engagement is tied loosely or informally to other important, high profile efforts at the institution (e.g., institution/community partnership efforts, establishment of learning communities, improvement of undergraduate teaching, faculty research, etc.)</td>
<td>Community engagement is tied formally and purposefully to other important, high profile efforts at the institution (e.g., institution/community partnership efforts, establishment of learning communities, improvement of undergraduate teaching, faculty research etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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Engaged Scholarship Resources

Community Engaged Scholarship Toolkit
http://www.communityengagedscholarship.info

Introduction to the Research University Engaged Scholarship Toolkit *(Howard & Stanton, Eds.)*
http://www.compact.org/initiatives/civic-engagement-at-research-universities/trucen-intr/

National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement
http://www.scholarshipofengagement.org/

New Times Demand New Scholarship
www.compact.org/initiatives/research_universities/
Engaged Scholarship Resources

Imagining America (esp. the tenure team initiative/report)
http://www.imaginingamerica.org/

Practising Public Scholarship: Experiences and Possibilities Beyond the Academy
(Katharyne Mitchell, Ed.)

Engaged Scholarship: A Resource Guide (Comm. on Institutional Cooperation)