



Five Dimensions of Enhancing Community-Campus Connections for Access and Success

Knowing that civic engagement takes the work of many to fully actualize its potential and that it can be overwhelming to know where to start in the process, below are five essential areas in which higher education leaders can use their influence to create a culture of engagement that will benefit students, faculty, and communities alike.

1. **Connect civic engagement with institutional mission and vision statements.**
 - Create an institutional culture of civic engagement through written and oral statements.
 - Create a teaching and learning expectation for community-campus connections by recognizing the achievements of students, staff, and faculty involved in civic engagement.
2. **Integrate civic engagement at all academic and co-curricular levels: technical education, general education, academic majors, graduate/professional training, and student affairs.**
 - Create civic engagement learning objectives in courses, minors, and majors.
 - Create co-curricular opportunities through student leadership groups and activities.
3. **Integrate civic engagement into the faculty promotion and reward structure.**
 - Create hiring, promotion, reward, and advancement criteria consistent with the scholarship of teaching and the scholarship of engagement.
 - Create support structures for generating civic-engagement–related teaching and research grants.
4. **Provide professional and pedagogical development opportunities for civically engaged faculty.**
 - Create teaching excellence centers that offer frequent workshops, trainings, and ongoing support for integrating civic engagement into the curriculum.
 - Work with academic disciplines and professional associations to focus on disseminating the best scholarship, teaching, and practices of civic engagement.
5. **Provide infrastructure support for generating and sustaining community-campus relationships.**
 - Create a civic engagement center that can provide logistical and technical support for curricular and co-curricular civic engagement activities.
 - Create an institutional-community network or advisory group focused on long-term, reciprocal campus-community partnerships.
 - Develop measures to evaluate the community impact of this work.
 - Create structures that support seamless collaboration between curricular and co-curricular initiatives.