Community as a Locus for Learning: Community-Engaged Teaching, Learning & Research

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OVERVIEW – THE “FOUR Rs” OF PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

• Relevance
• Reciprocity
• Reflection
• Respect
• it is an “undisputed priority…[to construct] educational environments where education for democracy and civic responsibility is pervasive, not partial; central, not peripheral.” ~ A Crucible Moment (2012)

• We have reached an “‘engagement ceiling’ [in higher education]…characterized by an ever-increasing gap between the rhetoric and reality of what civic and community engagement is meant to be and to do.” ~ Butin (2012)
AN OPPORTUNITY – ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (from a sample of 60+…)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alverno College</td>
<td>Community Leadership</td>
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<td>Bryant University</td>
<td>Sociology and Service-Learning</td>
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<td>Emory and Henry College</td>
<td>Public Policy and Community Service</td>
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<td>Guilford College</td>
<td>Community and Justice Studies</td>
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<td>Providence College</td>
<td>Public and Community Service Studies</td>
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<td>UC Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Community Studies</td>
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<td>University of Baltimore</td>
<td>Community Studies and Civic Engagement</td>
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<td>UMass-Boston</td>
<td>Community Studies</td>
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<td>Wartburg College</td>
<td>Community Sociology</td>
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Curriculum: • Sustained • Scaffolded • Sequential

Research: • Public • Open to critique • Can be built upon

Impact: • Deep institutionalization • Capacity Building
A HUB FOR RESEARCH & BEST PRACTICE

- BEST PRACTICES
- SUMMER INSTITUTE
- RESOURCES
- CENTER FOR ENGAGED DEMOCRACY
- POLICY
- NETWORKS
- RESEARCH

Merrimack College
School of Education
AT MERRIMACK COLLEGE – MASTERS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**PARTNERSHIPS**

- Northern Essex Community College
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
- Little Sprouts
- Community Teamwork (Lowell)
- Lawrence Public Schools
- Habitat for Humanity

**STRUCTURE**

- 36 credits
- Year-long clinical residency
- Capstone project
- Linkage of academic courses with site-base practice
PUBLICLY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP – NEXT STEPS

- POSSIBILITIES
  - Impact
  - Sustainability
  - Capacity Building

- LIMITS
  - Resource Consuming (time, energy, funding)
  - Lack of Clarity of Goals and Outcomes

- NEXT STEPS
  - Campus “Champions”
  - Stronger Partnerships
  - Embedded Structures
RESOURCES

• Center for Engaged Democracy:  
  www.merrimack.edu/democracy

• Masters in Community Engagement:  
  www.merrimack.edu/communityengagement

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