From Service-Learning to Sustainability: The Engaged University

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Service-Learning Spectrum

Engagement benefits both community and student learning

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Service-Learning and the Community University Partnership

- The Oral History Project
  - History of Old South Baton Rouge (OSBR)
  - Collaboration with high school students
  - University involvement
  - OSBR community access to this history project
  - Next steps
Biological Engineering Project

Students design and build playgrounds to accommodate human and environmental constraints.

(Lima won TIAA-CREF awards, National Lynton Award, and significant funding)
Service-Learning & OSBR Schools

- Partnership with EBR Public Schools
  - CCELL shared 2003 Gulf South Summit Creative Collaboration Award with Volunteers in Public Schools
  - Service-learning projects aimed at the schools within the target area for CUP
  - Projects have a diverse focus from tutoring to reading partners to chemistry demonstrations to junior gardening projects
English Student Projects

- English writing classes
  - Developed safety brochure for senior citizens for CUP
  - Wrote articles for the CUP Newsletter
  - Developed an LSU tour brochure with 5th Grade class at Buchanan Elementary
  - Wrote grants for various non-profits
  - Developed and presented scripts and PowerPoints on history of the community
Service-Learning and the Community University Partnership
Landscape and Architecture Design Projects

- Architecture students interviewed residents, developed a model of the OSBR neighborhood, and presented their results to the community.
- Landscape design students created plans and installed plants
- Architecture students redesigned local businesses and helped with remodeling
MBA students paired with businesses in the OSBR area to assist owners with:

- Updating/developing business plans
- Recommendations on business marketing, expansions, aesthetics, and landscaping tips
REFLECTIONS

- Service-learning classes at LSU have enhanced community relations in the OSBR area.
- Professors/instructors are encouraged to seek service-learning opportunities.
- Completely engaged—not yet. Service-learning is one such catalyst that entices dialogue and provides a dual learning partnership.
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The 21st Century University…

Building Walls

or

Building Partnerships

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Key Questions for Sustainable Cultural Change

- What is your message?
- Who REALLY needs to know it? (Who can influence change?)
- What strategies can bring about change? (reach the audiences that influence change)

Would this picture send the message your university would respond to?
Consider these cultural determinants

- Mission
- Planning documents
- Insiders and outsiders
- Rewards system
- Clientele
- Funding
- Regional and national peers

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What changes can integrate civic engagement into the culture?

Find out with Assessment of Institutional Level of Engagement

- Your own surveys
- Bringle and Hatcher
- Holland Instrument
- Furco Instrument
- Campus Compact Pyramid
- Campus Compact Indicators of Engagement

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LSU Strategies for Cultural Change

Flexibility - variety of models
- Projects, placement, research, combination

Incentives for Course Development
- Faculty Incentive Grants
- Department/Unit Grants

Rewards
- Recognition for students, faculty, and partners
- Faculty award
- Faculty Fellow
LSU Strategies for Cultural Change

Reaching Those Who Effect Change

- Publicity plan
- Nationally respected speakers
- Provost-appointed Council & Working Group
- Deans and Directors Seminar
- Program assessment by Center for Assessment
- Active representation on University Planning Committees
- Alliances with other initiatives
"Returning to our Land Grant Roots: THE ENGAGED UNIVERSITY"

Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities (1999):

“Engagement in the form of service-learning, outreach, and university-community partnerships can …put the university to work on the practical problems of the day.”
Key Resources

- [www.lsu.edu/cup](http://www.lsu.edu/cup)
- [www.ccell.lsu.edu](http://www.ccell.lsu.edu)
- [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)

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