Community Outreach Through Engaged Scholarship

“The Percolators”

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Group Assignment

How might the roles, responsibilities, and rewards of faculty be innovatively conceptualized and managed in consideration of today’s social and institutional obligations and constraints?

Our Assessment

Motivate and enable faculty and staff to participate in community engagement.
Vision

To change the culture on this campus whereby community engagement is a normal part of life for all faculty and staff.

To achieve this vision, we first analyze the current state of community engagement and community-engaged scholarship, then offer recommendations for improvement.
Rationale

- It’s the right thing to do
- It’s the most effective means to improve the health of a population (Triple Aim)
- It’s rewarding
- It’s a good investment
State of Affairs

- Archipelago of unconnected community projects (e.g. Aurora Lights, CSPH projects, APS students in campus labs, etc.)
- CCTSI Community Engagement Core
- Community Campus Partnership for Health
Barriers Preventing Scholarly Engagement

- What is it?
- Where do I go to find out what’s available?
- How do I learn to do this?
- I’m busy! How do I fit this in?
- Can I get academic credit for this? Promotion?
Recommendations

• Define community engagement
• Create incentives and pathways for individual faculty and staff
• Develop institutional structures and resources that support and enable this mission
Recommendations

1. *Define community engagement*
   - Engaged Scholarship is the two-way interaction between faculty and community for the benefit of both
   - Distinguish community engagement from community service
   - Tie engaged scholarship and community engagement to all three missions of the University (teaching, research and service)
Recommendations

2. *Create incentives and pathways for individual faculty and staff*

- Provide protected FTE time for developmental work
- Provide pilot funding for community-engaged projects
- Offer technical support and basic instruction and education on how to engage with communities
- Create access to information on extramural funding for community engagement research projects
- Create divisional, departmental and institutional recognition for successful community engagement
Recommendations

3. **Develop institutional structures and resources that support and enable this mission**
   - Establish an Office of Community Engagement (OCE), directed by a Vice-Chancellor for Community Outreach
   - Increase rewards and recognition of community engagement efforts for University leaders and faculty
   - Leverage available resources
   - Enhance the awareness of and commitment to Community Engagement at all academic levels
   - Modify promotion and tenure criteria to prioritize Community Engagement
Conclusions

- Faculty want to engage in this initiative but need assistance and institutional support to achieve this.
- Some institutional components for Community Engagement already exist but need to be better identified and synchronized.
Adopting this proposal will make us both - the community and the campus - healthier.
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