

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Carnegie Foundation names MSU a “Community-Engaged University”

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EAST LANSING, Mich. –The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Michigan State University as one of the first universities to be designated as a “community-engaged university” using its new Community Engagement Classification criteria.

The selection includes recognition in curricular engagement as well as outreach and partnerships—the highest achievement possible within the classification framework.

“MSU responded to all of our inquiries with both descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement. The university also was able to document and coordinate its evidence of community engagement in a coherent and compelling response to the inquiry,” said Amy Driscoll, an associate senior scholar at the Foundation. “MSU’s documentation demonstrated excellent alignment between mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.”

It is a new effort for Carnegie. Unlike the Foundation’s other classifications, which rely on national data, this is an elective classification where institutions can elect to participate by submitting documentation that describes the nature and extent of their engagement.

Curricular engagement is teaching, learning, and scholarship that engage faculty, students, and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration. Their interactions address community-identified needs, deepen students’ civic and academic learning, enhance community well-being, and enrich the scholarship of the institution.

Outreach and partnerships are two different but related approaches to community engagement. Outreach focuses on institutional resources for community use with benefits to both campus and community. Partnerships focus on collaborative interactions between scholars and communities for mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge, information, and resources.



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“At Michigan State University outreach and engagement are woven into every facet of academic life. I am pleased by the recognition that the Carnegie Foundation brings to the new classification of an ‘engaged’ university, and that we are at the forefront of this national effort,” said President Lou Anna K. Simon.

“The MSU model for working with communities encompasses the notion that engagement is embedded in the scholarly tradition—the generation, transmission, application, and preservation of knowledge. It is part of the core academic mission of the University, and we are delighted that the Carnegie Foundation recognizes our longstanding efforts,” said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement.

In 2005 MSU was one of 13 colleges and universities selected by the Carnegie Foundation to help pilot a new classification around the engagement mission. The Foundation worked with a team of advisors to develop a framework for assessing and documenting the nature of an institution’s community engagement commitments.

The Foundation developed its new Community Engagement Classification as part of an extensive overhaul of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education system that was completed last year.

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