

OFFICE FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Community Partnership Development and Leadership

CHARGE: To promote the development and enactment of policies that maximize community voice and leadership in all the University's public engagement efforts.

RATIONALE: An engaged institution is one that interacts in a collaborative and equitable way with the community at large. Policies and structures that support community participation and leadership, and facilitate the common mission between the University and the broader society need to be enhanced in order for institutional efforts to be denoted as truly "publicly engaged". The University has a myriad of individual programs, outreach opportunities, and departments/units that support community partnership and leadership. A systemic culture change and new opportunities, while being individualized for each campus, needs to be created and institutionalized.

RECOMMENDED TASKS AND QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- 1) Review the ways in which the University engages the broader community. Does the University provide an accessible forum or means for public and/or community input into the desired role of the University? To what extent does the community feel that its voice is adequately heard and that its requests are thoughtfully considered by the University?
- 2) Identify the best practices of community participation already being used in the University system. What are the elements of those practices that make them successful? What do community members have to say about the University's engagement practices and the ways in which it involves community members in engagement activities.
- 3) Envision the best possible ways that the community can play a role in the University's public engagement endeavors. Does the broader community and the University share the same vision regarding the ultimate goal of public engagement? What is the best way to fuse the goals and desires of the community and the University regarding community development and leadership? What do community members perceive to be the greatest hindrances to maximizing participation in the University's decision-making regarding development and leadership in their communities?
- 4) Assess community needs that the University could target to advance engaged development and leadership. What approaches should be employed to assess systematically the needs of the community. What kinds of experiences and opportunities

should the University offer to strengthen community involvement in development and leadership?

- 5) Identify a set of items or activities in which the University should invest in order to further community partnership development and leadership. Given limited resources, is there a community where the presence of the University is disproportionately underrepresented? Are there redundancies or overlaps of funded community programs that could be streamlined to make way for a wider array of possibilities?
- 6) Explore the status of community partnership and leadership at peer institutions. In what ways are like universities involved in their communities, developing partnership and leadership? Are there any programs that stand out as particularly effective or worthwhile that could be transplanted to the University?