

AGGIES DO: BECOMING AN ENGAGED PARTNER

“**Community engagement** describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of the college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues and contribute to the public good.”

The Carnegie Foundation

Becoming an engaged university works across teaching, research, and outreach/Extension and offers value to and strengthens all participants. Consider:

Community Building

- Solve problems and meet needs.
- Improve knowledge and outcomes.
- Identify new funding opportunities.
- Create opportunities for innovation.
- Strengthen product development or process improvement
- Incorporate diverse perspectives.
- Think differently about the university.
- Become a university partner.

University Building

- Disseminate work to a broader audience.
- Address community problems and needs.
- Advise on product development or process improvements.
- Focus on more practical work.
- Develop and learn new tools.
- Strengthen community relationships.
- Create student practical experiences.
- Attract new and unforeseen opportunities and resources.
- Think differently about the community.
- Become a community partner.

Moving through the Engagement Model

“... the academy must become a more vigorous partner in the search for answers to our most pressing social, civic, economic and moral problems, and must reaffirm its historic commitment to what I call the scholarship of engagement.” The Scholarship of Engagement, Ernest L. Boyer, Ph.D.

An engaged university allows all faculty, staff, and students to become involved in improving their communities through formal and informal processes. For many, determining how to become involved and move along the spectrum from informing to empowering can be difficult. Consider this example:






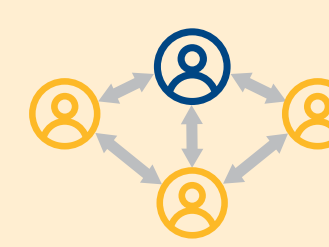
● If you share information using any number of channels and only ask the public to listen, this **INFORMS**.

● If you want feedback on a specific issue from the public and use this information to continue your work, this is **CONSULTATION**.

● If you accept the information the public provides and confer with them as you plan future work, this is **INVOLVEMENT**.

● If you partner with the public or a group or entity and share decision-making responsibility, this is **COLLABORATION**.

● And if you are a part of making a change in a community, whether it's an economic or environmental improvement or a change in health status or educational attainment, this is **EMPOWERMENT**.

| IMPACT  | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| INFORM | CONSULT | INVOLVE | COLLABORATE | EMPOWER |
| Share. | Seek. | Participate. | Cooperate. | Change. |
|  <p>Conduct community presentations.</p> <p>Develop fact sheets, brochures, etc.</p> <p>Open campus events to the general public.</p> <p>Share research findings.</p> |  <p>Conduct feasibility studies requesting community/ stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>Serve as a regional and national resource.</p> <p>Organize seminars, workshops, etc. on specific topics/issues and ask the community to attend and participate.</p> <p>Consult with the public and private sectors.</p> <p>Conduct needs assessment to identify opportunities for future collaboration.</p> |  <p>Work with external stakeholders on research.</p> <p>Collaborate with community to improve the neighborhood.</p> <p>Create maker space and make it available to the community.</p> <p>Launch mobile operation centers.</p> <p>Create applied service-learning projects, internships, student learning labs, and incubators/ hatcheries.</p> <p>Routinely involve the community in program planning and development.</p> <p>Invite community members to join advisory boards.</p> |  <p>Use research-based information to co-design, evaluate, and modify programs to assist with solving community issues and concerns.</p> <p>Conduct research with communities based on mutually agreed upon problems, goals, and methods.</p> <p>Co-teach with industry and community partners.</p> <p>Partner with industry/ businesses to develop and use innovative applications to address community needs.</p> <p>Become a catalyst for industry and technology research community.</p> <p>Design and implement research programs for K-12 teachers during the summer to provide first-hand experience with cutting-edge research and modern technologies.</p> <p>Initiate commercialized research for the national economy.</p> |  <p>Work with community members that build capacity and increase economic stability, growth, and social environments.</p> <p>Develop centers, institutes and other facilities and programs based on community needs to address social, civic, economic, and moral problems.</p> <p>Assist the community with determining how to spend public dollars as part of participatory budgeting.</p> <p>Develop educational partnerships (K-12 academy).</p> <p>Develop viable renewable energy sources with industry partners using basic science and technology to make energy conversions more efficient and costs more affordable.</p> <p>Develop and collaborate on commercial development and research opportunities to improve the community's social capital, economic viability and civic engagement.</p> |

There are various degrees of involvement, and all these steps are necessary. You will find that projects may move back and forth along the model depending on goals and objectives. The desire is to do as Boyer asked, “... become a more vigorous partner in the search for answers to our most pressing social, civic, economic, and moral problems.”