



About

University-Community Partnerships (UCP) is a department of Michigan State University's Office of University Outreach and Engagement (UOE). UOE is a campus-wide central resource dedicated to helping academic units construct more extensive and effective engagement with the communities of our state, nation, and world. UCP adopts an approach to university-community partnerships that is sensitive to local community and university needs and responsive to changing circumstances. UCP promotes partnerships characterized by:

- Mutual benefits for all partners
- Community capacity building
- Long term relationships within research networks

UCP's developmental, dynamic and systemic framework emphasizes the need to institutionalize university-community partnerships as well as maintain connections between the university and communities on multiple levels.

Services

UCP co-creates and sustains university-community-based research networks for community transformation. UCP staff foster collaborative work by offering the following services:

- Connecting university partners to existing and new community research networks
- Supporting university and community partners to:
 - develop partnership goals
 - understand and use data to enhance community initiatives
 - support the development of grant proposals for university-community partnerships
 - identify indicators of partnership success
- Providing educational opportunities for engaged student scholars and practitioners

University-Community Partnership Strategies

UCP Approach

University-Community Partnerships (UCP) brings together community groups and faculty teams in research networks in support of long-term community well being.

The work of UCP may be as straightforward as facilitating the contact between a university member seeking out a community group to partner with on a specific research question or as complex as coordinating sustained university relationships with community groups at multiple levels.

UCP Staff

UCP staff have backgrounds in both community work and research. They are experienced in working with local, state, and national organizations, and have established relationships in diverse areas such as government, health, education, and human services. UCP staff work with MSU administrators and faculty across disciplines. UCP staff also work with community leaders and practitioners across sectors.

UCP Research

UCP staff conduct research about university community partnerships. In collaboration with other institutions of higher education and MSU faculty across disciplines, UCP staff publish in peer reviewed journals and present at conferences that promote outreach and engagement.

Tools of Engagement Research

This is a multi-university partnership to examine Tools of Engagement, a series of online modules designed to introduce undergraduate students to the concept of university-community engagement.

The research project investigates the usability, learning, behavior, and organizational benefits of the modules, keeping in mind other factors that may influence their effectiveness.

Partnerships Research

This effort seeks to understand what leads to and results from high quality, engaged, mutually-beneficial community partnerships. The goal is to quantitatively define high quality partnerships and to understand the benefits community and university partners receive from partnering with one another.

UCP Initiatives

University-community research networks engage in five primary tasks: (1) pursue work of mutual interest and value to multiple academic disciplines and community sectors, (2) identify the best ways to attract faculty, staff, and community members to become involved in engagement, (3) develop relationships with individuals and systems in communities and the university, (4) apply participatory research principles and generate data of immediate relevance to all stakeholders, and (5) contribute to the scientific and community knowledge base.



Neighborhoods Without Borders

Neighborhoods Without Borders (NWB) is a group of Flint residents who care about the city. They are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandmothers and grandfathers, business people and pastors, educators and students, administrators and workers who come together in a grassroots community effort to significantly improve the over-all quality of life in Flint neighborhoods. NWB employs strategic doing, a process which enables people to form action-oriented collaborations quickly, guide them toward measurable outcomes, and make adjustments along the way.

UCP staff helps to coordinate the NWB core team and to facilitate the strategic doing sessions, which guide participants through a structured set of conversations.



Wiba Anung

Wiba Anung is a collaborative of Michigan State University, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, and Bay Mills Community College. Using a developed long-term community-based participatory research model, the partnership works to improve outcomes for children enrolled in Michigan-based American Indian Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

Wiba Anung aims to insure that all teachers in American Indian Head Start and Early Head Start have high quality training with a minimum of a bachelor's degree and specialized training in early childhood education and culturally relevant curricular content.

UCP provides consultative support in research design, implementation, and use of results for program improvement.



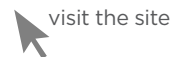
Tools of Engagement

The Tools of Engagement are a series of online modules designed to train the next generation of engaged scholars by introducing the concept of university-community engagement and developing their community-based research and engagement skills.

Tools of Engagement modules are organized around the themes of scholarship, community-based research, collaboration, responsiveness, and capacity building and are designed to encourage students to learn through critical reflection. The modules provide students with concrete examples that illustrate abstract concepts and ask students to come up with their own real-life instances.

See www.outreach.msu.edu/tools for more information.

ucp.msu.edu



visit the site

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

University Outreach
and Engagement
University-Community Partnerships

Kellogg Center, Garden Level
East Lansing, MI 48824-1022

Phone: (517) 353-8977, Fax: (517) 432-9541

Patricia A. Farrell
Assistant Provost
University-Community Partnerships
farrellp@msu.edu