STRENGTHING COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Office of Community Collaboration
California State University, Sacramento

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A strong partnership can be defined as one in which the partners:

- participate genuinely and voluntarily;
- feel parity;
- share mutual goals and expectations;
- share responsibility and accountability;
- trust each other; and
- feel a sense of community.

(Friend and Cook, 2000)
Structural Models for Campus-Community Partnerships

- Centralized Model
- Cross-Campus Collaborative Model
- Academic Enhancement Model
- Community-Engagement Enhancement Model
- Decentralized Model
- Issue-focused Community Partnership Model
- Community Alliance Model

(Furco, Leiderman, and Goss, 2004)
Levels of Sustainability

- Institutional level
- Department level
- Project level
- Course level
- Agency level
- Individual/Faculty level
- Issue level
Research Questions

- What is a good partnership, from your perspective? In contrast, what is a bad partnership? What are spoken and unspoken issues that have affected your partnership?
- What are you doing within your own partnership that other similar initiatives might get excited about?
Research questions (cont’d)

- From your perspective, what are the benefits and costs of participating in these kinds of partnerships?
- What do you want campuses to know based on your experiences in these kinds of partnerships?
- What recommendations do you have for the broader field?
MEDIATING FACTORS FOR COMMUNITY PARTNER PARTICIPATION

- Presence of sufficient, qualified staff at a campus center;
- Level of sustained administrative interest and visible leadership supporting community engagement;
- Assessment of quality of prior experiences with higher education institutions;
- Attention to issues of trust and accountability;
- Clear expectations regarding preparation of students and faculty.
Four Questions Community Members Consider

- How well does this engagement activity align with my broad goals for partnering with campuses?
- To what extent will this engagement activity contribute to achieving my organization’s mission?
- What is the risk or potential harm to my organization’s credibility?
- What are the actual and opportunity costs of participation?
Indicators of Parity

- Early interest in creating meaningful community outcomes;
- Processes and staffing that distribute authority and funds across the partnership;
- Willingness of campuses to support community settings beyond the partnership;
- Welcoming community partners onto the campus to assume important roles.
RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Allot time for relationship building early on;
2) Learn how to talk together about racial, ethnic, and economic inequalities;
3) Identify the underlying reasons for establishing the partnership;
4) Understand the organizational contexts in which all partnership members work;
5) Ensure fairness in the exchange of resources among partners members;

6) Invite community partners onto the campus to share expertise with faculty and students; and

7) Be meticulous about the details.
Issues to Consider

• PARTNERSHIP FOR WHAT?
  (community-based research, civic education, etc.)

• RESOURCES
  University: (intellectual and human capital, academic legitimacy; recognition and prestige; etc.)
  Community: (experience addressing social issues, understanding the local culture; legitimacy among community members, etc.)
**Issues to Consider**

- **CHALLENGES**
  - **Programmatic:** (15-week semester/10-week quarter; student skill levels; supervising and training students; assessing student work)
  - **Logistical:** (transportation, liability, fingerprinting, background checks)
  - **Other:** (turnover, politically sensitive issues, time, resources)

- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUCCESS**
  (Evaluation, feedback mechanisms, assessing partnership quality)
Traditional Scholarship and the 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
Traditional Scholarship and the 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
## Traditional Scholarship and the Scholarship of Engagement

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# Traditional Scholarship and the Scholarship of Engagement

## Traditional Scholarship
- 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
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### Traditional Scholarship and the Scholarship of Engagement

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