

History of Anchor Institutions Working with Communities

December 1, 2011



Ira Harkavy

Associate Vice President

Director, Netter Center for Community Partnerships

Office of Government and Community Affairs

University of Pennsylvania

harkavy@upenn.edu



Education for Service and Economic Improvement: Colonial Colleges

- “The Idea of what is true merit, should also be often presented to youth, explain’d and impress’d on their minds, as consisting in an Inclination join’d with an Ability to serve Mankind, one’s Country, Friends and Family; which Ability is (with the Blessing of God) to be acquir’d or greatly increas’d by True Learning; and should indeed be the great Aim + End of all Learning.”
 - Benjamin Franklin, *Proposals Relating To The Education Of Youth In Pennsylvania* (1749)
- “Building the college here will be the means of bringing great quantities of money into the place, and thereby greatly increasing the markets for all kinds of the country’s produce, and consequently increasing the value of estates to which this town is a market.”
 - Brown Brothers (Brown University, founded 1764)

Service to the Country, State, & City: Founding Missions

- Land Grant Universities: Morrill Act 1862
 - Fulfilling America's democratic mission
- Urban Research Universities
 - A defined urban-serving mission for higher education and the founding of Johns Hopkins University in 1876

First half of the 20th Century: Retreat from Service & the City

- Disillusion and World War I
- Value Free Scholarship and Learning for its Own Sake
- Dismissing of Local and Focus on National and International

The University & the City in the 1950s and 1960s: Attempts at Reengagement

- Julian Levy and the University of Chicago
- Paul Ylvisaker's speech in 1958, calling for the development of urban experiment stations, and Robert Wood's plan for Urban Observatories
- John W. Gardner's leadership of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (1965-68) and the Ford Foundation provide hundreds of millions of dollars to universities to develop projects with their cities and communities

The late 1980s and 1990s as a Turning Point: Conditions for Change

- Perceived Civic Crisis
- End of Cold War
- Urban Decline
- The Intellectual Case
 - Ernest Boyer, *Scholarship Reconsidered*, 1990
 - Derek Bok, *Universities and the Future of America*, 1990
- Increased Emphasis on Undergraduate Education and Citizenship

The late 1980s and 1990s as a Turning Point: Programs and Actions

- Campus Compact, 1985
- Corporation for National and Community Service and Learn and Serve America, 1993
- HUD and the creation of the Office of University Partnerships, 1994

The late 90s and early 2000s Change Focus: the Economic and Community Development Role of Eds and Meds and Anchor Institutions

- Penn and other universities and colleges (e.g., Yale, Trinity, USC) increase corporate/ institutional engagement in 1990s
- “Eds and Meds: Cities’ Hidden Assets,” 1999
- ICIC coins “Anchor Institutions” in 2002 report
- Annie E. Casey Foundation develops an anchor portfolio in 2004, building off of earlier work

Reach of the Work Over Time

- A 2002 national survey of 32,840 faculty found that fully one in five had taught a service-learning course within the previous 2 years.
- Campus Compact was founded by three university presidents in 1985; today it has nearly 1,300 members, approximately a quarter of all colleges and universities in the United States.
- By 2006, over 200 higher eds had received COPC grants
- 1,000 higher eds received grants over the life of Learn and Serve America

A Decade of Organizational & Policy Developments

- Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), 2005
- Anchor Institutions Task Force Report, 2009
- Choice Neighborhoods and Promise Neighborhoods initiatives include role for eds and meds, 2009
- USU/A·P·L·U Office of Urban Initiatives, 2009
- Anchor Institutions Task Force (AITF) formed through Marga Inc., 2010
- Cooperative partnership: Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), USU, and AITF, 2010
- “Anchor Institutions: Focus on the Future,” 2011