Developing Engaged Scholarship within CEHHS

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Outline

• Provide background on Carnegie Classification and definition of Community Engagement…and its value to UTK & UTIA
• Explain scope of engaged research/teaching/service
• Provide examples of engaged research/teaching/service
Mission

“The primary mission of UT is to move forward the frontiers of human knowledge and enrich and elevate the citizens of the state of Tennessee, the nation, and the world. As the preeminent research-based, land-grant university in the state, UT embodies the spirit of excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, outreach, and engagement …”

Land Grant Status

As a land grant, UT fulfills its outreach mission by investing in the people and programs that engage directly with our communities and community development.

3 goals: educate, discover, and connect

As the flagship land grant university principles of engagement and outreach permeate throughout UT’s strategic plan, departments, units, and centers ....
Terms Often Used Interchangeably

- Community Engagement
- Civic Engagement
- Outreach
- Service
- Public Service
- Service Learning
- Community-based learning
- Community-based participatory research
Community Engagement

• Refers to the many ways that higher education demonstrates alignment of the teaching, research, and service mission.
• Engagement is differentiated by mutually-beneficial partnerships.
Carnegie Definition of Community Engagement

Collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.
Relevance to UT?

- UTK/UTIA earned this in 2015
- Designation for higher education campuses
- Is not an award.
- It is a recognition supported by evidence-based documentation of institutional practice
- Classification is valid until 2025

Re-classification requires evidence of how community engagement has become even deeper, more pervasive, better integrated, and sustained
Relevant to SEC

9 OUT OF 14 SEC SCHOOLS HAVE DESIGNATION
Best Practices

1. Cultural Competence
2. Mutual Benefits and Reciprocity
3. Collaboration and Joint Exploration of Goals and Interests
4. Co-generating, Translating & Applying Knowledge
5. Capacity Building
6. Communication and Dissemination/Celebration of Success
7. Assessment/Evaluation
Service/Outreach
Emphasis on what you can do ‘for’ or ‘to’ community.

Engagement
What you do ‘with’ the community.

Studies have found that building a more engaged campus requires an intentional plan that moves the institution from a one-way outreach delivery framework to an engagement or two-way partnership.
Levels of Involvement

1. One time
2. Limited time
3. Ongoing partnership
Service vs. Engaged Scholarship

Potential Problem

- Academic experts create knowledge: public consumes it.
- Universities seen as irrelevant: fail to take community context and need into consideration
- Universities seen as elitist: fail to acknowledge knowledge, expertise outside of the academy

SOLUTION

- Collaboration with community expertise to solve problems
Engagement is *always* community-based

- Always COMMUNITY-BASED: takes in the needs and contexts of intended recipient
- Democratization of expertise: shared decision-making, planning, and execution
- Collaboration, trust, respect, joint problem-solving
Engaged Scholarship

- Emerged over the last 20 years.
- Anchored in thoughtful, critical, and mutually beneficial university-community partnerships.
- Focuses on an interrelated set of research, philosophies, and practices that impact multiple constituencies.
- Exemplifies intersections and overlaps across these domains.
- Includes engaged research, engaged teaching, and/or engaged service.
- Generation, exchange, and application of mutually beneficial knowledge and practices developed through reciprocal partnerships between the academy and the community.
4 R’s/Essential Elements of Community Engaged Scholarship

1. Relevance
2. Reciprocity
3. Research
4. Resilience

*not mutually exclusive
Teaching as Research
Assessment & Research Cycles

Establish question or problem

Draw on existing knowledge (personal experiences, literature, observations to decide on method of investigation)

Engage in data collection (conducting, experiments, observations, interviews, etc...)

Analyze and reflect on results to draw a conclusion

Communicate and share results, implications, and further areas of inquiry

Establish question or problem

Learning Outcomes

Learning Opportunities

Assessment

Share Results

Implement Changes based on Results
Teaching-as-Research (TAR) Inquiry Cycle

Get inspired!
Make observations in the classroom-
What can be improved?

Define and Refine a TAR Question

Literature Review
What have others done?
Build on the work of others

IRB Approval
What does your institution require for working with human subjects?

Methods & Evaluation Tools
How will you collect your data?
What data do you need to answer your question(s)?

Conduct Your Intervention
Collect data

Analyze Your Data

Report, Reflect
Are your data sufficient to answer your question(s)?
What would you change next time?

Iterate
What inspires you next?
Engaged Teaching

Making a Difference: VolsTeach

The VolsTeach program prepares STEM majors to make a difference in transforming the lives of Tennessee children."

— Susan E. Riechert, distinguished service professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Making a Difference: Public Library Service-Learning

This public library service-learning course allows students to partner with public libraries and other agencies to develop community-based projects in different local settings. The course was among UT’s first to pilot the new “S” designation for course-based service-learning.
Engaged Service

Project GRAD Summer Institute
Project GRAD's Summer Institute enhances urban high school students' academic skills in preparation for demanding college-level courses, as well as expose them to career paths they can pursue through postsecondary education. More than 2,100 children have participated in the Summer Institute program since its establishment in 2011. Community partners include Knox County Schools, Project GRAD Knoxville, SEED, Candler YMCA, Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Knoxville College, Siskiwit, Brandon's Awards, Camp Kononia Foundation, Thrifts, and McDonald's. UT partners include the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; College of Law; Haslam College of Business; College of Communication and Information; College of Architecture and Design; Academic Enrichment Upward Bound; University Housing; Parking Services; Office of Information Technology; RecSports; Athletics; and the Carolyn P. Brown University Center.
Community Partnerships

- Local or State Government
- Academic Institutions
- Businesses
- Religious Organizations / Community Organizations

Community Partnership
Using ArcGIS the map was created to illustrate the reach of engagement and outreach projects across the state and beyond.
Assists with finding practical solutions to complex challenges while building mutually beneficial and sustainable relationships with community partners.

What does that look like?
Events, Activities, Resources & Funding

- Engagement and Outreach Conference
- Impact Newsletter
- Imagine Tennessee
- Workshops
- Nonprofit Day, 2020
- Competitive Funding
- Outreach and Engaged Scholarship Video Series
Competitive Funding

• Engagement Incentive Grant
  – Call opens March 1

• Engagement and Outreach Mini Grant
  – Call opens mid-May (subject to funding)

• Engagement Scholarship Consortium Faculty Travel Award (to present at ESC)
  – Call opens ~June/when ESC makes calls for presentation
Developing Engaged Scholarship within CEHHS

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Interim Assistant Dean of Research
Developing Engaged Scholarship within CEHHS
Overview

• CEHHS Strategic Plan 2016-2020
• CEHHS Engaged Scholarship
• Connecting Areas of Engaged Scholarship
CEHHS Strategic Plan 2016-2020

• Enhancing quality of life through research, outreach, and practice

• CEHHS values
  • Intercultural and international engagement
    • We value engagement with our local and extended communities and embrace intercultural and global perspectives
  • Outreach and service to the community
    • We value the importance of community outreach and service in fulfillment of our land-grant mission
CEHHS Strategic Plan 2016-2020

• Outreach – where does that fall?
  • Teaching
  • Research
  • Service
• Spectrum to describe the relationship between the community partner and faculty
  • Driven by faculty/department needs?
  • Driven by a mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationship?
CEHHS – Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged scholarship includes engaged teaching, research, and service
  • Community-based, taking in the needs and contexts of intended recipient
  • Democratic by expertise area: shared decision making, planning, and execution
  • Collaborative, respectful, mutually beneficial and reciprocal
CEHHS – Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged Teaching:
  • Connects the community’s benefit/prerogatives to student learning outcomes
  • May include involving students in service learning
  • May also extend the university’s instructional capacity to provide learning opportunities to audiences outside of the traditional classroom setting via UT extension and outreach programs
CEHHS – Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged Research
  • Extends faculty endeavors to serve the public in a reciprocal manner in which faculty provide specific scientific expertise and the community partner provides critical input to the faculty, while building authentic partnerships
  • Can include basic discovery research, applied or action research, and applied policy. It includes acquiring and disseminating new knowledge
  • Involves faculty in advancing knowledge through the pursuit of their scholarly interests while simultaneously addressing specified community problems and issues, thereby benefiting the scholar, the discipline, the university, the community, and society
  • Communicates the scholarship (i.e., peer-reviewed publications/abstract) with the community partner as an author, if the community partner’s role meets author expectations (while not required, preferred)
  • Disseminates results, outcomes, and impacts to the public/community audiences
CEHHS – Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged Service:
  • Utilizes one’s academic expertise to solve community problems with members of the community
  • Collaborates to set the agenda through a mutually beneficial process for the faculty and the community
Connecting Areas of Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged teaching can also become engaged research
  • Collect outcomes on how experience enhances student outcomes and publish in peer-reviewed journals
  • Develop framework for partnership development and implementation and publish in peer-reviewed journals
Connecting Areas of Engaged Scholarship

• Engaged service can also become engaged research
  • Collect outcomes on how service assists in solving community problems and publish in peer-reviewed journals
  • Develop framework for partnership development and implementation and publish in peer-reviewed journals
Connecting Areas of Engaged Scholarship

- Each area may inform another
  - Engaged teaching or service may present the recognition of a gap area for research that either has an engaged-focus or does not
  - Engaged research may identify a gap area of training needed for the workforce, that can be addressed via teaching (developing workforce) or service (developed workforce), that either has an engaged-focus or does not
Developing Engaged Scholarship within CEHHS

Dorian L. McCoy, PhD
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
College Access Program (CAP)

• Partnership between CAP and multiple postsecondary institutions
• Comprehensive community effort to both prepare and grow students from historically underrepresented populations in college-readiness
• Provide students ways to explore various forms of higher education
• Postsecondary institutions have a tangible means for facilitating these students’ journeys to and through higher education
Community Partners

- College Access Program (CAP)
- Local Public School Board
- Local/State/Federal Partners
- Multiple Postsecondary Institutions
  - Technical College
  - Community College
  - Land-Grant Institution
Current Initiatives

- College and career access and success*
- Social services support
- Family, neighborhood, and community engagement
- Intentional support for students from disadvantaged circumstances
Current Research

• Qualitative study utilizing Yosso’s (2005) Community Cultural Wealth
  • Cultural Capital
    • Aspirational Capital
    • Familial Capital
    • Social Capital
    • Navigational
    • Resistance
    • Linguistic
Current Research

• Aspirational Capital
  • The participants shared how the program “planted a seed” for education beyond the undergraduate degree.
  • Participation in CAP extended the participants “hopes and dreams” (Yosso, 2005, p. 77).
Current Research

• Resistance Capital
  • CAP encouraged students to resist institutional norms that were exclusionary
  • Participants recognized that their degrees could be used as forms of resistance in their communities
Future Research

• Assessment of Middle School Programs
• Survey Instrument
  • Self Efficacy
  • Cultural Capital
  • Social Capital
Partnership Strategies

- Strategic planning with clear vision-casting
- Transparency
- Embedding leaders and advocates within community
- Team Building
  - Community Mapping
- Strong community leadership development
- Cultivating and sustaining relationships
Engaged Research

- Involves faculty in advancing knowledge through the pursuit of their scholarly interests while simultaneously addressing specified community problems and issues, thereby benefiting the scholar, the discipline, the university, the community, and society.
- Communicates the scholarship (i.e., peer-reviewed publications/abstract) with the community partner as an author, if the community partner’s role meets author expectations (while not required, preferred).
- Disseminates results, [findings], outcomes, and impacts to the public/community audiences.
Engaged Research

- Consistent with land-grant mission
- Congruent with Vol 2020
- Fulfill mission of CEHHS
Engaged Research

• Educate (Teaching)
• Discover (Research)
• Connect (Service)
Thank you

Questions?