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

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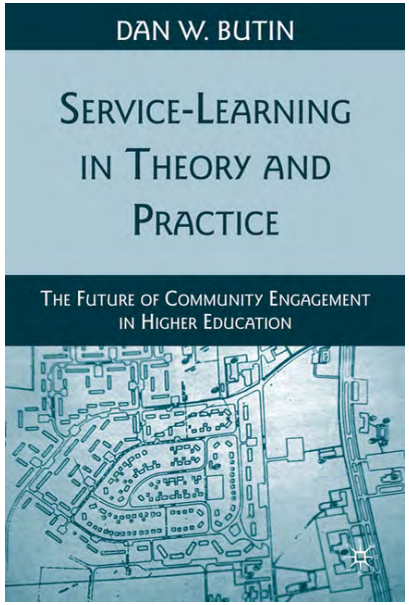
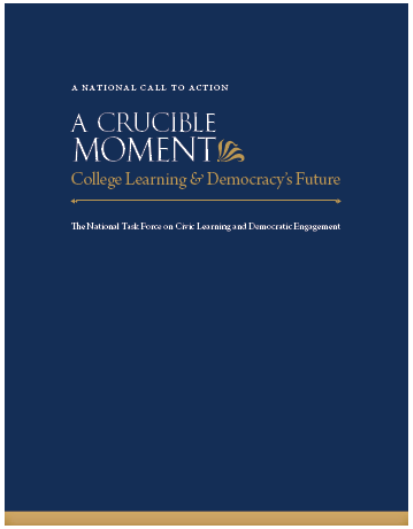
OVERVIEW – THE "FOUR Rs" OF PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

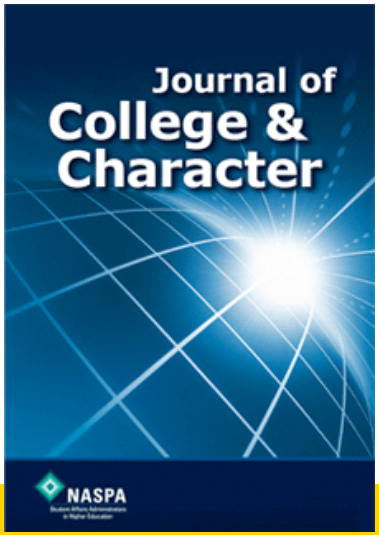
- Relevance
- Reciprocity
- Reflection
- Respect



THE TENSION

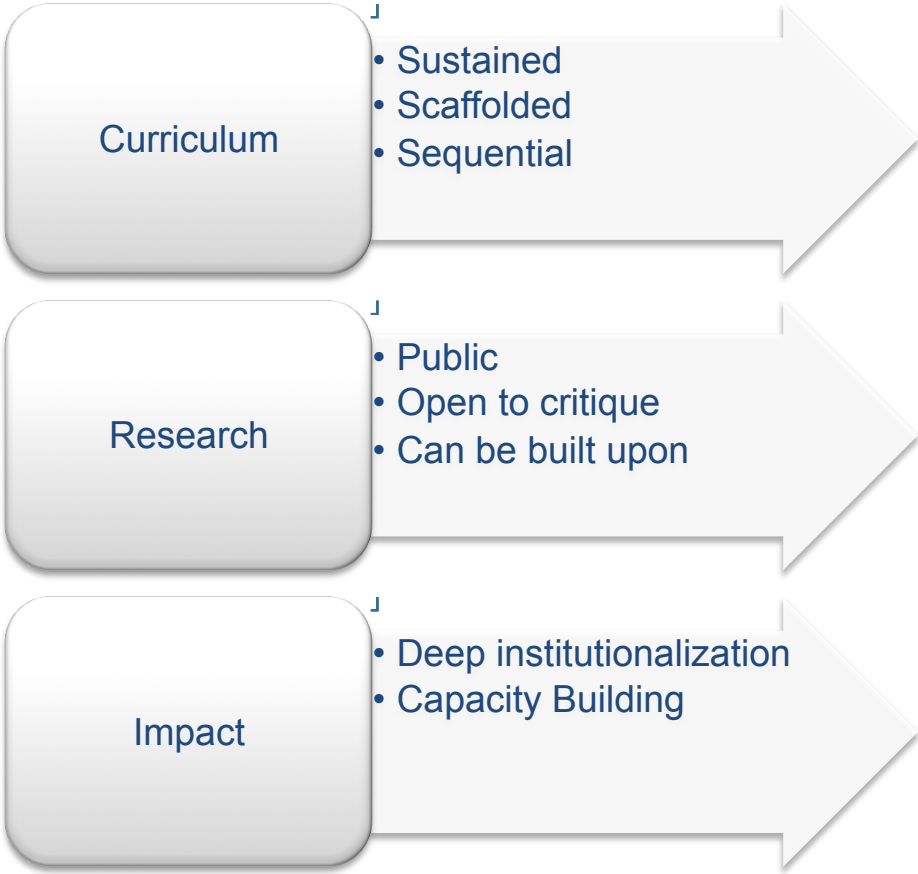
- it is an "undisputed priority…[to construct] educational environments where education for democracy and civic responsibility is pervasive, not partial; central, not peripheral." ~ *A Crucible Moment (2012)*
- We have reached an "'engagement ceiling' [in higher education]… characterized by an ever-increasing gap between the rhetoric and reality of what civic and community engagement is meant to be and to do." ~ *Butin (2012)*



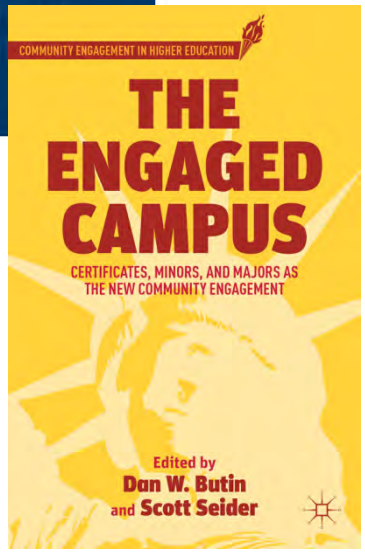


AN OPPORTUNITY – ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (from a sample of 60+…)

INSTITUTION	MAJOR
Alverno College	Community Leadership
Bryant University	Sociology and Service-Learning
Emory and Henry College	Public Policy and Community Service
Guilford College	Community and Justice Studies
Providence College	Public and Community Service Studies
UC Santa Cruz	Community Studies
University of Baltimore	Community Studies and Civic Engagement
UMass-Boston	Community Studies
Wartburg College	Community Sociology



A HUB FOR RESEARCH & BEST PRACTICE



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

PUBLICALLY-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
- Contact: Dan W. Butin: dan.butin@merrimack.edu