Advocating & Modeling the Engaged University

Standards of Practice for University-Community Partnerships

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The Engaged University

Outreach is a form of scholarship that cuts across teaching, research, and service.

It involves generating, transmitting, applying, and preserving knowledge for the direct benefit of external audiences in ways that are consistent with university and unit missions.

Provost’s Committee on University Outreach, 1993. University Outreach at Michigan State University: Extending Knowledge to Serve Society
The Engaged University

Engagement is the partnership of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship and research, enhance curricular content and process, prepare citizen scholars, endorse democratic values and civic responsibility, address critical societal issues, and in general contribute to the public good.

Adapted from the CIC Committee on Engagement
Applied Developmental Science
A Conceptual Framework

• To facilitate and guide partnerships between the university and the community
• To address community-defined concerns
• To generate new knowledge through research, evaluation, and instructional programs
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Shared Values

Developmental in orientation

- Learning by doing
- Growing with experience
- Improving with practice

ADS is based on developmental systems theory which emphasizes the interconnectedness of people and environments and their mutual interdependence.
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Shared Values

Capitalizes on the strengths of diversity

- ADS focuses on the conscious development of competencies in recognizing diversity across people, places, socioeconomic status, and settings
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*Shared Values*

Fundamental to ADS is its contextual base

- Recognizing the unique contextual features of the setting as important in shaping evaluation plans and strategies, and as fundamental to applying the results for improved performance.

- Need to be in touch with the community and responsive to the changing nature of issues and responses.
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*Shared Values*

Stresses the importance of shared

- mission statements,
- outcome-oriented work plans,
- and resource development
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Shared Values

Fosters participation

- Focuses on participation as a way to maintain open communications and responsive operations
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Shared Values

Knowledge based

- Grounded in diverse research and evidence-based qualitative and quantitative methodologies
UOE Knowledge Model

University

Knowledge

Impact

Community

Generation

Application

Dissemination

Preservation
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Orientation Phase

Shared mission statement
• Commitment to program development
• Development to plan for sustainability

Build trust
• Candor and confidentiality
• University: scholarship based
• Community: needs focused

Form the partnership team
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Team Building and Work Plan

Phase 1
Team members initiate a small, management task to learn to work together and to trust one another.

• Focus groups
• Literature reviews
• Baseline studies
• Pilot studies
• Screening case records
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Team Building and Work Plan

Phase 2

Team members develop methodology to investigate the central issue of concern.

- Select methodology
  - Develop logic model
  - Qualitative/quantitative data
  - Longitudinal/cross sectional design
- Identify products to emerge from this process
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Team Building and Work Plan

Phase 3

Capacity building

• To develop program sustainability
• To incorporate developmental evaluation strategies

Products

• Research/evaluation reports
• Training manuals
• General audience reports
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Products

Stakeholder needs

• Research applicable to community settings
• Policies and funds focused on community needs
• Evaluation research

Capacity building

• Teaching curricula
• Training manuals
• Evaluation reports
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Products

Knowledge generation
- Literature reviews & best practices
- Research instruments
- Scholarly publications

Information dissemination
- Policy briefs and reports
- Conference presentations
- Publications

Resource generation
- Concept papers
- Presentations to potential funders
- Grant proposals
Principles of Best Practice for Community Based Research

- Share a world view
- Agree about goals and strategies
- Have mutual trust and respect
- Share power
- Communicate clearly and listen carefully
- Understand and empathize with each others circumstances
- Remain flexible
- Partner’s primary interests or needs are met
- Partner’s organizational capacities are enhanced
- Partners adopt shared, long-range social change perspectives

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*Ingredients for Success*

- An early victory
- Reconciliation of differences in community and university cultures
- Reciprocal, long term commitment
- Coherent, common community-building agenda
- Candor and confidentiality
- Effective co-management and coordination
- Patient clarification and re-clarification of mutual expectations and benefits
- Creative solutions to other challenges
- Rewards, incentives, and support for both staff and faculty
- Shared responsibility for long-term funding

*Williams (1996)*
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Maintaining a Partnership

• Shared program policy rounds
• Shared resource development
• Shared scholarship
• Shared commitment to cross-site linkages
• Importance of communication
• Administrative management team
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Ending a Partnership

- Ending of work plan
- Ending of “partnership”
- Knowing when to “get out”
- Knowing when to stick it out
UOE Focal Areas

Positive Outcomes for Children, Youth & Families

Community & Family Security

Community & Economic Development

Technology & Human Development

Scholarship of Engagement
Interdisciplinary Collaborations

1. Addressing major societal issues
   - Needs of 0-5 year-old children
   - Safe schools
   - Science & math education
   - Built communities
   - Usability & accessibility

2. Fostering cross-disciplinary outreach research collaborations
Interdisciplinary Collaborations

3. Networking in major geographic areas across Michigan through AKTL Networks
   - Detroit · Lansing · Flint
   - Upper Peninsula · Grand Rapids

4. Creating opportunities for the scholarship of outreach & engagement
   - Outreach Scholarship Conferences and Speakers Series
   - Committee on Institutional Cooperation: Committee on Engagement
   - National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
   - Peer research institutions
AKTL Networks
Lansing Area Example

Outreach Teaching
- Short courses on pavement design, rehabilitation and materials for city, county, state and consulting engineers
- Modeling and visualization of groundwater contamination
- K-12 science and social studies education for teachers
- Bug College summer institutes
- Planetarium and museum presentations
- Writing, theater, and dance workshops

Outreach Research
- Assets research in K-12 schools
- Neighborhood Network Center program evaluation
- Research in parent-child relationships, violence prevention, and effective teaching

Outreach Service
- Helping parents, teachers, and caregivers use public television to help children love learning--WKAR-TV
- Literacy tutoring for children and adults
- Participation in community development teams around economic development and health issues
- Faculty and student-provided clinical services
How to Reach Us

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